

Putin illegally annexes land in Ukraine

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin signed treaties Friday to illegally annex more occupied Ukrainian territory in a sharp escalation of his seven-month invasion. Ukraine's president immediately countered with a surprise application to join the NATO military alliance.

Putin's land-grab and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's signing of what he said is an "accelerated" NATO membership application sent the two leaders speeding even faster on a collision course that is cranking up fears of a full-blown conflict between Russia and the West.

Putin vowed to protect newly annexed regions of Ukraine by "all available means," a nuclear-backed threat at a Kremlin signing ceremony where he also railed furiously at the West, accusing the United States and its allies of seeking Russia's destruction.

Zelenskyy then held a signing ceremony of his own in Kyiv, releasing video of him putting pen to papers that he said were a formal NATO membership request. He called the move "our decisive step."

Putin has repeatedly made clear that any prospect of Ukraine joining the world's largest military alliance is one of his red lines

and it was among the justifications he has cited for his invasion — the biggest land war in Europe since World War II.

In his speech, Putin urged Ukraine to sit down for peace talks but immediately insisted he won't discuss handing back occupied regions. Zelenskyy said there'd be no negotiations with Putin.

"We are ready for a dialogue with Russia, but ... with another president of Russia," he said.

In his signing ceremony in the Kremlin's ornate St. George's Hall, Putin accused the West of fueling the hostilities as part of what he said is a plan to turn Russia into a "colony" and a "crowd of slaves." The hardening of his position, in the conflict that has killed and wounded tens of thousands of people, further cranked up tensions, already at levels unseen since the Cold War.

The U.S. announced sanctions for more than 1,000 people and firms connected to Russia's invasion, including its Central Bank governor.

Of Putin's annexation of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, President Joe Biden said: "Make no mistake: These actions have no legitimacy."

The European Union rejected and condemned "the illegal annexation." Its 27 mem-

ber states said they will never recognize the illegal referendums that Russia organized "as a pretext for this further violation of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Zelenskyy vowed to keep fighting, defying Putin's warnings that Ukraine shouldn't try to take back what it has lost.

"The entire territory of our country will be liberated from this enemy," the Ukrainian leader said. "Russia already knows this. It feels our power."

The immediate ramifications of the "accelerated" NATO application weren't immediately clear, since it requires the unanimous support of all members. The supply of Western weapons to Ukraine has, however, put it closer to the alliance's orbit.

"De facto, we have already proven compatibility with alliance standards," Zelenskyy said. "We trust each other, we help each other, and we protect each other. This is the alliance."

Putin's Kremlin ceremony came three days after the completion in occupied regions of Moscow-orchestrated "referendums" on joining Russia that were dismissed by Kyiv and the West as a bare-faced land grab held at gunpoint and based on lies.

Hurricane Ian hits Carolinas after pounding Florida

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A revived Hurricane Ian threatened coastal South Carolina and the historic city of Charleston with severe flooding Friday after the deadly storm caused catastrophic damage in Florida and trapped thousands in their homes.

Sheets of rain whipped trees and power lines, and many areas on Charleston's downtown peninsula were already under water by midday. Streets in the 350-year-old city were largely empty. Ian's anticipated landfall just up the South Carolina coast was expected to coincide with high tide, which would make flooding worse.

Ian left a broad swath of destruction after it came ashore on Florida's Gulf Coast as one of the strongest storms ever to hit the U.S. The storm flooded areas on both of Florida's coasts, tore homes from their slabs, demol-

ished beachfront businesses and left more than 2 million people without power. At least nine people were confirmed dead in the U.S. — a number that was almost certain to increase as officials confirm more deaths and search for people.

With winds holding at 85 mph, the National Hurricane Center's update at 11 a.m. Friday placed Ian about 60 miles southeast of Charleston.

The center's hurricane warning stretched from the Savannah River to Cape Fear.

The forecast predicted a storm surge of up to 7 feet into some Carolina coastal areas, and rainfall of up to 8 inches.

In Florida, rescue crews piloted boats and waded through riverine streets Thursday to save thousands of people trapped amid flooded homes and buildings shattered by Hurricane Ian.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Friday that rescue crews had gone door-to-door to over 3,000 homes in the hardest-hit areas.

"There's really been a Herculean effort," he said during a news conference in Tallahassee.

Climate change added at least 10% more rain to Hurricane Ian, according to a study prepared immediately after the storm, said its co-author, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab climate scientist Michael Wehner.

Among those killed were an 80-year-old woman and a 94-year-old man who relied on oxygen machines that stopped working amid power outages, as well as a 67-year-old man who was waiting to be rescued died after falling into rising water inside his home, authorities said.

At least three people were reported killed in Cuba after the hurricane struck there on Tuesday.

Major indicted in plot to provide info to Russians

Baltimore Sun

An Army major was indicted Wednesday in an alleged conspiracy to disclose health information to the Russian government to assist its war in Ukraine.

Maj. Jamie Lee Henry, 39, and Dr. Anna Gabrielian, 36, face eight counts, including conspiracy and wrongful disclosure of individually identifiable health information. The indictment was filed in U.S. District Court.

Henry, who is also a doctor, was reportedly the first Army officer to come out openly as a transgender person. Gabrielian is Henry's spouse.

Records at the Maryland Board of Physicians show Gabrielian and Henry's primary practices are at Johns Hopkins Hospital. The indictment, however, said at the time of the alleged conspiracy Henry was a staff internist stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., home of U.S. Army Special Operations Command where Henry had secret-level security clearance.

The indictment says the pair, who live in Rockville, sought to pass federally protected medical information to an undercover FBI agent that Gabrielian believed worked at the Russian Embassy about patients at Fort Bragg and others, as well as provide information about U.S. medical capabilities in war conditions.

The indictment said Gabrielian told the agent she was "motivated by patriotism toward Russia to provide any assistance she could to Russia, even if it meant being fired or going to jail."

The indictment does not explain Gabrielian's connection to Russia, but the Johns Hopkins website said she speaks Russian.

If convicted, the couple faces a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison for the conspiracy and a maximum of 10 years for each count of disclosing protected health information.

The indictment was unsealed after the both were arrested Thursday, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office, which announced the indictment along with the FBI Baltimore field office.

The indictment says beginning on August 17 they conspired "to cause harm to the United States by providing confidential health information of Americans associated with the United States government and military to Russia."

The indictment says Gabrielian reached out to the Russian embassy by email and phone offering her and Henry's help. Since then the couple met twice with someone at a Baltimore hotel that they thought represented the government but was the undercover FBI agent.

On Aug. 31, the indictment says Gabrielian and Henry met with the agent in a Gaithersburg hotel and provided health records for two people, including the spouse of an employee of the Office of Naval Intelligence, who Gabrielian thought had a medical condition that Russia could exploit. Henry, the indictment said, provided health records for five other people who were military veterans or relatives.

Ex-NSA worker charged, tried to sell US secrets

Associated Press

DENVER — A former National Security Agency employee from Colorado is accused of trying to sell classified information to a hostile foreign government in an attempt to pay off his debts and "help balance" the world's scales, according to court documents released Thursday.

But while Jareh Sebastian Dalke, an Army veteran who lives in Colorado Springs, believed he was talking to a representative of a particular nation "with many interests that are adverse to the United States," he was actually talking to an undercover FBI agent, according to his arrest affidavit.

After initially sharing excerpts of classified documents and one full document this summer, Dalke was arrested Wednesday after he allegedly agreed to transmit more information using a secure connection investigators had set up at Denver's train station.

Dalke, who is charged with three violations of the Espionage Act, appeared in Denver federal court Thursday.

He is being represented by a lawyer from the federal public defender's office, which does not comment publicly on their cases.

The arrest affidavit did not identify the country Dalke allegedly believed he was providing information to, but it noted that he speaks basic Spanish and Russian and that he tried to verify that the undercover agent was actually working for the foreign government, rather than "americans (sic) trying to stifle a patriot," by using a website for the Russian government's external intelligence agency.

Navy judge to rule if sailor caused fire on warship

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — No one disputes that the Navy shares blame for the loss of the USS Bonhomme Richard, the \$1.2 billion amphibious assault ship that was consumed by flames in San Diego in July 2020 as officers failed to respond quickly and its crew struggled with broken equipment.

But none of that would have ever happened, according to the prosecution's closing

arguments Thursday, without Ryan Sawyer Mays.

Prosecutors say the sailor, who was 19 at the time, was angry and vengeful about failing to become a Navy SEAL and being assigned to deck duty, so he ignited the ship to send a message.

Defense lawyers said in their closing statements that the Navy was determined to pin blame on someone — and the sailor they

picked, Mays, might be the wrong guy who now is facing a possible life sentence. There is no physical evidence tying the fire to Mays.

It's now up to the lone Navy judge, who presided over the nine-day trial at Naval Base San Diego, to decide.

Mays, who was charged with arson and the willful hazarding of a ship, says he's innocent.

States sue over student debt relief plan

The Washington Post

Seven Republican-led states sued on Thursday to overturn President Joe Biden's plan to cancel up to \$20,000 in student debt for millions of borrowers, as conservatives advance legal challenges to one of the administration's signature economic policy initiatives.

The new lawsuits come two days after a conservative attorney in Indiana filed a separate lawsuit against the administration seeking to reverse the policy. The latest suits — one filed by a coalition of six states and another by Arizona — ask a court to block the forgiveness program immediately to prevent the Biden administration from canceling loan balances as early as next week.

The White House's policy would cancel up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for borrowers who earn less than \$125,000 per year, or less than \$250,000 for married cou-

ples, or up to \$20,000 for those who received federal Pell Grants. The Biden administration has been adamant that it has the legal authority to cancel student debt, citing a 2003 law giving the executive branch broad authority to overhaul student loan programs.

GOP lawmakers and conservative advocacy groups have pushed back on that claim, arguing Biden's move represents illegal executive overreach because the 2003 law was created to give the president authority after a disaster like the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The lawsuits filed by the states argue that debt cancellation will hurt them in numerous ways.

One of the complaints — filed by Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Carolina — emphasizes that Missouri's student loan servicer, which is part of its state government, could see a drop in reve-

nue because borrowers are likely to consolidate their loans under the Federal Family Education Loan program.

On Thursday, however, the administration said it would exclude FFEL from the loan forgiveness program. That change could help head off legal claims against the policy, although it will mean that roughly 2 million of the 44 million otherwise eligible borrowers will not qualify for relief.

Anyone who applied before Thursday to consolidate their commercial FFEL debt into the Direct Loan program will be eligible for forgiveness, according to the department. But everyone else with those loans will be shut out for now.

Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, said in a statement that the forgiveness policy will worsen inflation for Americans who do not benefit from student debt cancellation.

House OKs bill to avert shutdown, aid Ukraine

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-led House passed a short-term spending bill on Friday that finances the federal government through mid-December and provides another infusion of military and economic aid to Ukraine as lawmakers acted to avert a partial government shutdown set to begin after midnight.

The bill passed the House by a vote of 230-201. The measure next goes to President Joe Biden's desk to be signed into law.

Republicans overwhelmingly opposed the measure. Some wanted to extend government funding into January when, based on the results of the mid-term elections, it's possible they'll have more leverage over setting federal spending for the full fiscal year. Others argued the measure needed to do more to address border security.

Democrats said passing the bill was important to helping Ukraine as well as victims of recent natural disasters in the U.S., including Hurricane Ian, as it provides a Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency disaster fund with a year's worth of money upfront rather than for two-and-a-half months.

"Turn on the news. Look what's happening in Florida right now. Look at what happened to Puerto Rico. Look at what's happening in Alaska. I mean, people need help," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass. "And look at what's happening in Ukraine. Do we support helping preserve democracy in Ukraine or not? That's what's at stake here."

But Republicans complained the bill brought to the floor didn't reflect their priorities.

"We know we have a crisis on the southern border. You can turn on the television every night. You can look at the fentanyl pouring into the country, You can see the tragedy of human trafficking. Is there anything in this bill that asks us to do anything different, anything new?" said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. "No, you just ask, 'please allow us to continue the current state of affairs on the southern border.' That is a travesty."

Jackson makes debut on high court in brief service

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson made her first appearance on the Supreme Court bench in a brief courtroom ceremony Friday, three days before the start of the high court's new term.

President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and their spouses attended the invitation-only ceremonial investiture for Jackson, the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice John Roberts wished the 52-year-old Jackson a "long and happy career in our common calling," the traditional welcome for a new justice.

She took her place at the far end of the bench to Roberts' left, just next to Justice Brett Kavanaugh. The justices are seated by seniority.

During the ceremony Jackson also followed the custom of every other new justice since 1972 and sat in a chair that once belonged to John Marshall, who served as chief justice for 34 years in the early 1800s.

Marshall also was a slaveholder, perhaps adding a special poignancy to Jackson taking her place in his onetime possession. She is only the third Black justice in the court's history, along with her new colleague Justice Clarence Thomas and the late Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Friday's ceremony included the reading of the commission appointing Jackson to the court. She also repeated the oath she took when she formally joined the court in June, just after the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer.

Breyer was among a courtroom filled with dignitaries, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former Speaker Paul Ryan, a Jackson relative through marriage.

Jackson's parents, daughters, brother and in-laws had a front-row seat.

Jackson was confirmed in April on a 53-47 vote in the Senate, with three Republican senators joining all Democrats to support her.

Putin: West sabotaged pipelines

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday accused the West of sabotaging Russia-built gas pipelines under the Baltic Sea, a charge that was vehemently denied by the United States and its allies.

Nordic nations said the undersea blasts that damaged the pipelines and have led to huge methane leaks involved several hundred pounds of explosives.

The claim by Putin came ahead of an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council on the attacks on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines and as Norwegian researchers published a map projecting that a huge plume of methane released by

damaged pipelines will travel over large swaths of the Nordic region.

Speaking Friday in Moscow at a ceremony to annex four regions of Ukraine into Russia, Putin claimed that the “Anglo-Saxons” in the West have turned from sanctions on Russia to “terror attacks,” sabotaging the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines in what he described as an attempt to “destroy the European energy infrastructure.”

He added that “those who profit from it have done it,” without naming a specific country.

In Washington, U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration dismissed Putin’s pipeline claims as outlandish.

“We’re not going to let Russia’s disinformation distract us or the world from its transparently fraudulent attempt to annex sovereign Ukrainian territory,” White House National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said Friday.

Moscow says it wants a thorough international probe to assess the damage to the pipelines. Putin’s spokesman has said “it looks like a terror attack, probably conducted on a state level.”

European nations, which have been reeling under soaring energy prices caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, have noted that it is Russia, not Europe, that benefits from chaos in the energy markets and spiking prices for energy.

Calif. schools may add girls flag football

Associated Press

REDONDO BEACH, Calif. — Elsa Morin gripped the football and launched a perfect spiral. Then the 17-year-old dodged in and out of cones and yanked the flag hanging from another girl’s belt for a key defensive play.

“Something about football just gets me really excited,” said the senior at Southern California’s Redondo Union High School. “I’ve always just wanted to play.”

Morin was among about three dozen girls who recently tried out for the school’s flag football team. The scene at Redondo’s field is playing out with increas-

ing frequency in California and around the country as girls flag football soars in popularity.

The number of girls playing flag football in U.S. high schools doubled to 11,000 in the decade leading up to 2018-19, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations.

On Thursday, the southern section of the California Interscholastic Federation was expected to vote on making it an official girls’ high school sport. If approved, the state federation — which governs interscholastic sports in California — would take it up in September with a goal of making it an official sport

in the nation’s most populous state for the 2023-24 school year.

Flag football already is a sanctioned high school girls sport in states including Alabama and Nevada. And it was added as a collegiate sport by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, with colleges in Florida, Georgia, Kansas and elsewhere fielding teams.

While girls are allowed to play tackle football on high school teams in California, few do. Flag football allows them to experience the sport in a way “that has all the knowledge, skills, and ability and the strategy of traditional football without some of

the more violent parts of it,” said Paula Hart Rodas, president-elect of the CIF Southern Section’s council who previously coached Lawndale High School’s flag team.

In flag football, no one gets tackled. A play ends when an opposing player pulls off the flag of a ball-carrier. It also is far cheaper than tackle football since no helmets or pads are needed.

The NFL sees flag football as a way to encourage its female fans. The Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers started a pilot high school league during the last school year, giving many girls a first shot at playing.

Biden vows US commitment to Pacific Islands

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Thursday told visiting leaders from more than a dozen Pacific Island countries that the U.S. was committed to bolstering its presence in their region and becoming a more collaborative partner as they face the “existential threat” of climate change.

The president addressed the leaders who gathered in Washington for a summit as the White House looks to improve relations in the Pacific amid growing U.S. concern about China’s growing military and eco-

nomie influence.

“A great deal of history of our world is going to be written in the Indo-Pacific over the coming years and decades,” Biden said at the start of a meeting with island leaders at the State Department. “And the Pacific Islands are a critical voice in shaping the future, and that’s why my administration has made it a priority to strengthen our partnership with your countries.”

Biden delivered his remarks as his administration unveiled its Pacific strategy, an outline of the White House’s plan to assist

the region’s leaders on pressing issues like climate change, maritime security and protecting the area from overfishing. The administration also pledged that the U.S. would add \$810 million in new aid for Pacific Island nations over the next decade, including \$130 million on efforts to stymie the impacts of climate change.

“We’re seeing the consequences of climate change around the world very vividly, including in the United States right now, and I know your nations feel it acutely,” Biden said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman charged in death over cat dispute

CA SANTA ANA — A woman has been charged with killing a man by ramming her car into him after accusing him of trying to run over a cat in the street, authorities said.

Hannah Star Esser, 20, was charged with murder in the death of Victor Anthony Luis, 43, and detained on \$1 million bail, the Orange County prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Esser was driving in the community of Cypress when she confronted Luis and accused him of trying to run over a cat, authorities said.

She and Luis both got out of their vehicles and got into an argument that Esser recorded, authorities said.

Esser then returned to her car, turned around, drove toward Luis and hit him, authorities said. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Woman sentenced for sending herself money

KY COVINGTON — A woman has been sentenced to more than two years in prison for wire fraud after transferring more than a half-million dollars from an employer's account to herself, a federal prosecutor's office said.

Hachelle Alsip, 42, of Independence, worked for Victory Mortgage as a loan funding representative, according to a news release from U.S. Attorney Carlton S. Shier IV's office.

In 2021, Alsip caused two wire transfers from a Victory Mortgage business account to be

made into a personal bank account belonging to her and her husband, the release said.

Alsip was sentenced to 28 months. She pleaded guilty in June.

Alsip must serve 85% of her sentence and will be supervised on probation for three years when she is released.

Crews begin removing debris from landslide

AK JUNEAU — Efforts have begun to remove enough trees, rocks and dirt to cover half a football field that were deposited on a street in Alaska's capital by a landslide.

The slide began several hundred feet above Gastineau Avenue, just above Juneau's business district. It came down the mountainside and slammed into one house, which propelled that home into another. A third home was also damaged.

"It came down a long way and brought a lot of material, and now that material is quite deep," Tom Mattice, Juneau's emergency program manager, told the Juneau Empire.

He said the damage could have been much worse given the momentum the debris had in coming down the mountain.

Real estate broker admits to stealing

MA BOSTON — A Massachusetts man who according to authorities preyed on people who wanted to buy homes by collecting deposits on properties that had either already been sold or were not even for sale was sentenced to 2½ years in prison, federal prosecutors said.

ecutors said.

Michael P. Flavin, 39, of Quincy, cashed more than 60 deposit checks totaling about \$1.8 million over a three-year period, according to the U.S. attorney's office in Boston.

Flavin executed purchase and sales agreements and received deposit checks from or on behalf of the potential buyers, even though the owners of the properties had not agreed to sell to those particular buyers, prosecutors said.

To carry out the scheme, he forged the sellers' signatures, prosecutors said.

He pleaded guilty last December to wire fraud and aggravated identity theft. A hearing will be held at a future date to determine restitution.

Two men arrested in robbery of flashy pastor

NY NEW YORK — Two men were arrested in the robbery of a flashy Brooklyn pastor who was delivering a sermon in July about keeping faith when gun-toting masked men crashed the service and stole over \$1 million in jewelry from the pastor and his wife.

The men processed in Brooklyn federal court were identified as Say-Quan Pollack and Juwan Anderson, both 23. Authorities said a third person charged in the case remained at large. Lawyers for the men declined comment. Anderson was to be released on \$50,000 bail while Pollack was detained pending a bail application.

The men stole jewelry from the pastor, Lamor Miller-Whitehead, and his wife, "terrifying the congregation in the process," after entering the church

service masked and clad in black, U.S. Attorney Breon Peace said in a statement.

Miller-Whitehead, known for a flashy persona that includes expensive jewelry and travel in his Rolls Royce, is a friend of New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

The former police captain got to know Miller-Whitehead while serving as Brooklyn's borough president for eight years before he became mayor in January.

Inmate serving life for bombing escapes prison

NV LAS VEGAS — Authorities were searching Tuesday for a 42-year-old convicted bombmaker who escaped from a Nevada prison where he was serving a life sentence for a deadly 2007 explosion outside a Las Vegas Strip resort.

Gov. Steve Sisolak ordered an investigation into the incident after his office learned the escapee had been missing from the medium-security prison since early in the weekend.

"This is unacceptable," Sisolak said in a statement.

Officials didn't realize until Tuesday that Porfirio Duarte-Herrera was missing during a head count at Southern Desert Correctional Center near Las Vegas. A state Department of Corrections statement said search teams were looking for him.

Duarte-Herrera, from Nicaragua, was convicted in 2010 of killing a hot dog stand vendor using a motion-activated bomb in a coffee cup atop a car parked at the Luxor hotel-casino.

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Burrow, Bengals hand Dolphins first loss

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Behind an overhauled offensive line coalescing in front of quarterback Joe Burrow and a defense forcing turnovers, the Cincinnati Bengals are looking more like the defending AFC champions.

After losing their first two games, the Bengals have reeled off two wins in a span of five days.

They beat the New York Jets on Sunday, then turned around and took down Miami 27-15 in a Thursday night game marred by the horrific sight of Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa being taken off the field on a stretcher.

Tagovailoa was taken to a hospital, but was expected to be released and fly home with the team. Coach Mike McDaniel said the QB sustained a concussion.

Burrow tossed a late 2-yard touchdown pass to Hayden Hurst to seal the win after Cincinnati safety Vonn Bell picked

off Miami backup quarterback Teddy Bridgewater with three minutes left in the game.

“All day the protection was awesome,” said Burrow, who was 20-for-31 for 287 yards and two touchdowns. “I had all the time I needed in the pocket to find the guys I needed.”

Tee Higgins caught seven passes for 124 yards and a TD for Cincinnati (2-2)

Evan McPherson kicked two fourth-quarter field goals — including a 57-yarder — when the Bengals’ drives stalled.

“Joe was lights out,” Bengals coach Zac Taylor said. “You had to beat man coverage. We had the guys to do it and the protection to match it and the quarterback who, that’s what he wants to see.”

Bridgewater threw an incomplete pass on Miami’s final drive to turn the ball over on downs with 57 seconds left.

Tagovailoa was 8-for-14 for 110 yards and an interception before his injury. Bridgewater

finished 14-for-23 for 193 yards, a touchdown and an interception in relief.

“It’s a tough loss,” Bridgewater said. “It’s tough walking away, especially under the circumstances.”

Tyreek Hill paced the Dolphins (3-1) with 10 catches for 160 yards. Jason Sanders kicked three field goals and had one blocked. He also missed a point-after attempt.

“You’re going to lose games to very good teams if you lose the turnover battle and you’re kicking field goals instead of trying for touchdowns,” Miami coach Mike McDaniel said. “We had been executing. We didn’t today. You don’t get free passes against good teams.”

Cheers

At halftime, the Bengals added two players to their fledgling Ring of Honor at Paycor Stadium.

Isaac Curtis is regarded as one of the team’s all-time great receivers. The four-time Pro-

Bowler played in Cincinnati from 1973-84 and still holds the Bengals record for average yards per reception (17.07).

Tackle Willie Anderson was considered one of the best offensive linemen of his era. Anderson played in 182 games (regular and postseason) for Cincinnati in 1996-2007 and went to the Pro Bowl four times.

They join last year’s Ring of Honor inaugural class: team founder/coach Paul Brown, quarterback Ken Anderson, tackle Anthony Munoz and cornerback Ken Riley.

Injuries

Dolphins: CB Xavien Howard left in the second half after suffering a groin injury.

Bengals: TE Devin Asiasi left in the second half with an ankle injury.

Up next

Dolphins: At New York Jets on Sunday, Oct. 9.

Bengals: At Baltimore on Sunday, Oct. 9.

Miami QB Tagovailoa injured, stretchered off field

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa sustained neck and head injuries after being slammed to the ground Thursday night against the Cincinnati Bengals and was stretchered from the field.

The Dolphins said Tagovailoa was conscious, had movement in all his extremities and was taken to University of Cincinnati Medical Center for further evaluation. The Dolphins said after their 27-15 loss to the Bengals that Tagovailoa was expected to be released from the hospital and fly home with the team.

Tagovailoa was chased down and sacked by 6-foot-3, 340-pound Josh Tupou with about six minutes left in the first half. He was spun around and thrown to the turf. While on the ground, his hands froze in front of his face. He remained down for more than seven minutes before being loaded on a backboard, stabilized and strapped to a stretcher after his facemask was removed.

Dolphins players gathered around as Tagovailoa was rolled off the field and the crowd chanted “Tua! Tua!”

Miami coach Mike McDaniel said Tagovailoa called for him when he went down.

“I could tell it wasn’t the same guy that I was used to seeing,” McDaniel said. “It was a scary moment. He was evaluated for a concussion. He’s in the concussion protocol, but he’s being discharged.

“It’s an emotional moment. It’s not a part of the deal you sign up for. His teammates and myself were very concerned, but he got checked out and it’s nothing more serious than a concussion.”

Teddy Bridgewater, who replaced the injured Tagovailoa, said the Miami sideline went quiet when the starting QB was on the turf.

“Complete silence,” Bridgewater said. “He’s one of us. At the end of the day, it’s only a football game. In that moment, you saw how we feel about Tua. He’s our captain. He’s our leader. It was great to see the doc-

tors handling the situation.”

Bengals coach Zac Taylor had an emotional reaction to Tagovailoa going down, saying: “It’s a heavy moment. You hate to see that happen. It’s a tough moment for everybody.”

Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow hoped Tagovailoa makes a quick return.

“It’s always scary when somebody goes out like that,” Burrow said. “It’s a dangerous game and something like that can happen at any time, but it’s always scary when it does. ... Hopefully, he has a speedy recovery. I’m gonna text him after a bit and see how he’s doing.”

The 24-year-old Tagovailoa was suffering from a sore back and was listed as questionable for most of the week ahead of the game.

Tagovailoa briefly left Sunday’s 21-19 victory over the Buffalo Bills after appearing to be disoriented by what the team originally said was a head injury after taking a hard hit from Bills linebacker Matt Milano late in the first half. He missed just three snaps and returned after halftime.

Hall tosses 3 TDs, rallies No. 19 BYU

Associated Press

PROVO, Utah — Jaren Hall threw for 273 yards and three touchdowns to help the No. 19 BYU Cougars to a 38-26 victory over Utah State on Thursday night.

Hall, who favored his right shoulder after a late hit near the end of the third quarter, has thrown for at least 250 yards in nine consecutive games. Kody Epps finished with 86 yards and a touchdown on five catches. Christopher Brooks ran for 90 yards and a score on 11 carries.

BYU (4-1) beat Utah State (1-4) for the third straight time in the Battle for the Old Wagon Wheel. It wasn't an easy task. The Cougars were blindsided early by energetic play by the Aggies on both sides of the ball.

"They were more physical than us. They had more energy than us," BYU receiver Gunner Romney said. "It seems like they were more motivated to play. But luckily we went back and made some good adjustments at halftime and came out with a little more fire and we were able to get the job done."

Cooper Legas, making his first career start, threw for 188 yards and two touchdowns while adding 54 yards and another score on the ground to lead the Aggies. Legas, who filled in for injured starter Logan Bonner, also threw two interceptions. Calvin Tyler Jr. added 104 yards on 18 carries.

Bonner is sidelined with a season-ending foot injury, so Legas will be Utah State's starting quarterback going forward.

"He's waited for his opportunity and when it showed up, he did a phenomenal

job," Aggies coach Blake Anderson said. "I'm sure like any quarterback, there's a couple of plays he'd love to have back. But, man, he gave us a chance to win."

The Aggies lost their fourth straight game and fell to 6-65 against Top 25 teams.

Utah State took a 7-0 lead after Legas capped the Aggies' opening drive with a 7-yard run. Things were on the verge of unraveling for Utah State after that early score.

BYU covered 65 yards in two plays — a 34 yard catch by Romney and 31-yard catch-and-run by Keanu Hill — to even the score. Then, Max Tooley reeled in a tipped pass from Legas and returned it 32 yards to give the Cougars their first lead at 14-7.

Utah State bounced back and shut down BYU's offense after its initial drive. The Cougars went three-and-out on three consecutive possessions, opening the door for the Aggies to retake a 17-14 lead on a 14-yard catch by Brian Cobbs. BYU lost a total of nine yards on those three drives.

The Cougars found some life on offense again in the third quarter. Ethan Erickson snagged a high pass for a go-ahead 14-yard score to cap off BYU's opening second-half drive. Then, on the Cougars' next drive, Kody Epps caught three straight passes — culminating in an 8-yard score that extended BYU's lead to 31-20.

BYU averaged 9.0 yards on 22 third quarter plays after totaling only 107 yards on 19 plays during the first half.

"We just came out with intent to keep the energy up and come out full speed, taking

shots and trying to move the ball, get things rolling for our offense and help our defense," Epps said. "When we make plays on offense, it helps our defense. Everything starts to mesh and fall together. That was the biggest thing."

The Cougars finally got their running game going in the fourth quarter. Brooks scored on an 18-yard run to cap off six straight running plays and give BYU a 38-20 lead.

South Carolina 50, South Carolina State 10: Spencer Rattler threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score in the Gamecocks' victory over the Bulldogs in a game moved from Saturday because of Hurricane Ian.

Rattler finished with 212 yards, completing 21 of 27 passes including a 5-yard scoring strike to tailback MarShawn Lloyd and an 11-yarder to tight end Austin Stogner, his teammate at Oklahoma, to help South Carolina (3-2) rout the FCS Bulldogs (1-3).

Administrators at both schools agreed to the change because of the hurricane's approach. Ian moved through Florida into the Atlantic and was expected to re-enter land in the Palmetto State as a Category 1 storm Friday.

Many parking areas were half-filled at best and the normal, Southeastern Conference-style tailgating setups were absent for this one. South Carolina said 61,551 were at Williams-Brice Stadium, which lists a capacity of 77,559. But the upper decks were largely empty and it wasn't a stretch to think only about the announced crowd came out.

Air Force football program sanctioned for violations

Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — The Air Force football program received two years of probation from the NCAA and had its squad size reduced by 10 for four years as part of its sanctions for recruiting violations.

The penalties were announced Thursday after Air Force and four individuals reached an agreement with NCAA enforcement staff on recruiting violations. A fifth individual in the case has contested their role and will be heard by the committee on infractions.

The sanctions also include a fine and a reduction of 46 total official visits for the football program in the 2022-23 and '23-24

academic years. In addition, there's a prohibition on unofficial visits in football from Sept. 1 through Oct. 12, 2022, and a reduced number of evaluation days this fall.

Air Force has around 115 players on its varsity roster, plus a JV team that all count as NCAA athletes and its roster size.

"The (committee) appreciates the parties' efforts in working collaboratively together to reach agreement on the violations, levels, classifications, and significant and meaningful penalties," Gary Miller, the chief hearing officer for the panel and president at Akron, said in a statement. "The panel also recognizes that Air Force has gone above and beyond in its overall approach to this case."

In a joint statement, Air Force Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Richard Clark and director of athletics Nathan Pine said: "The U.S. Air Force Academy is pleased that our case has progressed to the point of the NCAA accepting our negotiated resolution. We will continue working with the NCAA on this ongoing self-reported case from the COVID dead period, as it's our responsibility to ensure integrity of the institution, athletics department, cadet-athletes and staff."

The Falcons (3-1) host Navy on Saturday to begin the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy competition. The trophy is presented to the service academy with the best record in the round-robin format.

Angels' Ohtani loses no-hitter in eighth

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Two-way phenom Shohei Ohtani pitched no-hit ball into the eighth inning and extended his hitting streak to 14 games, leading the Los Angeles Angels over the Oakland Athletics 4-2 on Thursday night.

In his final home start of the season, Ohtani (15-8) issued a leadoff walk to Tony Kemp before retiring the next 22 batters. Conner Capel broke up the no-hit bid with a sharp grounder that deflected off sliding shortstop Livan Soto's glove and into left-center field with two outs in the eighth.

Dermis Garcia followed with a clean single to left before Ohtani retired Shea Langeliers on a grounder to third to end the inning.

Mariners 10, Rangers 9 (11): Mitch Haniger and Jarred Kelenic both homered twice, J.P. Crawford singled home the winning run in the 11th inning and host Seattle closed in on its first playoff berth in 21 years by beating Texas.

The Mariners moved a half-game ahead of Tampa Bay for the second of three AL wild cards and reduced their magic number to one for clinching a

postseason spot.

One more win or a Baltimore loss would give Seattle its first playoff appearance since 2001, ending the longest drought in the four major North American professional sports.

Cubs 2, Phillies 0: Visiting Philadelphia lost its fifth straight game as it fights for the National League's final wild-card berth, falling to Chicago.

Philadelphia had a half-game lead over Milwaukee after the Brewers' home loss to Miami later Thursday.

Seeking their first playoff berth since 2011, the Phillies have lost the first three games of a season-ending 10-game trip and 10 of 13 overall since peaking at a season-best 80-62.

Philadelphia holds the tiebreaker against Milwaukee, winning the season series 4-2.

Marlins 4, Brewers 2: Avisail Garcia came off the injured list and hit a grand slam in the eighth inning in visiting Miami's victory over Milwaukee.

The Brewers have six games remaining, all at home — three more against Miami and three against Arizona.

Guardians 2, Rays 1: Rockies Oscar Gonzalez and Steven Kwan drove in runs in the

eighth inning and host Cleveland kept Tampa Bay from clinching an AL wild-card spot.

Tampa Bay had a chance in the ninth, loading the bases on three walks by Trevor Stephan. But Ji-Man Choi struck out and Isaac Paredes flied out to short right as Stephan earned his third save.

Dodgers 5, Padres 2: Miguel Vargas hit a tiebreaking, two-run single with the bases loaded in the sixth inning and NL West champion Los Angeles slowed host San Diego's playoff push.

The Dodgers added to their franchise record with their 108th win. They've already clinched the NL's No. 1 overall seed in the playoffs and reduced their magic number to one for home-field advantage through the World Series.

San Diego's magic number to wrap up a postseason berth was reduced to three when Milwaukee lost to Miami. San Diego is 2½ games ahead of Philadelphia for the NL's second wild-card spot.

Red Sox 5, Orioles 3: J.D. Martinez hit a two-run homer to break an eighth-inning tie, Zack Kelly (1-0) got his first career victory and host Boston

dropped slumping Baltimore to the brink of elimination in the wild-card race.

Baltimore has lost five of its last six games. Toronto wrapped a wild-card spot with the Orioles' loss.

Giants 6, Rockies 4: Ford Proctor hit a grand slam for his first career home run, Carlos Rodón struck out 10 in six scoreless innings and host San Francisco beat Colorado to complete a three-game sweep.

Austin Wynns and Wilmer Flores also drove in runs to help San Francisco beat Colorado for the eighth straight time.

The Giants trail Philadelphia by 5½ games for the third and final National League wild-card position with six games remaining.

Tigers 10, Royals 3: Willi Castro and Javy Báez homered and host Detroit beat Kansas City to sweep the three-game series and move out of last place in the AL Central.

White Sox 4, Twins 3: September call-up Mark Payton had two hits and an RBI and scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning to help visiting Chicago beat Minnesota to end an eight-game losing streak.

US women move into World Cup gold-medal game

Associated Press

SYDNEY — Breanna Stewart and the United States used a dominant defensive effort to beat Canada and reach the gold-medal game of the World Cup for the fourth consecutive tournament.

Stewart scored 17 points and the Americans raced out to an early lead to put away Canada 83-43 on Friday. The 43 points were the fewest scored in a semifinal game in World Cup history.

"Canada has been playing really well all tournament and the goal was just to come out there and really limit them," said U.S. forward Alyssa Thomas. "We were really locked in from the jump with our game plan."

The Americans will face China, which

edged Australia 61-59. The Chinese team lost to the U.S. by 14 points in the pool round — the closest game of the tournament for the Americans.

"Our goal was to win a gold medal and we're in a position to do that," U.S. coach Cheryl Reeve said.

The U.S. (7-0), which is on a record pace for points and margin of victory in the tournament, took control of the game early by scoring the first 15 points. The Americans contested every shot on the defensive end as the Canadians missed their first nine attempts from the field. On the offensive end, Stewart, A'ja Wilson and Alyssa Thomas basically got any shot they wanted.

"I think after that punch, it really took the air out of them," Thomas said. "They didn't

know what to do with their offense anymore after that."

Laeticia Amihere, who plays at South Carolina for former U.S. coach Dawn Staley, finally got Canada on the board nearly 5 minutes into the game by making a driving layup.

By the end of the quarter the U.S. led 27-7. Canada had committed four turnovers — the same number the team had against Puerto Rico in the quarterfinals, which was the lowest total in a game in 30 years.

The Americans were up 45-21 at the half and the lead kept expanding in the final 20 minutes. The win was the biggest margin for the U.S. in the medal round, topping the 36-point victory over Spain in the 2010 World Cup.