

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Putin orders a partial reservist call-up

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial mobilization of reservists Wednesday, taking a risky and deeply unpopular step that follows humiliating setbacks for his troops nearly seven months after invading Ukraine.

The first such call-up in Russia since World War II is sure to further fuel tensions with the Western backers of Ukraine, who derided it as an act of weakness and desperation. The move also sent some Russians scrambling to buy plane tickets out of the country and reportedly sparked some demonstrations.

The Kremlin has struggled to replenish its troops in Ukraine, reaching out for volunteers. There even have been reports of widespread recruitment in prisons.

In his seven-minute nationally televised address, Putin also warned the West he isn't bluffing over using everything at his disposal to protect Russia — an apparent reference to his nuclear arsenal.

He has previously told the West not to back Russia against a wall and has rebuked NATO countries for supplying weapons to Ukraine.

The total number of reservists to be called up could be as high as 300,000, officials said. However, Putin's decree authorizing the partial mobilization that took effect immedi-

ately offered few details, raising suspicions that the draft could be broadened at any moment. Notably, one clause was kept secret.

Even a partial mobilization is likely to increase dismay or doubt among Russians about the war. Shortly after Putin's address, Russian media reported a spike in demand for plane tickets abroad amid an apparent scramble to leave despite exorbitant prices.

The Vesna opposition movement called for nationwide protests, although it was unclear how many would act, given Russia's harsh laws against criticizing the military and the war.

"Thousands of Russian men — our fathers, brothers and husbands — will be thrown into the meat grinder of the war. What will they be dying for? What will mothers and children be crying for?" the group said.

Avtozak, a Russian group that monitors protests, reported demonstrations by dozens of people in cities, including Ulan-Ude and Tomsk in Siberia, and Khabarovsk in the Far East, with some arrests.

As protest calls circulated online, the Moscow prosecutor's office warned that organizing or participating in such actions could lead to up to 15 years in prison.

Authorities issued similar warnings ahead of other protests recently. The state commu-

nication watchdog Roskomnadzor also warned media that access to their websites would be blocked for transmitting "false information" about the mobilization.

It was unclear exactly what that meant.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, who asked what had changed since he and others previously said no mobilization was planned, said Russia is effectively fighting NATO because the alliance's members have supplied weapons to Kyiv.

The partial mobilization order came a day after Russian-controlled regions in eastern and southern Ukraine announced plans for referendums on becoming integral parts of Russia — a move that could eventually allow Moscow to escalate the war.

The referendums will start Friday in the Luhansk, Kherson and partly Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions.

The balloting is all but certain to go Moscow's way.

Foreign leaders are already calling the votes illegitimate and nonbinding. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said they were a "sham" and "noise" to distract the public.

U.S. national security council spokesperson John Kirby said Putin's speech is "definitely a sign that he's struggling, and we know that."

## US and Canadian ships steam through Taiwan Strait

BY ALEX WILSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

A U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyer and a Canadian patrol frigate steamed through the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday, the first combined transit by the two countries in nearly a year.

The destroyer USS Higgins and the Canadian frigate HMCS Vancouver passed northeast from the South China Sea into the East China Sea over 16 hours, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Mark Langford told Stars and Stripes by email Wednesday.

"The ships transited through a corridor in the strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal state," Langford said in a Wednesday news release. "Higgins' and Vancouver's transit through the Taiwan

Strait demonstrates the commitment of the United States and our allies and partners to a free and open Indo-Pacific."

The transit was not in response to any particular event, according to Langford, who added that the strait has been used by U.S. Navy ships to travel between the two seas "for many years."

However, the two ships moved through the strait just days after President Joe Biden for the second time this year said U.S. troops would help defend Taiwan in case of a Chinese invasion or "unprecedented attack."

He made the comments during an interview broadcast Sunday by "60 Minutes."

Beijing considers Taiwan, a self-governing democracy since it split from China in

1949, a breakaway province that must be reunified with the mainland, by force if necessary. The Navy has sent warships through the 110-mile channel that separates Taiwan from mainland China roughly once a month over the past two years, actions that regularly draw criticism from Beijing.

Chinese naval and air forces monitored "the entire process," according to a news release Tuesday from China's Ministry of Defense.

"The troops in the theater are always on high alert, resolutely counteract all threats and provocations, and resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Col. Shi Yi, spokesman for China's Eastern Theater Command, said in the release.

# At UN, Biden slams Russia for invasion

*Associated Press*

UNITED NATIONS — U.S. President Joe Biden declared at the United Nations on Wednesday that Russia has “shamelessly violated the core tenets” of the U.N. with its “brutal, needless war” in Ukraine. He said the war is an affront to the heart of what the international body stands for as he looked to rally allies to stand firm in backing the Ukrainian resistance.

Delivering a forceful condemnation of Russia’s seven-month invasion, Biden said reports of Russian abuses against civilians in Ukraine “should make your blood run cold.” And he said President Vladimir Putin’s new nuclear threats against Europe showed “reckless disregard” for Russia’s responsibilities as a signer of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

He criticized Russia for scheduling “sham referenda” this week in territory it has forcibly seized in Ukraine.

“A permanent member of the U.N. Security Council invaded its neighbor, attempted to erase a sovereign state from the map. Russia has shamelessly violated the core tenets of the U.N. charter,” he told his U.N. audience.

Biden called on all nations, whether democracies or autocracies, to speak out against Russia’s invasion and to bolster Ukraine’s effort to defend itself.

“We will stand in solidarity against Russia’s aggression, period,” Biden said.

Biden also highlighted consequences of

the invasion for the world’s food supply, pledging \$2.9 billion in global food security aid to address shortages caused by the war and the effects of climate change. He praised a U.N.-brokered effort to create a corridor for Ukrainian grain to be exported by sea, and called on the agreement to be continued despite the ongoing conflict.

Biden, during his time at the U.N. General Assembly, also planned to meet Wednesday with new British Prime Minister Liz Truss and press allies to meet an \$18 billion target to replenish the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

But the heart of the president’s visit to the U.N. this year was his full-throated censure of Russia as its war nears the seven-month mark.

The address came as Russian-controlled regions of eastern and southern Ukraine have announced plans to hold Kremlin-backed referendums in days ahead on becoming part of Russia and as Moscow is losing ground in the invasion. Putin on Wednesday announced a partial mobilization to call up 300,000 reservists and accused the West of engaging in “nuclear blackmail.”

The White House said the global food security funding includes \$2 billion in direct humanitarian assistance through the United States Agency for International Development. The balance of the money will go to global development projects meant to boost the efficiency and resilience of the global

food supply.

“This new announcement of \$2.9 billion will save lives through emergency interventions and invest in medium- to long-term food security assistance in order to protect the world’s most vulnerable populations from the escalating global food security crisis,” the White House said.

Biden was confronting no shortage of difficult issues as leaders gather this year.

In addition to the Russian war in Ukraine, European fears that a recession could be just around the corner are heightened. Administration concerns grow by the day that time is running short to revive the Iran nuclear deal and over China’s saber-rattling on Taiwan.

When he addressed last year’s General Assembly, Biden focused on broad themes of global partnership, urging world leaders to act with haste against the coronavirus, climate change and human rights abuses. And he offered assurances that his presidency marked a return of American leadership to international institutions following Donald Trump’s “America First” foreign policy.

But one year later, global dynamics have dramatically changed.

Stewart Patrick, senior fellow and director of the Global Order and Institutions Program at the Washington think tank Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, wrote in an analysis that Biden’s task this year is “immense” compared to his first address to the U.N. as president.

## Russians rush for flights out after reservist call-up

*Associated Press*

BELGRADE, Serbia — Large numbers of Russians rushed to book one-way tickets out of the country while they still could Wednesday after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial mobilization of military reservists for the war in Ukraine.

Flights filled up quickly and the prices of tickets for remaining connections skyrocketed, apparently driven by fears that Russia’s borders could soon close or of a broader call-up that might send many Russian men of fighting age to the war’s front lines.

Tickets for the Moscow-Belgrade flights operated by Air Serbia, the only European carrier besides Turkish Airlines to maintain flights to Russia despite a European Union

flight embargo, sold out for the next several days. The price for flights from Moscow to Istanbul or Dubai increased within minutes before jumping again, reaching as high as \$9,119 for a one-way economy-class fare.

Putin’s decree stipulates that the amount of people called to active duty will be determined by the Defense Ministry. Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said in a televised interview that 300,000 reservists with relevant combat and service experience would initially be mobilized.

Russia has seen a marked exodus of citizens since Putin ordered his troops to invade Ukraine almost seven months ago. During the early morning address to the nation in which the president announced the partial

mobilization of reservists, he also issued a veiled nuclear threat to Russia’s enemies in the West.

Reports of panic spreading among Russians soon flooded social networks. Anti-war groups said the limited airplane tickets out of Russia reached enormous prices due to high demand and swiftly became unavailable.

Some postings alleged people had already been turned back from Russia’s land border with Georgia and that the website of the state Russian railway company collapsed because too many people were checking for ways out of the country.

Social networks in Russian also surged with advice on how to avoid the mobilization or leave the country.

# Migrants sue Fla. governor over flights

Associated Press

BOSTON — Venezuelan migrants flown to the upscale Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard sued Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and his transportation secretary Tuesday for engaging in a "fraudulent and discriminatory scheme" to relocate them.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Boston, alleges that the migrants were told they were going to Boston or Washington, "which was completely false," and were induced with perks such as \$10 McDonald's gift certificates.

"No human being should be used as a political pawn," said Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal, executive director of Lawyers for

Civil Rights, which is seeking class-action status in the lawsuit filed on behalf of several migrants who were aboard last week's flights and Alianza Americas, a network of advocacy groups.

"It is opportunistic that activists would use illegal immigrants for political theater," said Taryn Fenske, DeSantis' communication director, in a statement late Tuesday.

The lawsuit, which also names Secretary of Transportation Jared W. Perdue as a defendant, alleges that migrants were induced to cross state lines under false pretenses, a line that some Democratic officials are using to urge a federal investi-

gation.

On Monday, Javier Salazar, the sheriff of Bexar County, which includes San Antonio, opened an investigation into the flights, but the elected Democrat did not say what laws may have been broken. California Gov. Gavin Newsom and U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, whose district includes San Antonio, have asked the Justice Department to begin a probe.

Guesswork was rampant among government officials, advocates and journalists Tuesday about DeSantis' next move, consistent with the element of surprise that he and another Republican governor, Greg Abbott of Texas, have sought to achieve

by busing and flying migrants across the country to Democratic strongholds with little or no notice.

Asked Tuesday about speculation that DeSantis may send migrants to his home state of Delaware, President Joe Biden said: "He should come visit. We have a beautiful shoreline."

DeSantis declined to confirm speculation, based on flight-tracking software, that more migrants were on the move. He again defended his decision to fly about 50 Venezuelans to Martha's Vineyard, saying their decisions were completely voluntary and, without evidence, that they were in awful condition when Florida got involved.

## US: 48 stole \$250M from pandemic food program

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — U.S. authorities charged 48 people in Minnesota with conspiracy and other counts in what they said Tuesday was the largest pandemic-related fraud scheme yet, stealing \$250 million from a federal program that provides meals to low-income children.

Federal prosecutors said the defendants created companies that claimed to be offering food to tens of thousands of children across Minnesota, then sought reimbursement for those meals through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's food nutrition programs. Prosecutors said few meals were actually served, and the defendants used the money to buy luxury cars, property and jewelry.

"This \$250 million is the floor," Andy Luger, the U.S. attorney for Minnesota, said at a news conference. "Our investigation continues."

Many of the companies that claimed to be serving food were sponsored by a nonprofit called Feeding Our Future, which sub-

mitted the companies' claims for reimbursement. Feeding Our Future's founder and executive director, Aimee Bock, was among those indicted, and authorities said she and others in her organization submitted the fraudulent claims for reimbursement and received kickbacks.

Bock's attorney, Kenneth Udoibok, said the indictment "doesn't indicate guilt or innocence." He said he wouldn't comment further until seeing the indictment.

In interviews after law enforcement searched multiple sites in January, including Bock's home and offices, Bock denied stealing money and said she never saw evidence of fraud.

Federal officials repeatedly described the alleged fraud as "brazen," and decried that it involved a program intended to feed children who needed help during the pandemic. Michael Paul, special agent in charge of the Minneapolis FBI office, called it "an astonishing display of deceit."

## Arbiter in Trump docs probe signals intent to move quickly

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The independent arbiter tasked with inspecting documents seized in an FBI search of former President Donald Trump's Florida home said Tuesday that he intends to push briskly through the review process, and appeared skeptical of the Trump team's reluctance to say whether it believed the records had been declassified.

"We're going to proceed with what I call responsible dispatch," Raymond Dearie, a veteran Brooklyn judge, told lawyers for Trump and the Justice Department in their first meeting since his appointment last week as a so-called special master.

The purpose of the meeting was to sort out next steps in a review process expected to slow by weeks, if not months, the criminal investigation into the retention of top-secret information at Mar-a-Lago after Trump left the White House. As special master, Dearie will be responsible for sifting through the thousands of documents recovered during the Aug. 8 FBI search

and segregating any that might be protected by claims of executive privilege or attorney-client privilege.

Though Trump's lawyers had requested the appointment of a special master to ensure an independent review of the documents, they have resisted Dearie's request for more information about whether the seized records had been previously declassified — as Trump has maintained. His lawyers have consistently stopped short of that claim even as they asserted in a separate filing Tuesday that the Justice Department had not proven that the documents were classified. In any event, they have said, a president has absolute authority to declassify information.

But Dearie said if Trump's lawyers will not actually assert that the records have been declassified, and the DOJ instead makes an acceptable case that they remain classified, then he would be inclined to regard them as classified.

"As far as I'm concerned," he said, "that's the end of it."



# NTSB wants new cars to stop intoxicated drivers

*Associated Press*

DETROIT — The National Transportation Safety Board is recommending that all new vehicles in the U.S. be equipped with blood alcohol monitoring systems that can stop an intoxicated person from driving.

The recommendation, if enacted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, could reduce the number of alcohol-related crashes, one of the biggest causes of highway deaths in the U.S. The new push to make roads safer was included in a report released Tuesday about a horrific crash last year in which a drunk driver collided head-on with another vehicle near Fresno, Calif., killing both adult drivers and seven children.

NHTSA said this week that roadway deaths in the U.S. are at crisis levels. Nearly 43,000 people were killed last year, the greatest number in 16 years, as Americans returned to roads after pandemic stay-at-home orders.

Early estimates show fatalities rising again through the first half of this year, but they declined from April through June, which authorities are hoping is a trend.

The NTSB, which has no regulatory authority and can only ask other agencies to act, said the recommendation is designed to put pressure on NHTSA to move. It could be effective as early as three years from now.

“We need NHTSA to act. We see the numbers,” NTSB Chairman Jennifer Homendy said. “We need to make sure that we’re doing all we can to save lives.”

The NTSB, she said, has been pushing NHTSA to explore alcohol monitoring technology since 2012. “The faster the technology is implemented the more lives that will be saved,” she said.

The recommendation also calls for systems to monitor a driver’s behavior, making sure they’re alert. She said many cars now have cameras pointed at the driver, which have the potential to limit impaired driving.

But Homendy says she also understands that perfecting the alcohol tests will take time.

A message was left Tuesday seeking comment from NHTSA.

The agency and a group of 16 automakers have been jointly funding research on alcohol monitoring since 2008, forming a group called Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety.

The group has hired a Swedish company to research technology that would automatically test a driver’s breath for alcohol and stop a vehicle from moving if the driver is impaired, said Jake McCook, spokesman for the group.

The driver wouldn’t have to blow into a tube, and a sensor would check the driver’s breath, McCook said.

Another company is working on light technology that could test for blood alcohol in a person’s finger, he said. Breath technology could be ready by the end of 2024, while the touch technology would come about a year later.

It could take one or two more model years after automakers get the technology for it to be in new vehicles, McCook said.

## Nuclear fears surface during Senate hearing

*CQ-Roll Call*

Should the vice president’s residence be moved to Kansas City to ensure the U.S. government can function after a nuclear strike?

Sen. Angus King, the Maine independent who chairs the Senate Armed Services Strategic Forces subcommittee and serves on the Intelligence committee, posed that question Tuesday to experts testifying at an Armed Services hearing.

King was referring to the need for U.S. leaders to survive a potential strike by a weapon that China tested in 2021, an orbital bombardment system. In theory, such a weapon could reach U.S. targets with less warning time than other strategic weapons and could evade anti-missile radars. It might even be used in a first strike, experts said Tuesday.

“You can have a nuclear weapon essentially dwelling in low Earth orbit over Washington, and the analogy to the sword of Damocles is inescapable,” King said. “If the president and the vice president and all the leadership of Congress is gone, we’re decapitated.”

King was not the only senator to express concerns at Tuesday’s hearing about China’s growing capabilities, and China is not the only nuclear threat. The doomsday queries reflect the heightened level of alarm among lawmakers and experts about the growing size and complexity of global atomic dangers on multiple fronts.

Russia, too, has devised new nuclear delivery systems, with more on the way, and has essentially threatened nuclear war, apparently to limit American options amid the war in Ukraine.

North Korea appears to now be a permanent nuclear power, while Iran could also quickly become one.

## Two claim Mega Millions \$1.337B prize

*Associated Press*

CHICAGO — Two people who wish to remain anonymous have claimed a \$1.337 billion Mega Millions jackpot after a single ticket to the late July drawing was sold in a Chicago suburb, opting to take a lump sum payment of \$780.5 million, lottery officials said Wednesday.

The Illinois Lottery said the prize for the July 29 drawing, which was the nation’s third-largest lottery prize, was claimed by two individuals who had agreed to split the prize if they won.

The two, who followed the lead of the vast majority of winners who choose to remain anonymous, had until Sept. 27 to opt in favor of the lump sum payment, said Emilia Mazur, spokeswoman

for Camelot Illinois, the private manager of the Illinois Lottery.

The Illinois Lottery said it was unable to share any information about the winners except to say they must be absolutely “over the moon” with their Mega Millions win. Illinois is one of at least 16 states where winners can remain anonymous.

Lottery officials said the two people have spent the past few weeks working with professional legal and financial advisers to support the claim process — something experts recommend lottery winners do.

“These winners are now in the enviable position of deciding what to do with their newfound fortune,” said Illinois Lottery Director Harold Mays.

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Officials: Beyond Meat exec bit man's nose**

**AR** FAYETTEVILLE — An executive of a vegan food products company was charged with felony battery and making a terroristic threat after a fracas outside a football game in which he's accused of biting a man's nose, officials said.

Beyond Meat Chief Operations Officer Doug Ramsey was accused of a road rage attack outside a game between the Arkansas Razorbacks and Missouri State Bears in Fayetteville, according to Fayetteville television station KNWA.

A police report said Ramsey, 53, attacked another man who tried to inch in front of him in a parking garage traffic lane and made contact with a wheel on Ramsey's sport utility vehicle. A police officer responding to the reported disturbance arrived to find "two males with bloody faces," the report stated.

After speaking with Ramsey, the other man and a witness, the officer determined that Ramsey had gotten out of his SUV and "punched through the back windshield" of the other car. The driver of the other vehicle said he emerged from his car and Ramsey "pulled him in close and started punching his body" and also "bit the owner's nose, ripping the flesh on the tip of the nose," the officer reported.

**Man dragged for miles after truck hit-and-run**

**SC** FLORENCE — A victim of a hit-and-run in South Carolina was dragged for several miles, police said.

The victim was the driver in an earlier one-car crash in Florence, investigators said.

A passenger in that car told officers that the driver disappeared. About 15 minutes later, police received a call about an unresponsive person 3 miles away, who turned out to be the missing driver.

Investigators are looking for a dark-colored pickup truck with damage to the front passenger side around the headlights. Officers are also trying to determine what streets the truck drove while dragging the victim's body, authorities said.

**Stolen Grand Theft Auto footage dumped online**

**NY** NEW YORK — Video game producer Rockstar Games said that early development footage from the next version of its popular title Grand Theft Auto was stolen in a hack of its network.

Someone claiming to be the hacker, posting on Telegram, dumped 90 video clips from the theft online and also claimed to have source code, which they were seeking to sell for a minimum of \$10,000.

In a statement on Twitter, the company said it did not anticipate any disruption in live game services or any impact on ongoing projects.

**Officer shoots at dog, puts partner in hospital**

**MI** DETROIT — A Detroit police officer was hospitalized with a gunshot wound after an officer fired at a charging dog but the bullet missed the canine and instead struck his partner, police said.

The officer was hospitalized in stable condition at Sinai-Grace Hospital with a leg wound he suffered in the accidental shooting, police said.

The officers were responding to a mental health call on the city's west side when one officer fired a round at a charging dog, only to accidentally wound his partner.

**Feds seize 'staggering' amount of fake pills**

**RI** PROVIDENCE — The seizure of more than 660,000 counterfeit Adderall pills containing methamphetamine led to charges against one man, federal authorities in Rhode Island announced.

Dylan Rodas, 27, agreed to plead guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine in connection with the seizure earlier this year of the fake pills with a street value estimated at about \$4.6 million, U.S. attorney for Rhode Island Zachary Cunha said.

The drugs were seized during two court-authorized searches in Cumberland in March, he said.

Authorities also found a bucket containing 40 pounds of meth mixture prepped and ready to be pressed into pill form, two pill presses that can manufacture about 5,000 pills per hour each, \$15,000 cash and multiple handguns, including two ghost guns and two that had the serial numbers obliterated, he said.

**Pilot dies in plane crash while competing in race**

**NV** RENO — Authorities are investigating the cause of a fatal crash last week-

end involving a plane competing in the Reno Air Races.

Officials with the Reno Air Racing Association said at a news conference that L-29 pilot Aaron Hogue was killed in the crash during the event's championship round.

Race officials said the crash occurred on the third of six laps during the Jet Gold Race on outer pylon 5.

According to a video of the event, Hogue, 61, appeared to have some kind of trouble with his jet before it crashed into the ground and burst into flames.

The remainder of the competition was canceled after the crash, which is being investigated by the NTSB and Federal Aviation Administration.

**After 2.5 years, major bridge reopens to traffic**

**WA** SEATTLE — After 2 1/2 years of inspection and repair work, authorities have officially reopened the West Seattle Bridge, the main route between the peninsula of West Seattle and the rest of the city.

Officials closed the span in March 2020 after cracks were found to be growing rapidly. The repair work included 60 miles of steel cables that form the new backbone of the bridge. Each of the cables was anchored into new specialized concrete blocks woven into the structure.

The department said crews also installed a network of reinforced carbon fiber sheets wrapped inside and outside the bridge walls, and injected 240 gallons of epoxy into cracked concrete.

— From wire reports



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**Reporting World, National and Military News**

# Judge's 60th HR sparks Yankees' rally

Associated Press

Aaron Judge sent a sinker soaring into the left-field bleachers, another one of his no-doubt drives, and circled the bases for the 60th time.

Modest throughout a march into history that now has him level with Babe Ruth, Judge then took a moment far more rare than one of his long balls—a curtain call.

"I really didn't want to do it, especially, we're losing, it's a solo shot," he said, recalling how his leadoff homer in the ninth inning only cut the Yankees' deficit to three runs.

Eleven minutes later, Judge and the Yankees felt free to let loose.

Giancarlo Stanton followed Judge's drive with a game-end-

ing grand slam, completing New York's stunning five-run, ninth-inning rally to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 9-8 on Tuesday night.

"I kind of lost my mind," said Judge, one homer shy of matching Roger Maris' American League season record. "That's a signature Giancarlo Stanton 10-foot(-high) laser to the outfield. I had a good front-row seat for that one. I think the whole team lost its mind and the stadium erupted."

Judge homered on a 3-1 pitch from Wil Crowe (5-10) to match Ruth's total from 1927, which stood as the big league record until Maris broke it 34 years later.

Judge got to 60 in Game 147—no debate on the length of the season, like what surrounded

Maris' pursuit to the point his hair fell out. Judge is on pace for the AL's first Triple Crown in a decade, leading in home runs, RBIs (128) and batting average (.316).

No one else in the majors has more than 40 homers.

"To be that far ahead of the field," Yankees manager Aaron Boone marveled, "it's hard for me to grip."

Judge dropped his bat near the plate—he never flips—and when he finished his trot after his 430-foot drive, he exchanged a high-five with Anthony Rizzo, a hug with Gleyber Torres and slaps with Josh Donaldson. Judge walked up and down the dugout to receive congratulations and then emerged from the dugout steps and ever so briefly

tipped his helmet to fans.

"I kind of joked around with Matt Carpenter earlier in the year, I think he had two homers in a game or something like that and he got a curtain call," Judge said. "Man, I've been here six years and I've only got one curtain call. So I guess it takes hitting 60 to get another one."

Rizzo doubled, Torres walked and Donaldson singled to load the bases. Stanton, mired in a 9-for-72 slump, sent a changeup half a dozen rows into the left-field seats, capping a 19-pitch sequence that will long be replayed and set off a raucous celebration among what remained of the crowd of 40,157. The drive, Stanton's record-tying third game-ending slam, was calculated by MLB at 118 mph.

## Braves win 10th straight at home to clinch playoff berth

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Travis d'Arnaud broke a scoreless tie with a two-run homer in the fourth inning, Dansby Swanson went deep in the eighth and Atlanta beat Washington 3-2 on Tuesday, clinching a playoff berth not long afterward when the Brewers lost to the Mets.

The Braves have won 10 straight games at home, outscoring opponents 47-15 over that stretch.

Matt Olson singled with one out in the fourth before d'Arnaud hit his 18th homer, a 422-foot shot off Erasmo Ramirez (4-2) that made it 2-0.

**Blue Jays 18, Phillies 11:** Matt Chapman hit a three-run homer in the first inning, Jackie Bradley Jr. added a three-run shot in the ninth and Toronto roughed up Philadelphia with 21 hits.

The Blue Jays have won five of seven and have a firm grip on the top AL wild card spot. The Phillies have lost five straight.

**Mets 7, Brewers 5:** Francisco Lindor hit a two-out grand slam in the seventh inning and New York rallied from a four-run deficit to win at Milwaukee.

Pete Alonso hit his second three-run homer in as many nights as the Mets maintained their one-game lead in the NL East over Atlanta and dealt a blow to the Brew-

ers' wild card hopes. New York won with just four hits.

**Padres 5, Cardinals 0:** Kim Ha-seong homered and Mike Clevinger had a strong outing for host San Diego, which shut down Albert Pujols and NL Central-leading St. Louis to clinch its first winning record in a full season since 2010.

The Padres, 82-66, took a 1½-game lead over Philadelphia for the NL's second wild card spot.

**Astros 5, Rays 0:** Tampa Bay ace Shane Bieber was pulled in the fifth inning with neck tightness during a loss to visiting Houston.

McClanahan (12-6) was making his second start after returning from the 15-day injured list due to a left shoulder impingement. He allowed five runs for only the second time this season.

**Dodgers 6-2, Diamondbacks 5-5:** Dreyton Frazier pitched six strong innings in his second big league game and Ketel Marte homered as Arizona won at Los Angeles in the second game to split a doubleheader.

The Dodgers won the opener 6-5 as rookie Miguel Vargas drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single in a five-run eighth.

**Tigers 3, Orioles 2:** Joey Wentz took a shutout into the sixth inning and Akil Bad-

doo and Kerry Carpenter homered to lift Detroit to a win at fading Baltimore.

**Red Sox 5, Reds 3:** J.D. Martinez and Rob Refsnyder hit solo homers, and Rafael Devers had a two-run shot as Boston won at Cincinnati.

**Cubs 2, Marlins 1:** David Bote hit a tying home run in the seventh inning, then added a sacrifice fly in the eighth that lifted Chicago to a win at Miami.

**Giants 6, Rockies 3:** Austin Slater doubled twice, David Villar homered and San Francisco won at Colorado.

**Royals 5, Twins 4:** MJ Melendez hit a two-run homer, Salvador Perez drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out double in the seventh inning, and host Kansas City held off fading Minnesota.

**Angels 5, Rangers 2:** Taylor Ward hit a tiebreaking RBI double during Los Angeles' three-run sixth inning that ended with a triple play by host Texas.

**Guardians 10, White Sox 7 (11):** Myles Straw had a tiebreaking two-run double in Cleveland's five-run 11th inning, and it moved closer to the American League Central title with a win at Chicago.

**Athletics 4, Mariners 1:** Luis Castillo got chased in the fifth inning and contending Seattle managed just one hit in losing at Oakland.



# Deep trouble? Steelers work on passing

*Associated Press*

PITTSBURGH — Mitch Trubisky won the starting quarterback job in Pittsburgh during training camp by basically not losing it.

He didn't turn the ball over during the preseason and won raves from the coaching staff for his decision-making.

That same pragmatic approach, however, isn't playing so well now that the games count. And Trubisky knows it.

The Steelers (1-1) have put together two touchdown drives in two games heading into Thursday's visit to Cleveland (1-1), a ratio that needs to change if Pittsburgh wants to be a factor in what looks like a wide-open AFC North.

"We've just got to score more points," Trubisky said Tuesday. "So however we do that, that's got to be our mindset."

Therein lies the issue. The Steelers' biggest moves during the offseason were aimed at trying to jumpstart an offense that finished in the bottom third of the league in most major offensive categories.

They signed Trubisky and drafted eventual franchise quarterback Kenny Pickett, revamped the offensive line and added field-stretching 6-foot-3 wide receiver George Pickens to a wide receivers room that already featured Pro Bowler Diontae Johnson and 6-4 enigma Chase Claypool. Yet through nine quarters, the deep passing

game is non-existent.

Trubisky is 32nd in the league in yards per attempt. His two longest completions have been to tight ends Pat Freiermuth and Zach Gentry on plays where Freiermuth's and Gentry's legs did most of the work while turning short tosses into 30-plus yard gains and Pickens — a standout during camp — has been basically invisible while catching two passes for 23 yards.

Coach Mike Tomlin declined to place blame on any one specific person, but added both the quarterback and the game plan could be more aggressive. Trubisky insists he doesn't need to be told twice.

"I think every quarterback in their heart likes to throw the ball as far as they can on the football field and watch their playmakers go up and get it," he said.

Trubisky's playmakers are waiting. Johnson became demonstrably upset at one point during last Sunday's 17-14 loss to New England after Trubisky went elsewhere with the ball on a play Johnson felt he had a matchup advantage.

Pickens estimates he was open "90%" of the time against the Patriots, a percentage more symbolic of Pickens' confidence than reality, a perception that's fine by his head coach.

"We've got playmakers, young playmakers, guys with a lot of talent, guys that want to be the reasons why we're successful,"

Tomlin said. "I'd much rather say 'Whoa' than 'sic 'em.' I think that's just a general attitude that we as competitors in a competitive football team in a competitive organization have."

It's an attitude Trubisky insists he shares, though he's also quick to point out that he doesn't need to start channeling Kansas City star Patrick Mahomes and chuck the ball all over the field. A little bit of daring might go a long way with a defense that looks significantly improved over last year's group that finished last in the league against the run.

"There's a fine line between protecting the football and (wanting) to be aggressive," Trubisky said. "So you want to be aggressive as a quarterback. But when you have a great defense (like we do), you also want to protect the football because they're always going to keep us in games."

Maybe, but Pittsburgh is currently missing All-Pro outside linebacker T.J. Watt, who is out indefinitely with a left pectoral injury. The Steelers didn't have a sack against New England and produced just one turnover after racking up five in Week 1 in Cincinnati.

If Pittsburgh wants to do more than tread water in Watt's absence, the offense needs to pick things up. The Steelers got off to a similar sluggish start last season and recovered to make the playoffs.

# Federer's finale will be in doubles, maybe with Nadal

*Associated Press*

LONDON — Roger Federer is known for his elegant style of play, for his longevity, for his 20 Grand Slam titles — and for occasional tears in his most emotional post-match moments, whether after victory or defeat.

There was none of that sort of sadness Wednesday, just smiles and some chuckles at his own jokes, as Federer appeared at a news conference to discuss his retirement from professional tennis at age 41 after a series of knee operations. He will close his career with a doubles match at the Laver Cup on Friday — perhaps alongside longtime rival Rafael Nadal.

Federer said he is now at peace with the decision to walk

away, which comes a few weeks after Serena Williams played what is expected to be her last match at the U.S. Open, and he wants this farewell to be a celebration.

"I really don't want it to be a funeral," Federer said. "I want it to be really happy and powerful and party mode."

Wearing a blue blazer with the sleeves rolled up to his elbows and a white polo shirt, Federer took questions for about a half-hour at the arena that will host the team competition founded by his management company.

"I'm nervous going in, because I haven't played in so long," he said. "I hope I can be somewhat competitive."

Federer, who announced last week via social media that he would be retiring after the Laver Cup, said it took him a bit to get used to the idea of stepping away from competition.

"You try to go to the next level in training, and I could feel it was getting difficult. ... Then, I guess, I was also getting more tired, because you have to put more effort into it to be able to sort of believe that it was going to turn around. You start getting too pessimistic. Then I also got a scan back, which wasn't what I wanted it to be," Federer explained. "At some point, you sit down and go, 'OK, we are at an intersection here, at a crossroad, and you have to take a turn. Which way is it?' I was not

willing to go into the direction of: 'Let's risk it all.' I'm not ready for that. I always said that was never my goal."

And the hardest part came when he knew he needed to stop.

"You're sad," Federer said, "in the very moment when you realize, 'OK, this is the end.'"

The last procedure on his knee came shortly after a quarterfinal loss to Hubert Hurkacz at Wimbledon in July 2021, which will go into the books as the last singles match of a superlative career that began in the 1990s and included 103 tournament titles, a Davis Cup championship for Switzerland, Olympic medals and hundreds of weeks at No. 1 in the ATP rankings.

# Ground control: RBs maintain Big Ten tradition

Associated Press

The Big Ten's tradition of producing elite running backs is alive and well.

The conference features the nation's top two rushers in Illinois' Chase Brown and Minnesota's Mohamed Ibrahim, and four others are running for better than 100 yards per game. No other league has more than three.

The Big Ten is the only conference in the last 10 years that has had at least two players end the season with rushing averages of 100 yards per game or better.

"Doesn't surprise me," said Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst, whose program has developed stars like Jonathan Taylor, Melvin Gordon and Montee Ball the past decade and has one on the rise in Braelon Allen.

Taylor led the NFL in rushing last year. Ezekiel Elliott (Ohio State) was first in 2016 and '18. Jordan Howard (Indiana) was second for 2016. Saquon Barkley (Penn State) was second in 2018 and is this season's leader through Week 2.

Brown, averaging 165.3 yards, is the first Illinois player to run for at least 140 in three straight games. He also leads the nation with 18 runs of 10 yards or longer and, according to

Pro Football Focus, is tied for second with 24 forced missed tackles.

"He's an animal," quarterback Tommy DeVito said. "Sometimes I hand off the ball, I'm supposed to keep my little boot going out, fake going upfield. Sometimes I give a little peek just to watch him because he's a special dude, for sure. He can turn something out of nothing. Anything can be a play where he'll break one."

Ibrahim, back after missing last season's final 12 games with a torn Achilles tendon, has proved tough to bring down in his six years with the Gophers. Ibrahim is averaging 154.7 yards per game, albeit against weak opponents, and leads the nation with 315 of his 464 yards coming after contact by PFF's count.

Ibrahim ran for 202 yards and scored Minnesota's first three touchdowns in a 49-7 win over Colorado on Saturday. He has 12 straight 100-yard games and four career 200-yard games, both school records.

Ibrahim is a perfect fit for a physical Gophers offense that puts a premium on time of possession.

"Well, obviously you'd always like to have a bunch of Mos," coach P.J. Fleck said. "Just keep bringing 'em, right?"

The other Big Ten backs averaging at least 100 yards are Nebraska's Anthony Grant (116), Penn State's Nicholas Singleton (111.3), Wisconsin's Braelon Allen (110.7) and Northwestern's Evan Hull (102.7).

Not on that list is Ohio State's TreVeyon Henderson, an Associated Press preseason All-American who has been a bit under the radar. He has split carries with Miyan Williams, with coach Ryan Day saying the idea is to keep both fresh.

Henderson, who had 1,255 yards and led FBS freshmen with 19 touchdowns, is running for 66.7 yards per game but his per-carry average of 6.8 yards is on par with last year. He was injured early in Saturday's 77-21 rout of Toledo and limited to four carries. Singleton is the nation's top freshman rusher after showing up at Penn State as the nation's No. 1 running back prospect, according to 247Sports.com. Henderson was the top prospect in 2021.

Singleton ran for 124 yards and two touchdowns in the 41-12 win at Auburn, and the week before he had 179 yards and two TDs against Ohio. He carried just 10 times in each game.

## Alabama's Reichard flipped script for Saban kickers

Associated Press

Will Reichard points to the sky every time he makes a kick for Alabama, and he's made many.

The second-ranked Crimson Tide's kicker — easily the most successful of the Nick Saban era — is honoring God with the gesture and also his late father, Gary. That includes Reichard's game-winning kick against Texas two weeks ago, his first game-winner since the third grade when he lifted his Hoover Raiders past Clay-Chalkville.

Reichard and Alabama beat Louisiana-Monroe 63-7 on Saturday, a week after the biggest kick of his career gave him yet another chance to thank his father.

Gary Reichard spent countless hours every weekend coaching his son in soccer and kicking. Activities he had to learn from scratch himself to tutor his son, talking to experts, watching videos and reading any book he could find on the subject.

Gary Reichard was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in early 2016. He died at age 53 that March 28 when his son was in ninth grade.

"He was my kicking coach. He was my soccer coach," Will Reichard said. "I definitely wouldn't be here without him at all. We would go to the field every weekend just like most dads with sons do. But he took it to a whole other level."

One way he coped with the loss was riding the family's golf cart a mile to the high school and spending hours launching kick after kick on a lonely field.

Now, he pays tribute after every kick and still goes through the same pregame routine.

"The pregame is always really special to him," said Reichard's mother, Dana. "He goes through that and thinks about his dad."

She recently came upon a notebook charting in detail his every kick, everything from the yard-

dage to what quadrant of the uprights it went through or where the ball went on misses.

The miniature soccer ball on a glass case that used to rest on his dad's nightstand now sits on the dresser in Reichard's Tuscaloosa condo.

Those lessons and workouts have paid dividends for both Reichard and the Tide.

His success has flipped the script for Alabama kickers, long regarded as the Achilles' heel of Saban's otherwise dominant teams.

Reichard is a four-year starter — including an injury-shortened freshman season — who has made 44 of 53 field goals, an 83% clip. He was a finalist for the Lou Groza Award in 2020 when he made all 14 field-goal attempts and was perfect on 84 extra points.

"Will has been a consistent performer for us for several years now," Saban said. "I've

never been around a guy who had a perfect season. He actually had a perfect season as a kicker."

Yes, perfection as a Crimson Tide kicker. It's no joke.

Alabama's kicking woes became almost a national punchline for a team that did everything else so well. And rather than intimidating Reichard, it drew him to Tuscaloosa. As Dana, who remarried over the summer, said of that kind of self-confidence, "He lets his faith be bigger than his fear."

During a Zoom call with Saban when Reichard committed to the Tide, she told the coach that she wanted him to have confidence when sending him out for a kick.

"That was always something that's always motivated me since I've been here and is going to continue to motivate me to try to turn that around," Reichard said, adding that he wants to help "keep Alabama an elite special teams program."