

## Biden angers France, EU with initiative

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden's decision to form a strategic Indo-Pacific alliance with Australia and Britain to counter China is angering France and the European Union. They're feeling left out and seeing it as a return to the Trump era.

The security initiative, unveiled this week, appears to have brought Biden's summer of love with Europe to an abrupt end. AUKUS, which notably excludes France and the European Union, is just the latest in a series of steps, from Afghanistan to east Asia, that have taken Europe aback.

After promising European leaders that "America is back" and that multilateral diplomacy would guide U.S. foreign policy, Biden has alienated numerous allies with a go-it-alone approach on key issues. France's foreign minister expressed "total incomprehension" at the recent move, which he called a "stab in the back," and the EU's foreign policy chief complained that Europe had not been consulted.

France will lose a nearly \$100 billion deal to build diesel submarines for Australia under the terms of the initiative, which will see the U.S. and Britain help Canberra construct nuclear-powered ones.

As such, French anger on a purely a com-

mercial level would be understandable, particularly because France, since Britain's handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997, is the only European nation to have significant territorial possessions or a permanent military presence in the Pacific.

But French and European Union officials went further, saying the agreement calls into question the entire cooperative effort to blunt China's growing influence and underscores the importance of languishing plans to boost Europe's own defense and security capabilities.

Some have compared Biden's recent actions to those of his predecessor, Donald Trump, under Trump's "America First" doctrine. That's surprising for a president steeped in international affairs who ran for the White House vowing to mend shaken ties with allies and restore U.S. credibility on the world stage.

Although it's impossible to predict if any damage will be lasting, the short-term impact seems to have rekindled European suspicions of American intentions — with potential implications for Biden's broader aim to unite democracies against authoritarianism, focused primarily on China and Russia.

Just three months ago, on his first visit to the continent as president, Biden was hailed as a hero by European counterparts eager to move

beyond the trans-Atlantic tensions of the Trump years. But that palpable sense of relief has now faded for many, and its one clear winner, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, is on her way out.

Since June, Biden has infuriated America's oldest ally, France, left Poland and Ukraine questioning the U.S. commitment to their security and upset the European Union more broadly with unilateral decisions ranging from Afghanistan to east Asia. And, while Europe cheered when Biden pledged to return to nuclear negotiations with Iran and revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, both efforts remain stalled nine months into his administration.

The seeds of discontent may have been sown in the spring but they began to bloom in July over Biden's acquiescence to a Russia-to-Germany gas pipeline that will bypass Poland and Ukraine, and a month later in August with the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan that left Europe scrambling to keep up after it had expressed reservations about the pullout.

Then just this week, Biden enraged France and the European Union with his announcement that the U.S. would join post-Brexit Britain and Australia in a new Indo-Pacific security initiative aimed at countering China's increasing aggressiveness in the region.

## Boeing to build Navy aircraft at MidAmerica airport

*Associated Press*

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Chicago-based aerospace giant Boeing Co. will invest \$200 million to begin manufacturing the U.S. Navy's latest unmanned aircraft at MidAmerica St. Louis Airport in a project that could add more than 150 jobs on the company's southwest Illinois campus, according to an announcement scheduled for Friday.

Boeing plans to build the MQ-25 Stingray, the Navy's first carrier-based unmanned aircraft in a state-of-the-art plant of about 291,000 square feet, according to a news release provided in advance to The Associated Press.

State and company officials had planned a Friday afternoon news conference to announce the plan at MidAmerica in Mascouhah, about 29 miles southeast of St. Louis.

"That the world's largest aerospace company would double-down on Illinois is a testament to our unparalleled assets in the transportation and logistics sector and the world-class talent of our people," Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said in a prepared statement.

He added that \$57 million in state money is set aside for MidAmerica St. Louis Airport improvements, nearly half of which will bolster the Boeing project.

According to Boeing, the MQ-25 Stingray, developed from a 2018 contract with the Navy, is a refueling aircraft that greatly extends the combat range of existing refueling aircraft and is designed for "seamless integration" on the flight decks of Navy carrier ships.

Boeing is receiving breaks on its state in-

come tax liability in exchange for the \$200 million investment over 15 years and the addition of 150 jobs to the 70 Boeing already employs at its Boeing-St. Clair site at MidAmerica. The deal is part of an EDGE economic-development agreement with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Construction on the MidAmerica facility is scheduled to start later this year and be completed in early 2024. Production would start by mid-2024.

The facility will feature robotic automation and "advanced assembly techniques" aimed at improved quality of product and employee ergonomics and safety. Boeing's digital engineering of the MQ-25 and its systems actually promote product quality and efficiency, officials said.

# Navy begins search to find remaining crew in helo crash

*The San Diego Union-Tribune (TNS)*

SAN DIEGO — A Navy undersea search and salvage operation began this week to locate and recover an MH-60S Seahawk helicopter and the remains of the five crew members killed in an Aug. 31 crash near San Diego, the Navy said Thursday.

The Navy estimates the helicopter is on the sea floor 4,000 to 6,000 feet deep, according to the Navy's San Diego-based 3rd Fleet.

Deep-sea search and recovery operations didn't immediately begin at the site in the days following the crash because the Navy had to scramble to bring the equipment necessary to search at such depth to San Diego from around the country, said Lt. Sam Boyle, a 3rd Fleet spokesperson.

"The depth and distance from shore make this a complex operation," Boyle said.

According to the Naval Safety Center, on the day of the crash the Seahawk, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 8, began vibrating side to side upon landing on the San Diego-based aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln. The vibration led to the aircraft's rotor striking the flight deck of the Lincoln, which in turn caused the helicopter to crash and fall overboard into the sea.

One crew member on board the helicopter was rescued from the water. Five sailors on board the Abraham Lincoln were also injured.

The Navy declared the five sailors dead after a three-day search.

On Wednesday, the Dominator, a contracted merchant vessel, left Naval Air Station North Island to begin on-site recovery operations with personnel from the Navy's Supervisor of Salvage and Diving, part of the service's Sea Surface Command. The recovery team is part of a Navy command that specializes in undersea recovery.

The salvage crew will try to locate the wreck using a shallow-water, side-scan sonar able to reach search depths of 8,000 feet and a towed pinger locator able to find downed aircraft at depths up to 20,000 feet.

While the Navy knows approximately where the helicopter went into the water about 60 nautical miles southwest of San Diego, it has not yet found the wreckage on the ocean floor, Boyle said.

"We're mapping the (bottom of) the ocean over the area," Boyle said. "We are making every effort to find the wreckage and the remains of our shipmates."

# Company to pay USAF sergeant \$60,000 for auctioning possessions

*Associated Press*

BOSTON — A Massachusetts storage company that federal prosecutors said illegally auctioned the personal possessions of an Air Force sergeant while he was deployed has agreed to pay the service member \$60,000 in compensation, the U.S. attorney's office in Boston announced Thursday.

Father & Son Moving & Storage also agreed to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty and implement new policies to prevent future violations of the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, according to a statement.

"It is wrong to auction off the possessions of a service member who is serving our country overseas," acting U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts Nathaniel Mendell said.

"The law protects service members from this kind of mistreatment — they have more important things to worry about when they are overseas risking their lives to protect our nation."

The company broke the law by failing to obtain a court order before auctioning everything in the technical sergeant's storage units while he was serving in Qatar, prosecutors said.

Father & Son had sent mail indicating that the man owed money to his previous address at Hanscom Air Force Base outside Boston, but he didn't get it in Qatar until almost a month after his possessions had been sold, according to the lawsuit filed in August 2020.

# Milley: Calls to China were in scope of the job

*Associated Press*

ATHENS, Greece — The top U.S. military officer said Friday that calls he made to his Chinese counterpart in the final stormy months of Donald Trump's presidency were "perfectly within the duties and responsibilities" of his job.

In his first public comments on the conversations, Gen. Mark Milley said such calls are "routine" and were done "to reassure both allies and adversaries in this case in order to ensure strategic stability." The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff spoke to The Associated Press and another reporter traveling with him to Europe.

Milley has been at the center of a firestorm amid reports he made two calls to Gen. Li Zuocheng of the People's Liberation Army to assure him that the United States was not going to suddenly go to war with or attack China.

Descriptions of the calls made last October and in January were first aired in excerpts from the forthcoming book "Peril" by Washington Post journalists Bob Woodward and Robert Costa. The book says Milley told Li that he would warn Li in the event of an attack.

Milley on Friday offered only a brief defense of his calls, saying he plans a deeper discussion about the matter for Congress when he testifies at a hearing later in September.

"I think it's best that I reserve my comments on the record until I do that in front of the lawmakers who have the lawful responsibility to oversee the U.S. military," Milley said. "I'll go into any level of detail Congress wants to go into in a couple of weeks."

Milley and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin are scheduled to testify Sept. 28 before the Senate Armed Services Committee, in what initially was going to be a hearing on the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan and the chaotic evacuation of Americans, Afghans and others from that country.

Milley was appointed Joint Chiefs chairman by Trump in 2019 and has remained in that post in the Biden administration.

The White House and the Pentagon chief have said they continue to have full trust and confidence in Milley.

# Case surge forces health care rationing

*Associated Press*

BOISE, Idaho — In another ominous sign about the spread of the delta variant, Idaho public health leaders on Thursday expanded health care rationing statewide and individual hospital systems in Alaska and Montana have enacted similar crisis standards amid a spike in the number of unvaccinated COVID-19 patients requiring hospitalization.

The decisions marked an escalation of the pandemic in several Western states struggling to convince skeptical people to get vaccinated.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare made the announcement after St. Luke's Health System, Idaho's largest hospital network, asked state health leaders to allow "crisis standards of care" because the increase in COVID-19 patients has exhausted the state's medical resources.

Idaho is one of the least vaccinated U.S. states, with only about 40% of its residents fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Crisis care standards mean that scarce

resources such as ICU beds will be allotted to the patients most likely to survive. Other patients will be treated with less effective methods or, in dire cases, given pain relief and other palliative care.

A hospital in Helena, Mont., was also forced to implement crisis standards of care amid a surge in COVID-19 patients. Critical care resources are at maximum capacity at St. Peter's Health hospital, officials said Thursday.

And earlier this week Providence Alaska Medical Center, Alaska's largest hospital, also started prioritizing resources.

Thursday's move in Idaho came a week after state officials started allowing health care rationing at hospitals in northern parts of the state.

"The situation is dire — we don't have enough resources to adequately treat the patients in our hospitals, whether you are there for COVID-19 or a heart attack or because of a car accident," Idaho Department of Welfare Director Dave Jeppesen said in statement.

He urged people to get vaccinated and wear masks indoors and in crowded outdoor settings.

"Our hospitals and health care systems need our help," Jeppesen said.

In Idaho's St. Luke's Health System, patients are being ventilated by hand — with a nurse or doctor squeezing a bag — for up to hours at a time while hospital officials work to find a bed with a mechanical ventilator, said chief medical officer Dr. Jim Souza.

Others are being treated with high-flow oxygen in rooms without monitoring systems, which means a doctor or nurse might not hear an alarm if the patient has a medical emergency, he said. Some patients are being treated for sepsis in emergency department waiting rooms.

The normal standards of care act as a net that allows physicians to "carry out the high wire acts that we do every day, like open heart surgery and bone marrow transplants and neuro-interventional stroke care," Souza said. "The net is gone, and people will fall from the high wire."

## FDA panel first test for COVID-19 booster plan

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration's embattled plan to dispense COVID-19 booster shots to most Americans faced its first major hurdle Friday as a government advisory panel met to decide whether to endorse extra doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

Scientists inside and outside the government have been divided in recent days over the need for boosters and who should get them, and the World Health Organization has strongly objected to rich nations giving a third round of shots when poor countries don't have enough vaccine for their first.

The panel, made up of outside experts who advise the Food and Drug Administration, weighed a less than clear-cut case: While research suggests immunity levels in those who have been vaccinated

wane over time and boosters can reverse that, the Pfizer vaccine is still highly protective against severe illness and death, even amid the spread of the highly contagious delta variant.

The FDA experts were scheduled to vote on one basic question: Does the evidence show that a Pfizer booster would be safe and effective for people 16 and older? In the event of a yes vote, the FDA is expected to quickly approve boosters for Pfizer's shot.

But that is just one step in the process. The more thorny question of who should get the shots and when will be debated on Wednesday by advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC has said it is considering boosters for older people, nursing home residents and front-line health care workers, rather than all adults.

## DOJ reviewing policies on transgender inmates

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is reviewing its policies on housing transgender inmates in the federal prison system after protections for transgender prisoners were rolled back in the Trump administration, The Associated Press has learned.

The federal Bureau of Prisons' policies for transgender inmates were thrust into the spotlight this week after a leader of an Illinois anti-government militia group — who identifies as transgender — was sentenced to 53 years in prison for masterminding the 2017 bombing of a Minnesota mosque.

Emily Claire Hari, who was charged, tried and convicted as Michael Hari, was sentenced Monday for the bombing of Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center in Bloomington, Minn.. It will now be up to the Bureau of Prisons' Transgender Executive Council

— a group of psychology and correctional officials — to determine where to house Hari in a system of 122 federal prisons.

Under the Obama administration, the bureau's policies for transgender inmates — known as the Transgender Offender Manual — called for that council to "recommend housing by gender identity when appropriate." That language was changed in the Trump administration to require the committee to "use biological sex as the initial determination."

The Trump-era manual, which remains in effect, says the agency would assign an inmate to a facility based on identified gender only "in rare cases." About 1,200 inmates — of the nearly 156,000 federal prisoners in the United States — identify as transgender, a Justice Department official said.

# Moderate voice in Taliban sidelined

*Bloomberg*

The man the U.S. and its allies hoped would be a moderate voice in Afghanistan's Taliban government has been sidelined after a dramatic shootout in the presidential palace in Kabul, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the group's most public face who led peace talks with the U.S., was physically attacked by a leader of the U.S. terrorist-designated Haqqani Network in early September during talks at the palace over forming the cabinet, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing the incident.

Baradar had pushed for an "inclusive" cabinet that included non-Taliban leaders

and ethnic minorities, which would be more acceptable to the rest of the world, the people said. At one point during the meeting, Khalil ul Rahman Haqqani rose from his chair and began punching the Taliban leader.

Their bodyguards entered the fray and opened fire on each other, killing and wounding a number of them, the people said. While Baradar was not injured he has since left the capital and headed to Kandahar — the group's base — to speak with Supreme Leader Haibatullah Akhundzada, effectively the Taliban's spiritual head.

Over the past week, members of the Taliban have rejected reports of a clash. Baradar appeared on state-run television on Thurs-

day to deny rumors he'd been wounded or even killed. Baradar wasn't present on Sept. 12 to welcome Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, and he missed the Taliban's first cabinet meeting this week.

"Praise be to God, I am safe and sound," he said in the brief address. "Another statement made by the media that we have internal disputes is also completely not true."

Reached by phone, Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi said Baradar was "not sidelined and we're expecting he'll return soon."

"There are not any differences among the leaders of the Islamic Emirate," Karimi said. "They don't brawl over any office or government positions."

## 4 US bases in Japan report 54 new virus cases

BY JOSEPH DITZLER

*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — Japan's capital city ended its working week Friday with the second-lowest tally of new coronavirus infections in 10 days.

Tokyo had 782 people test positive for the virus, according to public broadcaster NHK. However, another 25 people died of complications of COVID-19, the coronavirus respiratory disease, NHK reported, citing the metropolitan government. That's the highest daily toll since 28 deaths on Aug. 23, according to metro government data.

Meanwhile, four U.S. military bases in Japan reported another 54 new cases from the previous week. Kadena Air Base on Okinawa announced the highest figure, 38 new infections, according to a weekly update on its website. The base said it has 68 active cases but provided no further information.

Okinawa prefecture reported 185 new coronavirus patients and four deaths on Friday, according to the Department of Public Health and Medical Care.

In its weekly update, Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo reported seven COVID-19 cases since Sept. 11. All were identified by public health authorities, according to the base website. Yokota has 20 patients under observation.

Yokosuka Naval Base south of Tokyo has had six people test positive since Tuesday, according to a base news release. One immunized base employee turned up during contact tracing.

The remainder were unimmunized. Three are associated with the Navy. A medical screening discovered one individual, one individual fell ill with COVID-19 symptoms and one tested positive after recently arriving in

Japan. Two are base employees. One fell ill and the other turned up in a medical screening, according to a base news release. The base reported 25 active cases under observation.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni near Hiroshima has had three infections since Thursday, according to a base news release.

Japan reported 4,626 new coronavirus cases and 58 deaths Thursday, according to Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. Nearly 53% of the Japanese population, or 66.6 million people, are fully vaccinated.

U.S. Forces Korea reported no new coronavirus cases Friday. South Korea said another 2,008 people tested positive, 738 in Seoul and 655 in Gyeonggi province, where Camp Humphreys and Osan Air Base are located, according to the Korean Disease Control and Prevention Agency. Nearly 22 million South Koreans are fully vaccinated.

## Global leaders discuss next steps on climate change

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden tried to hammer out the world's next steps against rapidly worsening climate change in a private, virtual session with a small group of other global leaders Friday, and announced a new U.S.-European pledge to cut climate-wrecking methane leaks.

Ever-grimmer warnings from scientists this year that the world is nearing the point where the level of climate damage from burning oil, gas and coal becomes catastrophic and

irreversible "represent a code red for humanity," Biden said at the session's outset.

"We have to act and we have to act now," Biden said, speaking on a specially erected White House set that showed virtual arrays of solar panels in the background and a wall of other global leaders listening on screens.

The Biden administration billed the meeting as a chance for some of the world leaders to strategize how to achieve big, fast cuts in climate-wrecking petroleum and coal emissions. The administration also is trying to re-

establish the United States' Major Economies Forum — a climate group set up by President Barack Obama and revived by Biden — as a significant forum for international climate negotiations.

Friday's meeting followed a much bigger and splashier virtual White House climate summit in April that saw scores of heads of governments — representing allies and rivals, and big economies and small — making sweeping speeches about the need for action against climate change.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Toy Hall of Fame finalists announced

**NY** ROCHESTER — Cabbage Patch Kids, the rosy-cheeked dolls that left store shelves picked clean during the first big holiday toy craze, are up for a spot in the National Toy Hall of Fame, part of a finalist group announced Wednesday that also includes garden-variety sand and the toy fire engine.

Also among finalists being considered for a November induction are five competitive games: Battleship, Risk, The Settlers of Catan, Mahjong and billiards, as well as the piñata, American Girl Dolls, Masters of the Universe and Fisher-Price Corn Popper.

### More than 20 cats die in fire at animal shelter

**FL** ORLANDO — More than 20 cats were killed when a fire broke out at an Orlando animal shelter, officials said.

Orange County Fire Rescue found flames “through the roof” when they arrived at the center, the agency said on Twitter.

Steve Bardy, the executive director of the Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando, called the fire his “worst nightmare.”

He told news outlets that rescue crews were able to evacuate all 25 dogs at the center. They were further away from the fire’s point of origin, he said.

### Town warns to stay away from minks

**CT** STONINGTON — A Connecticut town’s police force is warning resi-

dents to stay away from aggressive minks.

In a recorded message sent to residents, Capt. Todd Olson of the Stonington Police Department urged people to stay away from a mink if they see one, The Day of New London reported Thursday.

Olson said that even though they resemble a pet ferret, minks are territorial and are not friendly. One of them chased a person Wednesday, he said.

### Schools find swastikas and Hitler messages

**GA** MARIETTA — Swastikas and messages praising Adolf Hitler have appeared at two high schools this month in a large public school system in the Atlanta suburbs, school officials said.

Someone scrawled a swastika and “Heil Hitler” on a bathroom door at Lassiter High School, school officials reported Wednesday. Similar anti-Semitic messages were found last week on a bathroom wall at nearby Pope High School, officials said.

The two schools are about 4 miles apart and both are in the Cobb County School District just northwest of Atlanta.

### Two people die from the West Nile virus

**NE** LINCOLN — Two people have now died from West Nile virus in eastern Nebraska this year.

The state Department of Health and Human Services said both deaths were confirmed this week within the territory served by the Three Rivers District Health Depart-

ment, which includes Dodge, Saunders and Washington counties in eastern Nebraska.

Officials said both people who died with the virus were older adults with underlying health conditions, but they didn’t provide any additional details about them.

### Man killed in brawl outside restaurant

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — A man was killed Thursday after he was beaten with a trash can lid and pummeled during a brawl outside a famous Philadelphia cheese-steak restaurant, police said.

The violence at Pat’s King of Steaks may involve spectators who earlier attended a soccer game, police said. MLS’ Philadelphia Union had lost to Mexican side Club América.

The 28-year-old was fatally beaten and two other people were injured in the fight before the suspects fled in an SUV, police said. According to police, the injured were stable.

Alcohol may have played a role in the brawl, police said.

“Normally, these are well run businesses that are quiet, safe. People just come here for a good steak sandwich. However, every once in a while, you get a fight that escalates into violence,” said Police Chief Inspector Scott Small.

### Park to hold town hall events on Black history

**NC** ASHEVILLE — Officials with Great Smoky Mountains National Park have scheduled three town hall events to introduce the public to the history of Black people

within and around the park.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the history of Black people in the park by attending a 30-minute program, according to a news release. Facilitators will then lead an open discussion about current research and upcoming projects.

While Black people have inhabited the Great Smoky Mountains region since at least the early 16th century, little is known about their presence. The park is conducting this research effort to better understand the untold history of the Black experience in southern Appalachia.

The first town hall was scheduled for Thursday at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.

### University given \$11M for cold weather study

**SD** RAPID CITY — The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology has been awarded an \$11 million federal grant to develop better material and manufacturing technology to withstand cold weather.

South Dakota Mines will partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Cold Regions and Engineering Lab.

The research will be done over five years and is aimed at developing better materials and technology to support the Army’s military objectives in cold and remote regions.

U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds said funding for the project has been his top defense appropriation request for three years, the Rapid City Journal reported.

-From wire reports

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# Hopkins FG lifts WFT over Giants

## Kicker converts 2nd chance as Washington beats New York on final play

BY NOAH TRISTER

*Associated Press*

LANDOVER, Md. — Taylor Heinicke and Dustin Hopkins made the most of their second chances.

Washington needed every last second — and then some — to earn a long-awaited victory over the New York Giants.

Hopkins made a 43-yard field goal on an untimed down — after a penalty negated his miss seconds earlier — and Washington beat New York 30-29 on Thursday night, snapping a five-game winning streak for the Giants in the series.

It also gave Heinicke another moment in the sun after he cost Washington dearly with a late interception. The 28-year-old quarterback was making his second career start in the regular season and first since 2018 with the Carolina Panthers. He became a bit of a sensation when Washington had to use him in last season's playoffs against Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, but his team lost that game.

"It's amazing," Heinicke said. "The first start was what, two or three years ago in Carolina? Threw three picks, tore my tricep, it was just a brutal thing — and that was my last start until last year (against) Tampa. Come in to Tampa last year, had a good game, but ultimately fell up short. And finally get that first win."

Heinicke, playing because of an injury to Ryan Fitzpatrick, threw for 336 yards and two touchdowns. His interception set up Graham Gano's fifth field goal of the game, which gave the Giants a 29-27 lead with 2 minutes remaining. Heinicke then guided Washington back into field-goal range.

"He does have the ability to throw the ball and make all the throws. We've seen that," Washington coach Ron Rivera said. "And he's got a lot of confidence."

Hopkins missed his first attempt to win the game, but he was given a reprieve when Dexter Lawrence was flagged for being offside. His next attempt was good, giving Washington (1-1) a wild victory.

"Somebody out there check on my mother," Hopkins said. "She's probably had a heart attack."

Daniel Jones threw for 249 yards and a touchdown for the Giants (0-2). He also ran for 95 yards and a TD.

For most of the night, it was Washington's highly touted defense that wasn't pulling its weight. New York scored on its first four possessions of the second half, but after the Giants went up 26-20, Heinicke needed only 17 seconds to put Washington ahead.

J.D. McKissic slipped downfield for a 56-yard reception, and then Ricky Seals-Jones outjumped Adoree' Jackson in the corner of the end zone for a 19-yard TD that put Wash-

ington up 27-26.

The Giants had to punt after that, but as Washington was trying to run out the clock, James Bradberry intercepted a pass by Heinicke, giving the Giants the ball at the Washington 20.

Washington's defense forced a field goal, giving Heinicke another chance. Then the penalty on Lawrence gave Hopkins his extra opportunity.

"It's going to be a tough lesson," Giants coach Joe Judge said. "I'm not going to put this on Dexter."

After struggling to stop Justin Herbert and the Chargers last weekend, Washington's defense had its problems again at the start of this game. New York went 79 yards in 11 plays the first time it had the ball, taking a 7-0 lead on a 6-yard run by Jones.

After Washington tied it on Heinicke's 11-yard scoring pass to Terry McLaurin, Jones broke free for what initially looked like a 58-yard touchdown run. That play was shortened by a holding penalty, however, and the Giants settled for a field goal.

Washington took a 14-10 lead on a 2-yard TD run by McKissic in the final minute of the half.

Jones found Darius Slayton for a 33-yard TD in the third quarter that put New York ahead 20-14.

## Final penalty hardly the only mistake for Giants

BY NOAH TRISTER

*Associated Press*

LANDOVER, Md. — For a brief moment, it looked as if Daniel Jones had scored on a long run. Then it looked as if Darius Slayton was open for a certain touchdown.

Finally, the New York Giants started celebrating when Dustin Hopkins' kick sailed wide.

Nope. Another mistake was about to cost the Giants.

Dexter Lawrence was flagged for being offside on Washington's final field-goal attempt, and the re-kick went through the uprights on an untimed down, handing the Giants a 30-29 loss Thursday night. That was hardly the only big error for

New York, though.

"It comes down to the small details and obviously we didn't get those done today," receiver Sterling Shepard said. "It's something that we've got to go back to the drawing board and get corrected."

In the first half, Jones appeared to break free for a 58-yard touchdown, but a holding call on receiver C.J. Board put the ball on the Washington 22 instead. The Giants settled for a field goal.

New York had a chance to take a two-score lead in the fourth quarter when Jones threw deep to Slayton, who was all alone behind the defense. The pass may have been a bit long, but Slayton still had a good chance to make the catch and dropped it.

Again, the Giants kicked a field goal, but their 26-20 lead was erased almost immediately.

There was a lot New York did well in this game. The offensive line — despite losing Nick Gates to a broken leg in the first quarter — largely contained Washington's feared pass rush.

Graham Gano kicked five field goals, including some pretty long ones, and New York scored on every second-half possession but one. The Giants also played a turnover-free game.

When they had a chance to take control of the game and ultimately win it, however, the Giants made the night's most significant miscues.

# No. 11 Florida hosts top-ranked Alabama

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida's Dameron Pierce flashed an ear-to-ear grin as he contemplated his response.

"How's it feel to be such huge underdogs at home against top-ranked Alabama?"

If anyone was going to say anything controversial, it likely would have been the outspoken and vivacious running back. Pierce chuckled and then held back. Well, sort of.

"This is my first time hearing that," he said sarcastically.

"Fifteen points? Against Bama? They being nice, ain't they?"

"Everybody Bama plays is what, like 20-plus? They showing love to us, 15-point underdogs."

The 11th-ranked Gators (2-0) surely will use external expectations as motivation when they host the defending national champion Crimson Tide (2-0) on Saturday, the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams. Alabama is now favored by 14½ points, accord-

ing to FanDuel Sportsbook.

"If you need me to motivate you to play in this game, you're a little messed up," Florida coach Dan Mullen said. "This is a big game."

Alabama has won 16 in a row, a streak that started with a Citrus Bowl victory against Michigan on New Year's Day in 2020. The Crimson Tide have been even more dominant against teams from the SEC's Eastern Division, having won 31 straight since losing to Steve Spurrier and

South Carolina on Oct. 9, 2010.

Florida, meanwhile, last beat Alabama in the 2008 SEC title game. The Gators have dropped all seven meetings since, including a 52-46 shootout in the league's championship game last December.

Playing the Tide close has given Florida players confidence heading into the rematch.

"We're ready. Of course, we're ready," linebacker Brenton Cox said. "Big question is: are they ready?"

## It's been a while since Tide visited The Swamp

Associated Press

The last time Florida beat Alabama, Tim Tebow was the Gators' quarterback and the team was on its way to a second national title under coach Urban Meyer.

Tebow is now retired and Meyer is coaching in the NFL.

So, yes, it's been a while.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide visit No. 11 Florida on Saturday in one of the biggest games on the Week 3 schedule in college football.

Alabama brings a seven-game winning streak against the Gators into The Swamp, but only one of those games (2011) was played in Gainesville. Four times, including the last three, Alabama beat Florida in the Southeastern Conference championship game.

The Gators enter the game with a quarterback ... competition? Controversy? Combination?

Florida coach Dan Mullen used Emory Jones and Anthony Richardson effectively for the first two weeks, but that was against Florida Atlantic and South Florida.

We'll see how this works against the Tide.

### Best game

No. 22 Auburn at No. 10 Penn

State, a cool matchup between college football bluebloods that have never faced each other in a regular-season game. It is also the first matchup of a ranked SEC team against a ranked Big Ten team at a home stadium since Alabama played at Penn State in 2011.

### Heisman watch

#### Spencer Rattler, Oklahoma

Rattler was the preseason Heisman Trophy favorite and he has been fine so far, completing 76.9% of his passes with six touchdowns and two interceptions.

This week, the third-ranked Sooners renew their old Big 12/Eight rivalry against Nebraska in Fox's Big Noon game. It's a big stage, if not a truly big game. Oklahoma is a three-touchdown favorite. Rattler has an opportunity to put up some gaudy numbers in front of a large audience.

### Numbers to know

**2005** — The last time Virginia Tech played at West Virginia. The 15th-ranked Hokies and Mountaineers renew their rivalry Saturday in Morgantown. They have played once since 2005, but that was at FedEx Field, the home of the Washington Football Team, in

2017. This will be the 52nd meeting between the schools.

**8.57** — Yards per play by Michigan State, which visits No. 24 Miami on Saturday. In year two under coach Mel Tucker, the Spartans have flashed on offense like nothing they have seen in East Lansing in years. It's early, but the Spartans are nearly doubling their output from last year (4.81 ypp). Michigan State hasn't cracked 6 yards per play in a season since 2014.

**20-54-3** — No. 8 Cincinnati's record against Big Ten schools heading into Saturday's game at Indiana. The Bearcats are 3-9-2 against the Hoosiers, but they have rarely had a team this good. UC's last victory against a Big Ten opponent was 2016 against Purdue.

**29** — Consecutive home victories for No. 6 Clemson going into its game against Georgia Tech. One more victory would give the Tigers the 24th home winning streak of at least 30 games in major college football history.

### Under the radar

#### Nevada at Kansas State

Both teams are 2-0, but the reason to check in on the Wolf Pack and Wildcats is two of the more exciting players in college

football.

Nevada quarterback Carson Strong is 6-foot-4, 215 pounds and has the tools to develop into a first-round draft pick. Kansas State running back Deuce Vaughn is probably not an early round draft pick at 5-6, 173 pounds, but he is a big play waiting to happen, with four touchdowns and an average per carry of 6.26 yards.

### Hot seat

Southern California parted ways with coach Clay Helton after last week's loss, a reminder that midseason coaching changes are just a thing that happens in college football these days.

It doesn't look like anybody else is in that kind of danger going into Week 3 of the season, but at the top of the list of coaches who could really use a victory is Washington's Jimmy Lake.

The Huskies are 0-2 after starting the season ranked, and they host Arkansas State on Saturday. The Red Wolves (1-1) under first-year coach Butch Jones have some offense, averaging 45 points and 596 yards.

Washington has scored 17 points total. Probably needs to do better than that to avoid 0-3 for the first time since 2008.

# Tatis' 39th home run helps lift Padres

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Fernando Tatis Jr. hit his NL-leading 39th homer, and the San Diego Padres beat the San Francisco Giants 7-4 on Thursday to earn a series split.

The Padres moved within half a game of the idle Cardinals for the second NL wild card at 76-70. San Diego starts a three-game series in St. Louis on Friday.

Tatis also singled and walked twice a day after matching a career best with four hits. Tommy Pham and Manny Machado each drove in two runs, and Adam Frazier and Austin Nola had three hits apiece.

Evan Longoria homered for the NL West-leading Giants, whose lead over the Dodgers dropped to a game. Los Angeles was off Thursday.

Nabil Crismatt (3-1) pitched four scoreless innings in relief to earn the win in a bullpen

game for the Padres.

Giants starter Kevin Gausman (14-6) lost for the first time since July 30, allowing four earned runs on eight hits in five innings.

**Orioles 3, Yankees 2:** Reliever Clay Holmes threw a wild pitch with two outs in the ninth inning that let the tying run score, then Austin Hays chopped an RBI single in the 10th that lifted host Baltimore and dropped New York back in the AL wild-card race.

The Yankees fell a half-game behind idle Toronto and Boston atop the AL wild-card standings. New York had won three in a row.

**Phillies 17, Cubs 8:** Bryce Harper doubled to start a seven-run, game-tying rally in the fourth inning, drove in the go-ahead run in the sixth and sealed host Philadelphia's win over Chicago with a three-run home run in the seventh.

The Phillies are three games behind first-place Atlanta — rained out Thursday — in the NL East with 16 games left this season, and 2½ games behind St. Louis for the second wild card. San Diego and Cincinnati also lead Philadelphia in the wild-card chase.

**Athletics 7, Royals 2:** Salvador Perez tied Johnny Bench's record for homers in a season by a catcher with his 45th, but Chad Pinder's two-run single spurred a third-inning rally and visiting Oakland held off Kansas City.

Oakland started the day 3½ games behind Toronto, Boston and the New York Yankees for the two AL wild cards.

**Reds 1, Pirates 0:** Tyler Mahle (12-5) cruised through six innings, Asdrúbal Cabrera hit a go-ahead, pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the seventh, and visiting Cincinnati avoided a three-game sweep against Pittsburgh.

**Astros 12, Rangers 1:** Carlos Correa triggered visiting Houston's seven-run fourth inning with a three-run homer, and replacement starter Luis Garcia (11-7) took a shutout into the sixth.

The AL West-leading Astros stayed seven games in front of Oakland with 16 games remaining.

**Rays 5, Tigers 2:** Yandy Díaz hit a leadoff home run and Mike Zunino later connected, reliever Dietrich Enns (2-0) pitched four solid innings and AL East-leading Tampa Bay beat visiting Detroit.

The Rays lead second-place Boston and Toronto by 8½ games. The fourth-place New York Yankees are nine back.

**Angels 9, White Sox 3:** Alex Cobb (8-3) pitched five scoreless innings, Luis Rengifo and Jose Rojas hit home runs, and visiting Los Angeles coasted over Chicago.

# All-Star Game lands in Seattle a year early

Associated Press

SEATTLE — When the Seattle Mariners started down the path of bidding for the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, the target was 2024 or later to host for a third time.

When MLB came back to the club earlier this year asking if 2023 was a possibility, the Mariners quickly kicked into gear.

"I think with some of the shuffling that went on, (2023) became the more viable alternative," MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred said Thursday. "And I have to say, the Mariners did a fantastic job in terms of the up-tempo, the preparation. It takes a lot to pull off an All-Star Game, a lot of preparation and planning and (Mariners Chairman) John (Stanton) and his people did a fantastic job getting ready sooner."

Seattle was formally unveiled as the host of the 2023

midsummer classic Thursday, making the announcement inside the Space Needle with Hall of Famers Ken Griffey Jr. and Edgar Martinez looking on.

Seattle's first All-Star Game was in 1979 at the Kingdome, and it hosted again 22 years later in 2001 at Safeco Field.

Twenty-two years later, the game will be back at what's now T-Mobile Park.

"I believe that the 2023 All-Star Game will give us the opportunity to celebrate the entire region," Stanton said. "I think you have to agree to me, looking out the window today, there is no nicer place in America than Seattle in the middle of summer."

Seattle's turn as host will make for three straight years when the game is played in the Western half of the country. This year's All-Star Game was moved to Denver from Atlanta

in April after Manfred made the decision to relocate the game because of a Georgia voting law that critics say will negatively affect communities of color. His decision generally was denounced by conservatives and praised by liberals.

The 2022 game will be held at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. It was originally scheduled to be there in 2020 before being canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manfred said he was "not in a position" to comment on any conversations about a future game in Atlanta and commended Seattle on being ready to host quicker than expected.

"John and his people did a fantastic job getting ready sooner. You know our deepest hope is for baseball to return to its traditional kind of apolitical stance," Manfred said. "We're about entertaining our fans,

having an inclusive environment that everybody can come and enjoy our games."

Seattle's bid was led by senior vice president Randy Adamack, who has been with the franchise for 44 of its 45 seasons.

Adamack said 2023 was part of the initial conversations but originally some of the "pieces of the puzzle weren't fitting together." There was talk of possibly looking at 2027 for the game and a chance to celebrate the 50th year of the franchise.

Adamack said when MLB reached out asking if 2023 was a possibility earlier this year, the biggest complication was securing hotels. Adamack estimated Seattle's initial bid book was about 120 pages, much of it about hotel space.

"It all came together in the last couple of months, and here we are," Adamack said.