

At UN, Biden urges resolve on Ukraine

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — President Joe Biden made a robust case before the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday that the world must remain united in defending Ukraine against Russian aggression, warning that no nation can be secure if “we allow Ukraine to be carved up” as he tries to rally support for Kyiv’s effort to repel a nearly 19-month-old Russian invasion that has no end in sight.

The U.S. president called on world leaders to not let support for Ukraine diminish, arguing that Russia is counting on countries to grow tired of prolonged conflict in Kyiv which will “allow it to brutalize Ukraine without consequence.” Russia alone is standing in the way of a resolution, Biden argued, saying that Moscow’s price for peace was “Ukraine’s capitulation, Ukraine’s territory and Ukraine’s children.”

“I ask you this: If we abandon the core principles of the United States to appease an aggressor, can any member state in this body feel confident that they are protected?” Biden said in his address. “If we allow Ukraine to be carved up, is the independence of any nation secure?

He continued: “I’d respectfully suggest the answer is no.” He implored the leaders to stand up to “this naked aggression today to deter other would-be aggressors tomorrow.”

During his address, Biden described the partnerships the U.S. government was fostering around the globe — from Africa to the Indo-Pacific — that he said were creating economic and other advancements, even as he stressed that those relationships were not about “containing any country” — a clear reference to Beijing.

“When it comes to China, let me be clear and consistent,” Biden said. “We seek to responsibly manage the competition between our countries so it does not tip into conflict.”

In his 30-minute address, Biden repeatedly emphasized the value of institutions such as the United Nations and international coalitions which have helped the world confront significant challenges such as poverty and disease, as well as echoing his defense of democracy, a common theme of his presidency.

“We will not retreat from the values that make us strong,” Biden said. “We will defend democracy — our best tool to meet the chal-

lenges that we face around the world. And we’re working to show how democracy can deliver in ways that matter to people’s lives.”

The annual forum is a chance for Biden to showcase to other world leaders — and the 2024 U.S. electorate — that he’s reestablished U.S. leadership on the world stage that he has said was diminished under former President Donald Trump.

Biden previewed his thinking in a pair of fundraisers on Monday evening, telling supporters that he stood up to Vladimir Putin’s invasion, and questioning whether Trump, the 2024 GOP presidential front-runner, would have even attempted to help Ukraine stop the Russian land grab if he were in power.

“I will not side with dictators like Putin. Maybe Trump and his MAGA friends can bow down, but I won’t,” Biden told supporters at a Broadway fundraiser.

There were some notable absences as Biden made his case before the General Assembly: British Prime Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Putin are all skipping the gathering.

Austin: Abrams tanks will soon enter into Ukraine

By JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The M1 Abrams tanks provided by the United States will soon enter Ukraine and join the counteroffensive the country is mounting against Russia, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told world military leaders gathered at this U.S. air base Tuesday.

Tanks arrived in May at the Army’s Grafenwoehr Training Area in Bavaria, where Ukrainian crews began an accelerated training course soon afterward. Ukraine is receiving 31 similar Abrams tanks that were refurbished in the U.S.

Partner nations must “con-

tinue to dig deep” to arm Ukraine, Austin told representatives of about 50 countries at the 15th meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group.

“We must continue to push hard to provide Ukraine with air-defense systems and interceptors,” Austin said. “And right now, in the heat of the battle, we must also keep pushing to get Ukraine the ammunition that it needs to keep up the fight, including 155 mm ammunition.”

The group will continue to support Ukraine for as long as it takes, Austin said.

“(Russian President Vladimir) Putin is betting he can bide his time and wait it out,” he said. “He is wrong.”

During Tuesday’s sessions, Denmark, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands agreed to increase their aid to Ukraine, beginning with 15 T-72EA main battle tanks in the coming months. Air defense systems and ammunition will follow and be “delivered with speed,” the three nations said in a joint statement.

Germany announced plans to send \$427 million worth of weapons, equipment and winter clothing. The aid includes explosives, mortars, rockets, mines, reconnaissance drones, replacement parts, generators and clothing.

“The coming months will be tough,” said Siemstje Moeller, the parliamentary state secre-

tary for Germany’s Defense Ministry. “It will be cold, muddy and wet.”

Since the last contact group meeting in July, the U.S. has pledged more than \$2 billion in additional security aid to Ukraine, including ammunition, air defense systems and mine-clearing equipment, Austin said.

The meeting Tuesday came ahead of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s visit to Washington, where he was set to meet with President Joe Biden and members of Congress.

Austin also confirmed Tuesday that Ukrainian pilots will train on the F-16 fighter jet in the U.S.

Debris found for F-35 that crashed in SC

Marine Corps stealth fighter jet went missing; authorities investigating incident

Staff and wire reports

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. — The crash site for a stealth fighter jet that went missing during the weekend after its pilot ejected was located Monday in rural South Carolina after the military asked the public for help finding an aircraft built to elude detection.

The debris field was discovered in Williamsburg County, about 60 miles northeast of Joint Base Charleston. Residents were being asked to avoid the area while a recovery team worked to secure it.

“We are transferring incident command to the USMC this evening, as they begin the recovery process,” the base posted Monday on the X social media platform.

Authorities had been searching for the jet since the pilot, whose name hasn’t been released, parachuted to safety into a North Charleston neighborhood at about 2 p.m. Sunday.

He was taken to a hospital, where he was in stable condition, Marines Maj. Melanie Salinas said.

The pilot, who is assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., was in the middle of a training flight over North Charleston on Sunday when the unspecified problem occurred.

“The mishap is currently under investigation, and we are unable to provide additional details to preserve the integrity of the investigative process,” the Marine Corps said in a news release on Monday evening.

The Marine Corps announced earlier Monday it was pausing aviation operations for two days after the fighter jet’s crash — the third costly accident in recent weeks.

Gen. Eric Smith, the acting commandant of the Marine Corps, ordered the stand-down while authorities searched

near two South Carolina lakes for the missing FB-35B Lightning II aircraft.

It’s the third event documented as a “Class-A mishap” over the past six weeks, according to a Marine Corps announcement. Such incidents occur when damages reach \$2.5 million or more, a Department of Defense aircraft is destroyed, or someone dies or is permanently disabled.

Commanders will spend the stand-down reinforcing safe flying policies, practices and procedures with their Marines, according to the Monday release.

The announcement gave no details on the two previous incidents. But in August, three U.S. Marines were killed in the crash of a V-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft during a training exercise in Australia, and a Marine Corps pilot was killed when his combat jet crashed near a San Diego base during a training flight.

Cpl. Christian Cortez, a Ma-

rine with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, said the details of what prompted the pilot to eject from the aircraft Sunday were under investigation.

Based on the missing plane’s location and trajectory, the search was initially focused on Lake Moultrie and Lake Marion, said Senior Master Sgt. Heather Stanton at Joint Base Charleston. Both lakes are north of North Charleston.

A South Carolina Law Enforcement Division helicopter joined the search after some bad weather cleared in the area, Stanton said.

Military officials appealed in online posts Sunday for any help from the public in locating the aircraft.

The pilot of a second F-35 returned safely to Joint Base Charleston, Salinas said.

The planes and pilots were with the Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing based in Beaufort, near the South Carolina coast.

Russian drone sparks warehouse fire, at least 1 dead

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia launched a massive drone attack on the western city of Lviv early Tuesday, burning down a warehouse said to house humanitarian supplies and killing one man, Ukrainian authorities said.

It was one of at least three deadly attacks in different cities.

Ukraine intercepted most of the 30 Shahed drones overnight, the country’s air force said. But drones that got through air defense systems sparked an inferno at the industrial storage facility, Gov. Mak-

sym Kozhytsky said.

The U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Ukraine condemned the drone strikes and said they had burned down a charity’s warehouse that contained vital relief supplies. Denise Brown said the attack violated international humanitarian law that protects workers, facilities and supplies.

“Attacks impacting humanitarian assets have escalated throughout the year and ultimately impact those who are suffering the horrific consequences of the war,” Brown said. “Direct attacks or indiscriminate attacks are strictly

prohibited. International humanitarian law is not an option, it is an obligation and must be upheld.”

In other Russian attacks, a guided aerial bomb killed three civilians in Kupyansk, a city in the eastern Kharkiv region, said regional Gov. Oleh Sinegubov.

An artillery strike in Kherson in the south struck a bus, killing a police sergeant and wounding two men, said Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko. That strike also torched a warehouse.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy meanwhile was in New York preparing to ad-

dress the U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council before traveling to Washington on Thursday to meet with lawmakers and President Joe Biden.

Zelenskyy has continued to drum up funding and support for new weapons as the counteroffensive Ukraine launched in June approaches what could be its final weeks before wet weather slows progress. Ukraine has made small advances but no major breakthroughs.

Other allies pledged money and weapons at a Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting in Germany.

Few options left for McCarthy on shutdown

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Speaker Kevin McCarthy was running out of options Monday as he pushed ahead with a plan to keep the federal government from shutting down, but even including hardline border security provisions wasn't enough to appease the far-right flank in his Republican House majority.

The speaker is trying to convince his Republican conference that there will be heavy political fallout from a shutdown as he plows toward a vote to pass a stopgap measure, called a continuing resolution, that would keep government offices open past the Sept. 30 deadline. GOP leadership is preparing for a vote by Thursday, but McCarthy is warning he'll keep House lawmakers in Washington into the weekend. Regardless, many are already bracing for a weeks-long shutdown.

"I've told all of Congress you're not going to go home.

We're going to continue to work through this," McCarthy said Monday at the Capitol. "Things that are tough sometimes are worth it."

He also suggested that time is still on his side and panned the idea of compromising with Democrats as he tries to pass the annual spending measures on his own, saying there were "a lot of good ideas" still coming from Republicans.

"This isn't the 30th — we've got a long ways to go," he said.

There is also no hope of passing all of the appropriations bills on Congress' agenda before then. Even a Defense appropriations bill — usually an easy lift with Republicans — has stalled in the House as they resist more money for Ukraine.

The speaker on a Sunday night call with House Republicans pitched the one-month funding bill that was negotiated between the hard-right House Freedom Caucus and a group of

pragmatic-minded conservatives known as the Main Street Caucus, according to those with knowledge of the call.

McCarthy called the package a "bottom-up" approach. It was intended to win support from the conservative wing of the Republican Conference by cutting last year's overall spending levels by 1%, and including a slew of Republican proposals for border security and immigration. But in order to protect current spending levels for Republican priorities of defense, veterans and disaster relief, it slashes other spending by more than 8%.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer in a floor speech said the proposal from the House "can be boiled down to two words: slapdash, reckless."

"Slapdash, because it's not a serious proposal for avoiding a shutdown, and reckless because if passed [it] would cause im-

mense harm to so many priorities that help the American people," he said.

With the Senate controlled by Democrats who, along with some Republicans, will not accept the conservative options, the best hope McCarthy has at this point is to simply pass a measure to kickstart debate with the other chamber. But even that route is doubtful with time dwindling and McCarthy struggling to push his conference to avert a shutdown.

Though McCarthy still contends he has days to maneuver before the government's fiscal year ends, he has also tried to warn his party that a government shutdown is likely to backfire on Republicans politically.

"I've been through shutdowns and I've never seen somebody win a shutdown because when you shut down, you give all your power to the administration," McCarthy said in a Fox News interview on Sunday.

Americans freed by Iran in assets deal reach US

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans detained for years in Iran arrived home Tuesday, tearfully hugged their loved ones and declared "Freedom!" after being let go as part of a politically risky deal that saw President Joe Biden agree to the release of nearly \$6 billion in frozen Iranian assets.

The prisoners landed at Fort Belvoir, Va., with clapping and cheers heard in the predawn hours. Siamak Namazi, the first off the jet, paused for a moment, closed his eyes and took a deep breath before leaving the plane. Loved ones, some holding small American flags, enveloped them in hugs and exchanged greetings in English and Farsi, the main language of Iran.

"The nightmare is finally

over," Namazi's brother, Babak, said at the airport.

"We haven't had this moment [in] over eight years," he added, his arm around his brother and his formerly detained father, Baquer, who had been earlier released by Iran. "It's unbelievable."

The successful negotiations for the Americans' freedom brought Biden profuse thanks from their families but heat from Republican presidential rivals and other opponents for the monetary arrangement with one of America's top adversaries.

Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, on hand for the United Nations General Assembly in New York, suggested the exchange could be "a step in the direction of a humanitarian action between us and America."

Trump: DeSantis abortion ban is 'a terrible mistake'

Associated Press

Donald Trump is facing new blowback from anti-abortion activists for refusing to commit to national abortion restrictions and for calling Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' signing of a six-week ban on the procedure a "terrible mistake."

Speaking Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Trump repeatedly declined to say whether he would support a federal ban on abortion. He said he could "live with" the procedure being banned by individual states or nationwide through federal action, though he said "from a legal standpoint, I think it's probably better" to be handled at the state level. Regarding the bill signed by DeSantis, which bans abortions before many women know they are pregnant, Trump said, "I

think what he did is a terrible thing and a terrible mistake."

Sofar, the former president has dominated the 2024 field while at times spurning the anti-abortion groups that traditionally have huge influence in Republican primaries.

But Trump's direct attack on DeSantis, whom he's long treated as his chief rival, could give the Florida governor new fodder as he tries to regain momentum in his campaign.

Speaking to Radio Iowa on Monday, DeSantis said he was proud to have signed the Florida legislation, which he called "noble and just." He also criticized Trump's statement that he would work with both sides regarding abortion policy, warning, "I think all pro-lifers should know that he's preparing to sell you out."

UAW: Expanded strike a possibility if talks stall

Associated Press

The leader of the United Auto Workers said that a limited strike targeting plants in Missouri, Michigan and Ohio may be expanded if “serious progress” toward a new contract agreement isn’t made by Friday at noon.

The UAW for the first time in its history is striking at all three Detroit automakers, but the 13,000 workers on the picket lines for a fifth day Tuesday are hitting only three facilities, one each at GM, Ford and Stellantis, in a novel strategy.

The union can stretch the funds it maintains for striking autoworkers if it limits picketing, but the targeted strikes can still ripple through integrated production systems.

In a video statement late Monday, UAW President Shawn Fain said more factories may be picketed if there is no significant progress in talks by the end of the week.

“We’re not messing around,” he said.

Stellantis resumed negotia-

tions with the UAW this week and on Tuesday, the company’s North American Chief Operating Officer Mart Stewart said common ground is still being sought to end the standoff.

A spokesman for General Motors said representatives of the company and the United Auto Workers also were continuing to negotiate.

Fain said on NPR that there is “a long way to go,” and if significant progress is not made, “then we will escalate action.”

The union’s strategy hinges on its ability to escalate the strike quickly, and the carmakers are warning of potential layoffs as the limited strike reduces the amount of material needed at plants that remain open.

GM said Monday that 2,000 UAW-represented workers at an assembly plant in Kansas City, Kan., are “expected to be idled as soon as early this week” because of a shortage of supplies from a GM plant near St. Louis, where workers walked off the job Friday.

The strike could begin to af-

fect suppliers and their employees too. CIE Newcor told Michigan officials that it expects a one-month closure of four plants in the state to start Oct. 2 and idle nearly 300 workers.

In a sign of concern of the strike’s potential economic and political fallout, the Biden administration stepped up its response.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said she is hoping for a quick resolution, while adding that is too soon to gauge the strike’s impact.

“It’s premature to be making forecasts about what it means for the economy. It would depend on how long the strike lasts and who would be affected by it,” she said on CNBC.

Strikes by Hollywood writers and actors, by workers at about 150 Starbucks locations and walkouts that were narrowly averted at United Parcel Service and West Coast ports — have been driven by a strong labor market and high demand for workers as well as living costs that have risen rapidly.

India expels Canadian diplomat as tensions rise

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India expelled a senior Canadian diplomat Tuesday and accused Canada of interfering in its internal affairs, escalating a breach with Ottawa over its allegations of Indian involvement in the killing of a Sikh activist in Canada.

It came a day after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said there were credible allegations that India was connected to the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Sikh independence advocate who was gunned down on June 18 outside a Sikh cultural center in Surrey, British Columbia, and Canada expelled a top Indian diplomat. India rejected the allegations as “absurd.”

India has fought against a movement to establish an independent Sikh homeland known as Khalistan since the 1980s, when a raid on separatists in a major temple led to the assassination of a prime minister and a wave of anti-Sikh violence.

Nijjar was wanted by Indian authorities, who accused the activist of involvement in an alleged attack on a Hindu priest in India and had offered a cash reward for information leading to his arrest.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a lawyer and spokesperson for the Sikhs For Justice organization, has said Nijjar had been warned by Canadian intelligence officials about being targeted for assassination by “mercenaries” before he was gunned down.

Trudeau told Parliament on Monday that Canadian security agencies were investigating “credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen.”

Libyan city divided to stem disease spread

Associated Press

DERNA, Libya — The prime minister of Libya’s eastern administration said Tuesday that authorities have divided the flood-stricken city of Derna into four sections to create buffers in case of disease outbreaks, a day after thousands of angry protesters demanded the city’s rapid reconstruction.

Last week, two dams collapsed during Mediterranean storm Daniel, sending a wall of water gushing through Derna.

Government officials and aid agencies have given death tolls ranging from about 4,000 to 11,000.

“Now the affected areas are completely isolated, the armed forces and the government have begun creating a buffer out of fear of the spread of

diseases or epidemics,” Prime Minister Ossama Hamad said in an interview with Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV.

No further details were given.

According to local media, the internet went down in the east of the country on Tuesday morning.

On Monday, the United Nations warned that a disease outbreak could create “a second devastating crisis.”

Libyan protesters gathered in central Derna on Monday in the first mass demonstration since the flood.

Outside the city’s al-Shabana mosque thousands called for a rapid investigation into the disaster and the urgent reconstruction of the city, among other demands.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Band director arrested for not halting performance

AL BIRMINGHAM — An Alabama high school band director was shocked with a stun gun and arrested after Birmingham police said he wouldn't tell his band to stop playing.

Local news outlets report that Minor High School's band director was arrested Thursday night after a football game between Minor and Jackson-Olin High School. He's charged with disorderly conduct, harassment and resisting arrest.

Birmingham Police Officer Truman Fitzgerald, a department spokesperson, said police were trying to clear the stadium at Jackson-Olin after the game and asked both bands to stop playing so people wouldn't linger.

Police said the Jackson-Olin band stopped performing, but that the Minor band director disregarded officers and told his students to keep playing.

9 boys in custody after escaping detention center

PA MORGANTOWN — Nine teenagers who escaped from a detention center in Pennsylvania after overpowering staff and crawling under a fence were captured less than 12 hours later, state police said Monday.

All will be charged with escape and some may face other charges.

Pennsylvania State Police Trooper David Beohm said the first four were taken into custody shortly before 6 a.m. after they went to a residence and knocked on the door. They turned themselves in because they were cold and tired, Beohm said.

The other five were captured

after police received a report of a stolen truck and "a sort of pursuit" took place, Beohm said. Four youths were taken into custody from the vehicle and a fifth was caught in a field a short time later.

Private zoo claims federal giraffe seizure unjustified

LA ETHEL — A private Louisiana zoo said that federal regulators overreached last week when they took away an ailing giraffe.

Local news outlets report that Barn Hill Preserve, which markets close-up encounters with exotic animals, is challenging the decision by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to seize a giraffe named Brazos last Tuesday.

Leaders of the zoo, which also operates a location in Frankford, Del., told local news outlets that the department had "no warrant, no ruling, no judgment and no oversight" when inspectors took the giraffe. Barn Hill's Louisiana location is in Ethel, about 25 miles north of Baton Rouge.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service says inspectors documented "continued failure" to provide adequate veterinary care, "resulting in a state of unrelieved suffering for the identified animal."

Barn Hill said it tried to appeal the decision, but that inspectors showed up too soon.

Probation for cop who put woman in car hit by train

CO DENVER — A former Colorado police officer who put a handcuffed woman in a parked police vehicle that was hit by a freight train, causing the woman to suffer seri-

ous injuries, has avoided a jail sentence and must instead serve 30 months on supervised probation.

Jordan Steinke, 29, was sentenced Friday by Weld County District Court Judge Timothy Kerns, who found her guilty of reckless endangerment and assault for the Sept. 16, 2022, crash near Platteville. Kerns acquitted the former Fort Lupton police officer of criminal attempt to commit manslaughter after her bench trial in July.

Kerns said he had planned to sentence Steinke to jail, but he changed his mind after both prosecutors and defense attorneys sought a probationary sentence, The Denver Post reported.

He ordered Steinke to perform 100 hours of community service. And if she violates the terms of her probation, "I will harken back to my original gut response as to how to address sentencing," Kerns warned.

Low river limits barges as farmers try to move crops

IA DES MOINES — A long stretch of hot, dry weather has left the Mississippi River so low that barge companies are reducing their loads just as Midwest farmers are preparing to harvest crops and send tons of corn and soybeans downriver to the Gulf of Mexico.

The transport restrictions are a headache for barge companies, but even more worrisome for thousands of farmers who have watched drought scorch their fields for much of the summer. Now they will face higher prices to transport what remains of their crops.

About 60% of U.S. grain exports are taken by barge down the Mis-

issippi to New Orleans, where the corn, soybeans and wheat are stored and ultimately transferred to other ships. It's typically an inexpensive, efficient way to transport crops, as a usual group of 15 barges lashed together carries as much cargo as approximately 1,000 trucks.

But as river levels drop, that cost has soared. The cargo rate from St. Louis southward is now up 77% above the three-year average.

Man who disappeared found trapped in truck

ME SANFORD — A man from Maine who was reported missing was found after being trapped for two days in his pickup truck in a muddy, wooded area in New Hampshire, authorities said.

Robert Brown, 65, of Sanford, Maine, drove his wife to work about 15 miles away in Rochester, N.H., on Thursday.

Brown's wife called police early Friday and said she hadn't seen him since then. Investigators said they pinged his cellphone, but it had died.

Brown, who was found Saturday afternoon, had been driving in nearby Dover, N.H., when his vehicle went off an embankment into a wooded area and became stuck in mud, trapping him inside, police said.

Two hunters spotted the truck while they were walking in the woods Saturday afternoon. When rescue crews arrived, they could see tracks going down a hill, leading to the truck, Simmons said. Rescuers removed Brown and took him to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

— From wire reports

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Wainwright gets 200th as Cards blank Brewers

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — With his final season winding down, Adam Wainwright was stuck on 198 wins for nearly three months.

And then in a span of seven days, he found that old form and reached a major milestone.

Wainwright earned his 200th win, pitching seven innings of four-hit ball in a vintage performance as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers 1-0 on Monday night.

“For at least a night I was a real

pitcher out there, the guy that I want to be,” said Wainwright, 42, who plans to retire after the season. “Seven innings, shutout, a couple of hits, got through a couple of tough ABs out there and made adjustments, worked in and out, up and down.”

It was the longest outing this season for Wainwright (5-11), who struck out three and walked two. He has won consecutive starts — both against first-place teams — after going 0-10 with a 10.72 ERA over his previous 11

games between June 24 and Sept. 7.

“That’s as good as we’ve seen,” Cardinals manager Oliver Marmol said. “If you talked to him right before the game, and if he’s being really honest, he was being held up by duct tape before the game started, and for him to go out there and do what he did is highly impressive.”

The right-hander became the 38th pitcher in NL history to reach 200 wins, and the 24th major leaguer to achieve the mile-

stone since 2000.

Wainwright said the feeling was comparable to his emotions while closing out the 2006 World Series as a rookie reliever.

“Tonight, for me, this is tied for first,” he said.

Willson Contreras homered off Freddy Peralta (12-9) in the fourth. Milwaukee lost its second straight, and its magic number to clinch the NL Central remained at seven. The Brewers hold a six-game lead over the Chicago Cubs with 12 to play.

Mullins' 9th-inning homer lifts Orioles over Astros

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Another day, another ninth-inning comeback for the Baltimore Orioles.

Cedric Mullins hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning to rally the Orioles past the Houston Astros 8-7 on Monday night in a matchup of American League division leaders.

The stirring victory came a day after Baltimore scored the tying run in the ninth inning against Tampa Bay and went on to win 5-4 in 11 innings on a sacrifice fly by Mullins.

“Extremely impressed by the grit of our team,” manager Brandon Hyde said. “How tough they are, how we continue to battle.”

Houston led by two entering the ninth before closer Ryan Pressly (3-5) allowed consecutive singles to Ryan O’Hearn and Austin Hays with one out. Mullins then hit his 15th homer into the seats in right field to put the Orioles on top.

“It was devastating,” Astros manager Dusty Baker said. “But you’ve got to get over it. ... That hurt a lot.”

Baltimore moved 2½ games ahead of the second-place Rays.

Houston has lost three of four but maintained a 1½-game lead in the AL West thanks to a fourth straight loss by Texas on Monday night against Boston. Seattle is also 1½ games behind the Astros.

Reds 7, Twins 3: Rookie Connor Phillips pitched three-hit ball for seven innings for his first major league win, Will Benson drove in three runs and host Cincinnati beat Minnesota in a game with postseason implications for both teams.

Cincinnati (79-73) won for the fifth time in seven games and trails Chicago (78-72) by .0003 percentage points as it goes into Tues-

day’s games for the NL’s final wild-card berth, both a half-game behind Arizona (79-72). Miami (78-73) dropped a half-game behind the Reds with a 2-1 loss to the New York Mets,

Minnesota (79-72), nearing its third division title in five years, maintained a seven-game lead over second-place Cleveland in the AL Central with 11 games left.

Phillies 7, Braves 1: Kyle Schwarber hit a 483-foot, two-run homer, and visiting Philadelphia went deep four other times to back Zack Wheeler in a win over Atlanta.

Schwarber’s 45th homer of the season gave the Phillies a six-run lead in the sixth, a drive that cleared the top of the Chop House restaurant in right field at Truist Park. It was the second-farthest ball hit at the home of the Braves and the second-longest homer by Schwarber in his career, 5 feet shy of the ball he hit off Yu Darvish in the NL Championship Series at San Diego last year.

Philadelphia opened a 3½-game lead over Arizona for the top NL wild card.

Red Sox 4, Rangers 2: Rob Refsnyder hit a go-ahead two-run single in the eighth inning and visiting Boston snapped a four-game losing streak by beating playoff-chasing Texas, which lost its fourth in a row.

Texas (82-68), already guaranteed its first winning record since 2016, is tied with Seattle for the American League’s third and final wild-card spot. The Rangers play the Mariners seven times in the season’s last 10 days.

Mets 2, Marlins 1: Jeff McNeil hit a tie-breaking homer leading off the ninth inning and visiting New York knocked Miami out of a playoff position.

The Marlins fell a half-game behind the idle Chicago Cubs for the third and final Na-

tional League wild card. Cincinnati is also a half-game in front of the Marlins after defeating Minnesota on Monday night.

Mariners 5, Athletics 0: Seattle rookie Bryan Woo had six strikeouts in five sharp innings in a successful homecoming, and the visiting Mariners pulled even for the third AL wild card by beating last-place Oakland.

Seattle moved into a tie with skidding Texas for the final American League playoff berth. Both teams are 1½ games behind first-place Houston in the AL West.

Dodgers 8, Tigers 3: J.D. Martinez homered twice off Eduardo Rodriguez and drove in five runs as host Los Angeles rolled over Detroit.

Lance Lynn (12-11), acquired by the Dodgers from the Chicago White Sox days before the Rodriguez deal fell through, gave up three runs over five innings as NL West champion Los Angeles moved closer to clinching a playoff bye and home-field advantage in the Division Series.

White Sox 6, Nationals 1: Mike Clevinger pitched a six-hitter for his third career complete game, and visiting Chicago beat Washington.

Washington was eliminated from postseason contention with the loss.

Padres 11, Rockies 9: Luis Campusano hit a go-ahead three-run home run and Garrett Cooper and Eugy Rosario also connected for host San Diego, which beat Colorado to extend its winning streak to a season-best five games.

Royals 6, Guardians 4: Drew Waters hit a go-ahead double during a two-out rally in the eighth inning, and host Kansas City rallied to beat Cleveland in their series-opening matinee.

Chubb out for season with knee injury

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Nick Chubb has spent several years as the heart and soul of the Cleveland Browns.

There is no player more respected in the locker room. No player more committed on the field.

All of which made the sight of the star running back being carted off in the second quarter of a 26-22 loss to Pittsburgh on Monday night — his left knee shredded, his season over — gut-wrenching.

“It (freaking) hurts,” defensive end Myles Garrett said.

The 27-year-old four-time Pro Bowler has been one of the constants for a franchise trying to establish itself as a perennial contender. His sixth season in the NFL ended on the second

play of the second quarter when Steelers safety Minkah Fitzpatrick came in low for a tackle at the end of a 5-yard run early in the second quarter and delivered a hit to Chubb’s legs. Chubb’s knee buckled underneath him.

After the play, a teammate grabbed Chubb’s hand to try to help him to his feet, and Chubb shook his head while clutching his left knee. He undid his chin strap and rolled over onto his side.

Chubb suffered a major injury to the same knee in 2015 while in college at Georgia — a dislocation with three torn ligaments. Like the previous injury, the one Monday night was difficult to watch, and ESPN declined to show replays of the play where he was hurt.

Chubb remained on the ground for several minutes while teammates gathered in prayer nearby. He eventually left on a cart and was taken to a local hospital as a precautionary measure but was on his way back to Cleveland by the time the Browns were packing up after a 20th straight regular-season loss in Pittsburgh.

Cleveland coach Kevin Stefanski did not have the specifics on the extent of Chubb’s injury but expects him to be out for the remainder of the season.

“We feel, obviously, for Nick,” Stefanski said. “But I know Nick and his teammates know, and you have to move on.”

That won’t be easy, particularly after such a publicly painful injury.

NBA star and Ohio native Le-

Bron James and Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson were among those who expressed support for Chubb on social media.

James posted he was “praying for the absolute best,” with Jackson offering a similar sentiment.

He’s averaged over 1,250 yards rushing a season during his career, his work ethic and humble nature providing a blueprint for the culture Stefanski is trying to imbue in a locker room that hasn’t won consistently in decades.

There isn’t much time to recover. Tennessee visits next Sunday. The Browns will collect themselves and try to do what Chubb would want them to do: rid themselves of any excuses and soldier on.

Watt’s scoop-and-score sends Steelers past Browns

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — T.J. Watt and Alex Highsmith knew what was coming. Maybe the Cleveland Browns should have, too. It’s the same thing that always seems to be coming when they visit Pittsburgh in the regular season.

A loss. This one is painful in multiple ways.

The Steelers star linebackers combined for a scoop-and-score midway through the fourth quarter to pull out an improbable 26-22 victory on Monday night.

The Steelers extended their regular-season home winning streak against their AFC North rivals to 20 and counting in a victory overshadowed by a serious left knee injury to Cleveland star running back Nick Chubb.

The four-time Pro Bowler’s sixth NFL season ended two plays into the second quarter after the knee bent awkwardly when he was hit low by Steelers safety Minkah Fitzpatrick. He went to the hospital as a precau-

tion before returning to Cleveland.

“We feel for Nick as a person,” Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said. “He’s a great football player as we know and an even better person. We will support him every step of the way.”

Even with their leader sidelined, the Browns were protecting a three-point lead and facing second-and-9 at their own 20 with 7:06 remaining when Watt and Highsmith went to work. The two longtime teammates sensed a play-action pass was coming, so they widened their stance a little bit in an effort to get a better attack angle off the edge.

Highsmith — who began the evening with a 30-yard pick-6 on the first offensive snap — blew past Browns left tackle Jedrick Wills and chopped the ball out of DeShaun Watson’s hands as the Cleveland quarterback ran to his right. The Browns’ fourth and final turnover ended up in the hands of Watt, who was able to run untouched to the end zone,

high-stepping in celebration.

“Splash,” Watt said. “I think that’s what we talk about is creating splash as a defense.”

And the Browns went splat, an annual event in Pittsburgh for two decades, save for a breathtaking upset in the first round of the 2020 playoffs.

Cleveland hoped that victory would serve as the start of something. Instead, it’s been more of the same. The Browns have failed to reach the postseason each of the last two years and now must find a way forward without one of their unquestioned leaders.

Jerome Ford, Chubb’s replacement, ran for 106 yards and caught a touchdown pass, but Cleveland’s miscues cost it a chance to win at Pittsburgh in the regular season for the first time since 2003.

Watson completed 22 of 40 for 235 yards with a touchdown and an interception. He was also flagged twice for unsportsmanlike conduct for grabbing the facemask of a Steeler while run-

ning. The penalties cut short a pair of promising drives.

The Browns were penalized eight times for 81 yards and turned it over four times, two of which ended with a member of one of the best edge-rusher tandems in the NFL celebrating in the end zone.

The Steelers avoided their first 0-2 start since 2019 even though their offense continued to sputter. Kenny Pickett connected on 15 of 30 passes for 222 yards, a third of them coming on a 71-yard catch-and-run touchdown by George Pickens in the second quarter that briefly brought the Acrisure Stadium crowd to life.

Pittsburgh’s offense did next to nothing for most of the second half, leading to chants from the crowd to fire coordinator Matt Canada.

Highsmith’s bull rush off the edge and Watt’s scoop-and-score bailed the Steelers out.

“We’re not going to apologize for winning,” Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin said.

Saints' defense shuts down Young, Panthers

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Tony Jones Jr. is making the most of his elevation from the Saints' practice squad, while Chris Olave continues to make plays for unbeaten New Orleans.

Jones ran for two touchdowns, rookie Blake Grupe kicked two field goals and the Saints beat the Carolina Panthers 20-17 on Monday night, improving to 2-0 for the first time since 2013.

Jones replaced the injured Jamaal Williams late in the first half and ran for 34 yards on 12 carries.

"It was awesome," Saints coach Dennis Allen said. "He was great. We ran the ball effectively. I think we blocked it up front and he made the right cuts. You know, two touchdowns on the game. It was big for him and big for us."

The Saints' defense did the rest, holding Panthers rookie Bryce Young to 153 yards passing in his home debut. New Or-

leans limited Carolina (0-2) to 239 yards and sacked Young, the top overall pick in the draft, four times.

"They play hard and very physical," Young said. "They know exactly where they are supposed to be, and the play well together. Obviously we didn't do enough offensively. ... Their defense definitely got the best of us."

The Saints nearly made it two full games without allowing a touchdown before giving up a 3-yard scoring toss from Young to Adam Thielen with 1:16 left in the game. Young's 2-point conversion pass to Thielen got the Panthers within three, but the Saints recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock.

Derek Carr, who threw for 305 yards in the Saints' Week 1 win over Tennessee, struggled early. He had a badly underthrown interception into triple coverage and missed several other open receivers as the

Saints limped into the locker room at halftime with a 6-3 lead.

But Carr improved in the second half.

He found Olave, who made the play of the game when hauled in a diving one-handed grab along the left sideline late in the third quarter for a 42-yard gain. That set up Jones' 2-yard touchdown run to give the Saints a 13-6 lead.

"When things aren't quite going exactly the way you want it to, you're just one explosive play away from making something happen," Allen said.

Olave had another short grab leading to Jones' second TD with about three minutes to play. He finished with six catches for 86 yards.

Carr finished with 228 yards passing and the one pick.

"There's so much that we have to clean up," Carr said, "but it feels good to get to do it when we're 2-0."

The Saints pulled even with

unbeaten Atlanta and Tampa Bay atop the NFC South.

Young spent a good portion of the night under pressure as the offensive line struggled. Carolina couldn't get much going in the running game; Miles Sanders was limited to 43 yards rushing.

The Panthers' offensive night was marred by miscues, penalties and mental errors.

In the third quarter, the Panthers brought in Young's backup, Andy Dalton, presumably to run a quarterback sneak on fourth-and-inches. But before Dalton could take his first snap of the season, guard Cade Mays jumped offside. Eddy Pineiro bailed out the offense with a 54-yard field goal, one of his three on the night.

The Panthers had a chance to tie the game just before halftime while facing third-and-6 at the Saints 18, but Carl Granderson sacked Young and forced a fumble that Paulson Adaebo recovered.

Blackburn received death threats for hit on Hunter

Associated Press

DENVER — Colorado State coach Jay Norvell said Monday that senior safety Henry Blackburn has been receiving death threats since his late hit that hospitalized Colorado two-way star Travis Hunter.

Blackburn drew an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty Saturday night for the blow he delivered to Hunter's midsection on a deep pass in the first quarter of the Rocky Mountain Showdown. It was one of 17 penalties the Rams committed in their 43-35 loss in double overtime to Deion Sanders and the Buffaloes in front of a capacity crowd.

Norvell said Blackburn, who's from Boulder, and his family had their address posted on social media. He added that police have been involved due to the serious nature of the threats.

"It's sad that that's the state of the world we live in. It's a football game. Let's not make it more than that," Norvell said during his news conference. "We don't want anyone to get hurt. We don't coach that kind of football. I've been talking to Henry about that — I talked to him last night and I talked

to him today.

"This kid should be worried about going to school and getting ready to play football. He shouldn't be worried about that kind of nonsense."

Sanders said after the game that the 19th-ranked Buffaloes could be without Hunter for several weeks. That means Hunter will miss the game against No. 10 Oregon in Eugene on Saturday and the one at home against No. 5 Southern Cal on Sept. 30.

"We will do what we must to take care of him," Sanders said. "We've got to make sure he is OK. His health is more important."

It's a blow to the Buffaloes as Hunter rarely leaves the field. He's put himself into the Heisman Trophy discussion by being a lockdown cornerback and a dependable receiver. Hunter has an interception and nine tackles on defense this season. He's also caught 16 passes for 213 yards from quarterback Shedeur Sanders.

Hunter tried to continue to play after the hit but was ruled out in the second half and was taken to a hospital.

Norvell reviewed the play and concluded

that "it's a play that happens sometimes."

"When you throw a deep ball and you've got a guy playing middle safety, he's got to react on the boundary and he's going full speed, it was a bang-bang type of a play," Norvell said. "It's certainly not something that we teach or coach. It happens in football sometimes. Seems to have been a lot of attention about that play, but it's a play that happens."

Norvell added: "I hope Travis gets healthy and gets back out there. We certainly don't want to see anybody get hurt."

Shedeur Sanders took exception to the blow by Blackburn along the Colorado sideline and confronted Blackburn.

"When Travis went down, it made me feel some type of way honestly. You took one of my brothers on offense, so it really hurt me," said Shedeur Sanders, who led the Buffaloes on a game-tying 98-yard touchdown drive in the final minute of regulation and threw for touchdowns in both overtimes. "Knowing the work he put in and everything just leading up to the game and knowing you could always count on him in those moments."