

## Russian strikes damage port, grain silo

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — A Russian drone and missile strike near Odesa damaged infrastructure, a grain silo and an abandoned hotel and injured one person in the Black Sea port city as attacks elsewhere in Ukraine killed five civilians and wounded 13 in the past day, Ukrainian officials said Monday.

Ukraine's air force reported downing all Russian drones launched overnight, but one of 12 Kalibr missiles and two P-800 Oniks cruise missiles apparently made it past air defenses the day after the war in Ukraine entered its 20th month.

Russia has continuously targeted port and grain storage facilities in Odesa since pulling out of a wartime deal that allowed Ukrainian grain exports to countries facing the threat of hunger. The attacks have destroyed silos, warehouses, oil terminals and other infrastructure critical for storage and shipping.

The Russian Defense Ministry said long-range missiles and drones were used to strike facilities that it alleged had housed foreign mercenaries and trained saboteurs. The ministry didn't name locations or pro-

vide other specifics to support its claim. It also said it downed several Ukrainian drones.

The attacks came as independent U.N.-backed human rights experts said they found new evidence of war crimes committed by Russian forces and as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed the arrival of the first Abrams tanks sent by the U.S.

The U.N. Independent Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine said it found evidence of crimes committed by both sides in the war, but far more by Russians, including instances of torture, some of it fatal, and rape of women as old as 83. It said it was also looking into allegations that Russian forces committed genocide.

Zelenskyy thanked allies on Telegram for their support in announcing the anticipated arrival of the tanks. He didn't say how many tanks had arrived, but the U.S. has said it was sending 31 tanks.

In other fighting, Russian forces also dropped bombs and launched six heavy artillery strikes on southern Ukraine's Kherson region, destroying a school and factory and damaging residential buildings. Three

of the deaths reported by the Ukrainian president's office were in the region: two people were killed and two others were injured by bombs that hit the city of Beryslav. A man was killed in the neighboring village of Llove.

In eastern Ukraine, Russians attacked residential areas of 10 cities and villages in the Donetsk region, killing two people in the village of Zarichne, according to the presidential office.

During fighting in southeast Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, the Russian army carried out five airstrikes on Orikhiv, a small city, and its surrounding area.

The Russian Defense Ministry said its air defenses downed three Ukrainian drones over the Kursk region of Russia and three others over the Bryansk region early Monday. It also reported that three drones were shot down over the Belgorod region.

Kursk Gov. Roman Starovoi said a downed drone over the center of the city of Kursk damaged the roof of an administrative building and several private houses and shattered windows in an apartment building. Starovoi said there were no injuries.

## American wounded in Ukraine treated at Landstuhl

**BY JENNIFER H. SVAN**

*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A former Marine who joined the fight against the Russians in Ukraine seven months after he was freed from Russian captivity in a prisoner swap created quite a stir this summer, when news broke that he was being treated for war wounds at a U.S. military hospital in Germany.

Trevor Reed may be the most high-profile of the American volunteers in the Russia-Ukraine conflict to become a patient at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, but he wasn't the first and likely won't be the last.

The Defense Department's largest hospital overseas treated its first American casualty from the battlefield in Ukraine in February, hospital spokesman Marcy Sanchez said Monday.

And its first Ukrainian patient from the war, which began with a full-scale Russian invasion Feb. 24, 2022, was seen in November, Sanchez said.

The New York Times reported Saturday that LRMC had admitted a total of 14 people wounded in the war, including Americans. On Monday, Sanchez revised that number up to 18.

Reed's decision to go to Ukraine in November 2022 and

risk being recaptured by troops of the country that had wrongfully imprisoned him for almost three years drew consternation from the U.S. government, which had taken great pains to secure his release, media reports said.

In late July, Reed's name resurfaced in news stories saying that he was being treated at LRMC for injuries from a land mine explosion. He was expected to make a full recovery, ABC News reported, citing two sources.

Members of the Ukrainian armed forces have been treated there, as well as volunteers from the United States and other allied countries, Sanchez

said.

Stars and Stripes first reported in April that the hospital had started treating Ukrainian fighters.

In June 2022, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin authorized LRMC to begin treating wounded Ukrainian forces, up to 18 at a time, Sanchez said.

The approval allows the hospital to provide the same level of care as it does to active-duty U.S. troops injured in combat.

He couldn't say immediately how many of those 18 patients were American or whether any Americans are being treated now at the 65-bed, Level II trauma center.

# USS Ronald Reagan late leaving Japan

By ALEX WILSON  
and HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan is late returning to its routine patrol, having missed five planned departure dates in the past week, according to the city of Yokosuka.

The Navy notified Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Ronald Reagan would leave

the U.S. 7th Fleet's homeport on Sept. 18, but that plan was quickly scrapped, a spokesman for the city's Military Base Policy Division said by phone Wednesday.

Since then, the Navy has rescheduled and missed at least five departure dates for the Ronald Reagan, according to city news releases. The ship, centerpiece of the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group, missed the

latest scheduled departure at 10 a.m. Monday, the city said that day.

Seventh Fleet spokeswoman Lt. Kristina Wiedemann, in a phone call with Stars and Stripes on Monday, declined to comment on the cause of the ship's delayed departure or speak to a possible departure date.

The Navy rarely discusses ship movements publicly but

routinely notifies the Japanese government when a nuclear-powered vessel such as the Ronald Reagan arrives or departs Yokosuka city on Tokyo Bay, the city spokesman told Stars and Stripes.

The city announces that information as matter of public interest, the spokesman said. The Navy does not notify Japan of the arrival or departure of its submarines.

## US and South Korean navies hunt subs during drills

By DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — Nine U.S. and South Korean navy vessels began three days of live-fire and antisubmarine exercises Monday in the Sea of Japan, or East Sea, according to the South Korean military.

The maritime warfare exercise answers North Korean threats, including the regime's failed satellite launch on Aug. 24 and the unveiling of a new submarine on Sept. 6, the Ministry of National Defense said in a news release.

"These drills serve as momentum so that the [South Korea] and U.S. naval forces can

effectively deter and respond to North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile threats ...," South Korean Rear Adm. Kim Inho said in the release.

U.S. ships participating in the training include the guided-missile cruiser USS Robert Smalls and the guided-missile destroyer USS Shoup, according to the release. South Korean destroyers in the exercise include the ROKS Yulgok Yi I, which is equipped with the Aegis missile-defense system, and the ROKS Dae Jo-yeong.

Two unnamed South Korean submarines and two maritime patrol aircraft from both countries are also participating in

the exercise, the release said.

A South Korean navy headquarters officer declined by phone Monday to identify the South Korean submarines and the remaining three vessels in the exercise, citing operational security concerns.

South Korean officials regularly speak to the media on the customary condition of anonymity.

North Korea failed to launch what it claimed was a spy satellite in August, the country's second attempt since May. The rocket lost thrust during flight and fell into the Yellow Sea, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

The communist regime also unveiled a new "tactical nuclear attack" submarine, one reportedly capable of carrying nuclear weapons, on Sept. 6, one of many projects North Korea is developing to boost its underwater arsenal, KCNA reported Sept. 8.

The diesel-powered submarine, a modified Cold War-era vessel, was obtained from China in the 1970s, according to Reuters news agency on Sept. 8.

It quoted South Korean military sources saying the North may be exaggerating the submarine's capabilities.

This week's naval drill is the second this month.

## US Space Force is expanding its footprint in Japan

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — The U.S. Space Force is expanding its presence in Japan with the transfer of an Army missile-tracking unit and possibly establishing a headquarters in the allied country, the Space Force commander told reporters Monday.

"Space is critical to modern warfare," Gen. Chance Saltzman, chief of space operations, said during a press conference

at the New Sanno Hotel.

The number of personnel and type of facilities needed to establish a headquarters in Japan are being assessed, he said.

Potential locations in western Tokyo include Fuchu Air Base, home of Japan's Space Operations Group and Yokota Air Base, home of U.S. Forces Japan and Japan Air Defense Command, Saltzman said.

"What are the tasks that we want the Guardians to accom-

plish and where is the best place for them to do that?" he asked.

Saltzman, who took command of the Space Force in November, visited Fuchu on Friday and Misawa Air Base in northeastern Japan on Saturday, Col. Greg Hignite, spokesman for U.S. Forces Japan, said in a text Monday.

Misawa is home to the Joint Tactical Ground Station, Delta Detachment, an element of the

Army's 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade; its mission is to provide "in-theater missile warning," according to Misawa's website.

"If we went up there today you would see Space Force Guardians working side-by-side with the soldiers," Saltzman said.

The detachment of about 25 personnel will transfer to the Space Force on Sunday, he said.

# Writers guild, studios reach tentative pact

Associated Press

Union leaders and Hollywood studios reached a tentative agreement Sunday to end a historic screenwriters strike after nearly five months, though no deal is yet in the works for striking actors.

The Writers Guild of America announced the deal in a joint statement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, the group that represents studios, streaming services and production companies in negotiations.

“WGA has reached a tentative agreement with the AMPTP,” the guild said in an email to members. “This was made possible by the enduring solidarity of WGA members and extraordinary support of our union siblings who joined us on the picket lines for over 146 days.”

The three-year contract agreement—settled on after five marathon days of renewed talks by WGA and AMPTP negotiators

that was joined at times by studio executives — must be approved by the guild’s board and members before the strike officially ends.

In a longer message from the guild shared by members on social media, the writers were told the strike is not over and no one was to return to work until hearing otherwise, but picketing is to be suspended immediately.

The terms of the deal were not immediately announced.

The tentative deal to end the last writers strike, in 2008, was approved by more than 90% of members.

The agreement comes just five days before the strike would’ve become the longest in the guild’s history, and the longest Hollywood strike more than 70 years.

As a result of the agreement, nightly network shows including NBC’s “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” and ABC’s “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” could return to the air within days.

But as writers prepare to potentially crack open their laptops again, it’s far from back to business as usual in Hollywood, as talks have not yet resumed between studios and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Crew members left with no work by the stoppage will remain unemployed for now.

“SAG-AFTRA congratulates the WGA on reaching a tentative agreement with the AMPTP after 146 days of incredible strength, resiliency and solidarity on the picket lines,” the actors union said in a statement. “While we look forward to reviewing the WGA and AMPTP’s tentative agreement, we remain committed to achieving the necessary terms for our members.”

The statement said the guild continues “to urge the studio and streamer CEOs and the AMPTP to return to the table and make the fair deal that our members de-

serve and demand.”

The proposed solution to the writers strike came after talks resumed on Wednesday for the first time in a month. Chief executives including Bob Iger of Disney, Ted Sarandos of Netflix, David Zaslav of Warner Bros. Discovery and Donna Langley of NBCUniversal reportedly took part in the negotiations directly.

It was reached without the intervention of federal mediators or other government officials, which had been necessary in previous strikes.

About 11,500 members of the Writers Guild of America walked off the job May 2 over issues of pay, the size of writing staffs on shows and the use of artificial intelligence in the creation of scripts. Actors, who joined the writers on strike in July, have their own issues but there have been no discussions about resuming negotiations with their union yet.

## Administration announces \$1.4B to improve rail safety

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration announced Monday that it has awarded more than \$1.4 billion to projects that improve railway safety and boost capacity, with much of the money coming from the 2021 infrastructure law.

“These projects will make American rail safer, more reliable, and more resilient, delivering tangible benefits to dozens of communities where railroads are located, and strengthening supply chains for the entire country,” Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a statement.

The money is funding 70 projects in 35 states and Washington, D.C. Railroad safety has become a key concern nationwide ever since a train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed and caught fire in East Palestine, Ohio, in

February.

President Joe Biden has ordered federal agencies to hold the train’s operator Norfolk Southern accountable for the crash, but a package of proposed rail safety reforms has stalled in the Senate where the bill is still awaiting a vote. The White House is also saying that a possible government shutdown because of House Republicans would undermine railway safety.

The projects include track upgrades and bridge repairs, in addition to improving the connectivity among railways and making routes less vulnerable to extreme weather. Among them is \$178.4 million to restore passenger service in parts of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi along the Gulf of Mexico for the first time since Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005.

## US is set to allow Israelis into country without visa

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is poised to admit Israel this week into an exclusive club that will allow its citizens to travel to the United States without a U.S. visa despite Washington’s ongoing concerns about the Israeli government’s treatment of Palestinian Americans.

U.S. officials say an announcement of Israel’s entry into the Visa Waiver Program is planned for late in the week, just before the end of the federal budget year on Saturday, which is the deadline for Israel’s admission without having to requalify for eligibility next year.

The Department of Homeland Security administers the program, which currently allows citizens of 40 mostly European and Asian countries to travel to the U.S. for three months without vi-

sas.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas is set to make the announcement Thursday, shortly after receiving a recommendation from Secretary of State Antony Blinken that Israel be admitted, according to five officials familiar with the matter who spoke Sunday on condition of anonymity because the decision has not yet been publicly announced. Blinken’s recommendation is expected to be delivered no later than Tuesday, the officials said, and the final announcement will come just eight days after President Joe Biden met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly.

The issue has been a subject of intense negotiation and debate for months.



# Many flee Nagorno-Karabakh as Azerbaijan routs Armenians

Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia — Thousands of Armenians streamed out of Nagorno-Karabakh after the Azerbaijani military reclaimed full control of the breakaway region while Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Azerbaijan on Monday in a show of support to its ally.

The Azerbaijani military routed Armenian forces in a 24-hour blitz last week, forcing the separatist authorities to agree to lay down weapons and start talks on Nagorno-Karabakh's "reintegration" into Azerbaijan after three decades of separatist rule.

A second round of talks between Azerbaijani officials and separatist representatives began in Khojaly on Tuesday following the opening meeting last week.

While Azerbaijan pledged to respect the rights of ethnic Armenians in the region and restore supplies after a 10-month blockade, many local residents feared reprisals and said they were planning to leave for Armenia.

The Armenian government said 4,850 Nagorno-Karabakh residents had fled to Armenia as of midday Monday.

"It was a nightmare. There are no words to describe. The village was heavily shelled. Almost no one is left in the village," said one of the evacuees who spoke to The Associated Press in the Armenian city of Kornidzor and refused to give her name for security reasons.

Moscow said Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh were assisting the evacuation.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said Monday that two of its

soldiers were killed a day earlier when a military truck hit a land mine. It didn't name the area where the explosion occurred.

In an address to the nation Sunday, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said his government was working with international partners to protect the rights and security of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"If these efforts do not produce concrete results, the government will welcome our sisters and brothers from Nagorno-Karabakh in the Republic of Armenia with every care," he said.

Demonstrators demanding Pashinyan's resignation continued blocking the Armenian capital's main avenues Monday, clashing occasionally with police.

# Kosovo searches for Serb gunmen

Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo — Kosovo on Monday observed a day of mourning for the Kosovo Albanian police officer killed by Serb gunmen who then barricaded themselves in an Orthodox monastery in a siege that further raised tensions as the two wartime foes seek to normalize ties.

Flags were at half-staff on all public buildings in the capital, Pristina, to mourn Afrim Bunjaku. In the north, where most of Kosovo's ethnic Serb minority lives in four municipalities around Mitrovica, police were patrolling in search of the armed assailants after they left the monastery.

About 30 gunmen dressed in combat uniforms were involved in the attack, but it is not clear who they are or who is supporting them. Pristina has accused Belgrade of backing the "terrorists," an accusation Serbia has denied, saying they are Serbs from Kosovo protesting the government there.

The masked gunmen opened fire on a police patrol at about 3 a.m. Sunday in Banjska, a village located 35 miles north of Pristina, killing Bunjaku and injuring another officer. They then used an armored vehicle to break down the gates to Banjska Monastery, where they remained in a standoff with Kosovo police until evening.

The two sides exchanged gunfire sporadically until darkness fell, when the assailants escaped from the monastery on foot.

Three of the attackers were killed and two injured.

# Newsom signs law for Calif. schools to have gender-neutral bathrooms

Los Angeles Times

All California schools will be required to provide gender-neutral bathrooms under a law signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Saturday.

The new legislation expands a decade-old law that requires K-12 schools to allow students to use the bathroom that aligns with their gender identity.

The bill, which explicitly requires an additional gender-neutral option, was inspired by an attempt by Chino Valley Unified to restrict transgender students' access to certain bathrooms and sports facilities.

The law is part of a package of bills aiming to protect LGBTQ+ youth and comes amid proliferating culture wars in districts

with conservative-controlled school boards, whose focus has become "parental rights" and student gender identity.

"These measures will help protect vulnerable youth, promote acceptance and create more supportive environments in our schools and communities," Newsom said in a statement, adding that California is "proud" to have among the "most robust" LGBTQ+ rights laws in the nation.

In 2021, the Chino Valley school board introduced a resolution that would have restricted transgender students' use of the restrooms and locker rooms of their choice.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond

warned the school district then that the resolution was unlawful. The proposal failed but was cited as the impetus for the bill signed Saturday, which was sponsored by Thurmond and state Sen. Josh Newsom, D-Fullerton, was author of it.

"While states across the nation are passing legislation that puts LGBTQ+ people and especially youth at risk, California is sending a clear message today — hate-filled attacks will not be tolerated and we will continue protecting and ensuring the safety of all members of the LGBTQ+ community," Equality California Executive Director Tony Hoang said in a statement, noting "growing attacks from far-right extremists."

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Teen saved dangling from bridge after stunt

**CA** FORESTHILL — A 19-year-old was rescued after a stunt went wrong and left him dangling by a rope from California's tallest bridge, authorities said.

Deputies responding Monday evening to the Foresthill Bridge northeast of Sacramento determined the teen and his 17-year-old friend had been shooting video of him swinging from the steel span, the Placer County Sheriff's Office said.

Cal Fire's Technical Rescue Team assisted sheriff's deputies in pulling the teen to safety. He was not injured.

Both teens, who were not identified, were cited for trespassing, officials said.

## Sheriff denies report her office can't find guns

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia's sheriff on Thursday disputed a city controller report that determined that the sheriff's office couldn't account for 185 guns the controller's office has said are missing.

Sheriff Rochelle Bilal said at a news conference that the controller's recently released report contained "misleading statements," and she questioned the controller's review.

Acting City Controller Charles Edacheril said his office conducted the review as a follow-up to a 2020 report that found the sheriff's office couldn't account for more than 200 weapons. That report stated the office had haphazard recordkeeping practices and unclear procedures regarding the

handling of guns.

Bilal, who took office in 2020, said earlier this year that her department had accounted for all but 20 of the guns cited in the 2020 report.

## State OKs solar energy project close to capital

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota officials on Thursday approved plans for the expansion of a solar energy project that a utility said will be one of the largest in the country, with the capability of powering more than 150,000 homes.

The state Public Utilities Commission approved Xcel Energy's expansion of the Sherco Solar project, adding a 250-megawatt array to a 460-megawatt array now under construction. The utility said all phases of the project will be finished by 2025.

The expansion will cost about \$406 million, bringing Xcel's total investment to more than \$1 billion, the utility said. The 710-megawatt project will be enough to power over 150,000 homes annually.

The solar generation will be near an existing coal-fired plant in Becker, Minn., northwest of Minneapolis and St. Paul. When completed, the new power will replace electricity generated by a coal-fired plant set to be closed later this year.

## DNR backs no set wolf population goal

**WI** MADISON — Wisconsin wildlife officials defended their decision not to set a hard cap on the state's wolf population in their new management plan in front

of a Republican-controlled legislative committee Thursday, saying a firm limit doesn't reflect the complexities of wolf management.

Randy Johnson, the Department of Natural Resources' large carnivore specialist, told the state Senate's sporting heritage committee that a lack of a hard limit gives the agency more flexibility to manage the species, allows local packs to fluctuate and gives the population a better chance at maintaining wolf abundance for years to come.

His remarks came during a hearing on a Republican bill that would force the DNR to set a firm numeric goal in the new plan.

Wolf population levels have been one of the most contentious outdoor issues Wisconsin has faced in the last 30 years.

Farmers complain about wolf attacks on their livestock while hunters are eager to kill them. Animal rights advocates insist the population is too fragile to support hunting.

## University frat sued over hazing injury

**AL** TUSCALOOSA — A student and his parents have filed a lawsuit against a University of Alabama fraternity, saying he suffered a traumatic brain injury while being hazed as a fraternity pledge earlier this year.

The lawsuit accuses Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and others associated with it of fraud, negligence and assault and battery. The lawsuit was filed by the teen, referred to as H.B. in the filing because he is a minor; and his parents, who live

in Texas.

The lawsuit says H.B. was repeatedly punched, sprayed with a water hose, told to yell a racial slur at a nearby Black student and hit in the head with a basketball, which caused him to lose consciousness, see stars and suffer a traumatic brain injury.

The student left the fraternity house on his own, but later went to a hospital emergency room. The lawsuit says he has a diagnosis of traumatic brain injury and post-concussive syndrome.

## All students hurt in bus crash expected to be OK

**NY** FARMINGDALE — All the high school students who were injured in an upstate New York charter bus crash on the way to a band camp are expected to recover, according to their school superintendent.

The bus, one of six carrying students from Farmingdale High School on Long Island, veered off Interstate 84 and rolled over in the center median Thursday in Wawayanda, about 45 miles northwest of New York City. Two adults died and other passengers were seriously injured.

Paul Defendini, superintendent of Farmingdale schools, said in a statement Saturday that some of the injured students were still struggling but all are expected to recover, Newsday reported. The two adults who died were band director Gina Pellettiere, 43, of Massapequa, and Beatrice Ferrari, 77, of Farmingdale, a retired teacher who was serving as a chaperone on the trip.

— From wire reports

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# Dolphins wallop Broncos by 50 points

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — De'Von Achane could hear the crowd at Hard Rock Stadium chanting "Three more points!" on Miami's final drive. The Dolphins had the ball inside the Denver Broncos' 30 with less than a minute left, and they were three points shy of breaking the NFL's single-game scoring record.

Instead of sending out his kicker for a potential record-setting field goal, Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel elected to take a knee and run out the clock.

"It felt like chasing points and chasing a record — that's not what we came to the game to do," McDaniel said.

They almost got there anyway. The Dolphins scored the most points in a game by an NFL team since 1966, overwhelming the Broncos 70-20 on Sunday behind the rookie speedster Achane's 203 yards rushing and Tua Tagovailoa's no-look shovel-pass TD.

The Dolphins set a franchise

record for scoring and finished two points shy of the NFL's regular-season record — set in 1966 when Washington scored 72 points against the Giants. They are the fourth team in NFL history to score at least 70 points in a regular-season or playoff game.

Many of Miami's starters, including Tagovailoa and star receiver Tyreek Hill, were pulled from the game early in the fourth quarter.

Achane caught a 10-yard TD pass from Tagovailoa — the quarterback's fourth TD — in the fourth, and Jason Sanders converted the extra point that made it 56-13 and broke Miami's franchise scoring record of 55 set against St. Louis on Nov. 24, 1977.

"Seventy points is crazy," said Achane, who combined with veteran running back Raheem Mostert for eight touchdowns. "That's like video game-type stuff."

Hill caught a 54-yard touchdown pass on Miami's opening

drive en route to 157 yards receiving on nine catches.

Miami scored touchdowns on eight of nine drives before Mike White replaced Tagovailoa in the fourth. Mostert had his second straight multiple-touchdown game with three rushing TDs and a TD catch.

"To be able to put up 70 points, I think that is going to put a lot of teams on notice that we're nothing to play with," Mostert said. "We're that team, just to put it bluntly."

Tagovailoa found a wide-open Hill on the Dolphins' third play of the game for the duo's fourth touchdown connection of the season. Hill had 9.7 yards of separation from the nearest Broncos defender when the pass arrived, according to NFL NextGen stats.

Tagovailoa, the NFL's leading passer, looked to his left then flipped a 4-yard pass to Achane, which gave Miami a 21-7 lead in the second. Tagovailoa complet-

ed each of his first 17 pass attempts.

"Never done that before in a game," Tagovailoa said of his no-look shovel pass. "When I did it in practice, everyone was like, 'Oh, that was super cool. You've got to do that in the game,' so that's what I did."

Tagovailoa's first incompletion came with 9:44 left in the third when he slightly underthrew Hill. He finished one completion shy of Miami's franchise record, which was set by Ryan Tannehill in 2015 when he completed 18 consecutive passes over a two-game span.

Achane averaged 11.3 yards on 18 carries and had an electric 67-yard touchdown run in the fourth that capped Miami's scoring at 70. He also had a physical 8-yard rushing TD in the first that made it 14-0.

Russell Wilson started a season 0-3 for the first time in his career as Denver simply could not keep pace with Miami's scoring.

## Love rallies Packers from 17 points down to top Saints

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Jordan Love celebrated his first career start at Lambeau Field by producing the type of comeback his four-time MVP predecessor orchestrated so often.

Love rallied Green Bay from a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit after New Orleans lost quarterback Derek Carr to a shoulder injury, and the Packers stunned New Orleans 18-17 on Sunday.

"It's always about how the game ends," said Love, who went 22-for-44 for 259 yards with one touchdown pass, a TD run and an interception. "It felt great at the end. That's all I can say."

This was Love's fourth start overall and first at home. The 2020 first-round pick spent the last three seasons backing up Aaron Rodgers, who's now with the New York Jets and is out for the season with a torn Achilles tendon.

The Packers (2-1) scored 18 points in the final 11 minutes to win their 11th consecutive home opener, the NFL's longest active streak. They took the lead on Love's 8-yard pass to

Romeo Doubs in the right corner of the end zone with 2:56 left.

**Chiefs 41, Bears 10:** Patrick Mahomes threw for 272 yards and three touchdowns, Travis Kelce hauled in one of them to the delight of Taylor Swift and host Kansas City beat Chicago.

**Steelers 23, Raiders 18:** Kenny Pickett passed for 235 yards and two touchdowns in an encouraging performance for Pittsburgh.

**Browns 27, Titans 3:** Myles Garrett sacked Ryan Tannehill 3½ times and fronted a Cleveland defense that limited visiting Tennessee to 94 yards.

**Texans 37, Jaguars 17:** Fullback Andrew Beck muffed a kickoff, picked up the ball and then broke five tackles during an 85-yard return for a touchdown — one of several special teams gaffes by Jacksonville — and visiting Houston gave coach DeMeco Ryans his first victory.

**Seahawks 37, Panthers 27:** Kenneth Walker III rushed for 97 yards and two second-half touchdowns, Jason Myers kicked five field goals and host Seattle beat Carolina.

**Bills 37, Commanders 3:** Josh Allen threw for a touchdown and ran for another, and visiting Buffalo's defense forced five turnovers by overmatched Washington.

**Patriots 15, Jets 10:** Mac Jones threw a touchdown pass, Matt Judon had a late safety and visiting New England extended its winning streak over New York to 15 games.

**Lions 20, Falcons 6:** Jared Goff threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to tight end Sam LaPorta early in the second quarter and host Detroit beat Atlanta.

**Colts 22, Ravens 19 (OT):** Matt Gay capped a terrific day of kicking with a 53-yard field goal in overtime and visiting Indianapolis beat Baltimore.

**Chargers 28, Vikings 24:** Justin Herbert passed for 405 yards and three touchdowns, and visiting Los Angeles kept Kirk Cousins and Minnesota out of the end zone twice in the last three minutes.

**Cardinals 28, Cowboys 16:** Joshua Dobbs threw for a touchdown, James Conner and Rondale Moore ran for scores and host Arizona stunned mistake-prone Dallas.



# Texas win sends Byron to next round

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — William Byron got a milestone victory for Rick Hendrick while advancing into the round of eight of the NASCAR Cup playoffs.

Bubba Wallace felt like he let one get away.

Byron took the lead for the first time right after the final restart with six laps left Sunday at Texas, staying in front after going underneath Wallace and Chase Briscoe, to win the opener of the second round of the playoffs and get the 300th victory for Hendrick Motorsports.

"I choked ... I had my worst restart," said Wallace, who after just sneaking into the round of 12 started from the pole and led a career-high 111 laps. "This one is going to sting for a little bit."

The top five finishers were all playoff contenders, with Ross Chastain second, ahead of Wallace, Christopher Bell and Denny Hamlin. Retiring driver Kevin Harvick was sixth and playoff driver Brad Keselowski seventh.

"We've just been kind of steady Eddie through the first three

or four races and we haven't shown any flashes, but today I thought we had a good car if we could have just get to the front," Byron said. "At the end there we were really fast."

Byron finished 1.863 seconds ahead of Chastain for his sixth win of the season, the most in the Cup series. He maintained the points lead he had starting the second round.

Hamlin, Chris Buescher, Bell, Martin Truex Jr., Chastain, Keselowski and Kyle Larson round out the top eight of the playoff standings behind Byron. Wallace moved up three spots to ninth, still one below the cutoff line when this three-race round is done, with Tyler Reddick, Ryan Blaney and Kyle Busch behind him.

There are two more races in the round of 12, at Talladega next weekend and then the Roval at Charlotte.

After an earlier restart with 20 laps to go in the 267-lap race, when Larson and Wallace hadn't taken fresh tires, they were side-by-side going into Turn 1 when Larson got loose on the inside. Larson's car went up

the track and slammed hard into the wall to end his day, but didn't make contact with Wallace.

But there was still one more restart after six cars got caught up in an accident in the back of the field, including playoff contenders Blaney and Reddick, last year's winner at Texas.

That is what set up the 25-year-old Byron in the No. 24 Chevrolet, instead of Larson, getting the milestone victory for Hendrick. It was Byron's 10th career win.

Byron said he wasn't sure he could put into words what it meant to get No. 300, expressing his thanks to "Mr. Hendrick for his investment in me, and telling me at 17 years old that he was going to take me to Cup racing. So just appreciate everything he's done for me. This is awesome."

Denny Hamlin was racing with damage to his right side after being hit by Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Ty Gibbs on pit road in the first stage.

"Once we got the damage, (the car) just wasn't as fast as it was before," Hamlin said. "Still, considering how much damage it had, it was a top-three car. A

bunch of carnage happened there in the end, and we avoided it, so we are in a better spot than when we entered."

## Busch backed out

Kyle Busch knew something was wrong with his car when trying to get to the end of first stage. The playoff contender didn't make it that far, with No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet getting loose and slamming hard into the outside wall in Turn 1 before coming down to the inside of the track.

"I felt like I had a flat right front (tire), and I was going to come to pit road. I second-guessed it, and said 'I don't think so, man. It's just something's wrong. Something's not right, but it's not a flat,'" Busch said. "And just all on its own, just turned into the bottom of the race track in Turn 1 and it just swapped ends on me. That's the rear, not the front, not having grip."

Busch had the car in reverse, backing down the entire backstretch, through the third and fourth turns all the way to his pit stall.

# Colorado out of rankings; 6 teams get first-place votes

Associated Press

Colorado and Deion Sanders fell out of The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday after a resounding loss in one of the weekend's showcase games, and the teams toward the top of the rankings were shuffled and tightened.

A season-high six teams received first-place votes, the most since the 2016 preseason poll. Georgia is still where it started at No. 1 in the AP Top 25, but it is down to 55 first-place votes out of a possible 63.

Michigan remained No. 2 and got a first-place vote. Texas stayed at No. 3 with two first-place votes. Ohio State moved up two spots to No. 4 and got a

first-place vote after beating Notre Dame with a touchdown on its final offensive play.

The Fighting Irish slipped two spots to No. 11.

Florida State dropped a spot to No. 5 after a victory at Clemson, but it nevertheless received three first-place votes.

No. 6 Penn State and No. 7 Washington each moved up a spot. The Huskies received a first-place vote.

Southern California fell three places to No. 8 while No. 9 Oregon and No. 10 Utah each moved up a spot to give the Pac-12 four teams in the top 10 for the first time in the history of the conference.

The Ducks' blowout of San-

ders' Colorado team knocked the Buffaloes all the way out of the AP Top 25 from No. 19.

Colorado has been the story of the early season, starting 3-0 after winning just one game last season. The Buffs jumped into the rankings with an opening-week upset of TCU, last season's national runner-up.

After the Buffaloes were dominated at Oregon, USC comes to Boulder next week to give Colorado a chance to either jump back in the rankings or become an afterthought for voters for the rest of the season.

## Poll points

Six teams receiving first-place votes is the most in a reg-

ular-season poll since Nov. 1, 2015.

In that poll, Ohio State was the No. 1 team, and like Georgia it had been that way since the preseason as the defending national champion. The Buckeyes received only 39 first-place votes.

## In

Three teams entered the rankings this week, all for the first time this season:

■ No. 23 Missouri is ranked for the first time since a brief stay in 2019.

■ No. 24 Kansas is ranked for the second consecutive season.

■ No. 25 Fresno State, which has won 13 straight games, finished last season at No. 24.

# Yankees eliminated from playoff contention

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The last time the New York Yankees missed the postseason, Aaron Judge was a .179 hitter with 27 games of experience in 2016.

Now he's ending his first year as Yankees captain on a team that could not get into an expanded playoff field.

A year after the Yankees won 99 games and Judge hit 62 homers to break Roger Maris' single-season AL record, New York was mathematically eliminated with a rainy 7-1 loss Sunday to the Arizona Diamondbacks as Zac Gallen got his 17th win.

"It's tough," Judge said after his bases-loaded walk in the ninth inning accounted for the Yankees' lone run. "Every year I've been in New York, we're in the postseason. So it's going to be a little different this offseason, but just going to give us more time to work and get ready for the next one."

Arizona (82-73) won for the sixth time in seven games and remained in position for the second NL wild card, a half-game ahead of the Chicago Cubs. The Diamondbacks also clinched their first winning season since 2019.

Tommy Pham and Christian Walker produced sacrifice flies on consecutive pitches in the first inning off Carlos Rodón (3-7) and that was enough for Gallen.

**Orioles 5, Guardians 1:** Kyle Gibson pitched seven strong in-

nings, Adley Rutschman reached base four times and visiting Baltimore moved closer to clinching the AL East title.

Baltimore has a 2½-game lead over second-place Tampa Bay in the division and reduced its magic number to three. The Orioles have six games remaining and hold the tiebreaker over the Rays.

**Blue Jays 9, Rays 5:** George Springer hit an inside-the-park, three-run homer, made a diving catch and threw out a runner, helping visiting Toronto beat Tampa to take two of three in a series of potential playoff opponents.

Toronto extended its lead for the second AL wild card to two games over Houston and 2½ games ahead of Seattle.

**Marlins 6, Brewers 1:** Jon Berti had his second career multi-homer game, and host Miami prevented Milwaukee from clinching the NL Central for the second straight day.

Josh Bell also went deep, Jorge Soler had three hits and Jazz Chisholm Jr. doubled twice for the Marlins, who remained one game behind the Chicago Cubs for the third NL wild card spot. Milwaukee's division lead over the second-place Cubs was cut to six games.

**Rangers 9, Mariners 8:** Marcus Semien homered twice, Corey Seager had a go-ahead, two-run shot and host Texas held on

to finish a three-game sweep in a crucial AL West series.

AL West-leading Texas (85-70) won its fifth consecutive game and moved 2½ games ahead of defending World Series champion Houston, which was swept at home by Kansas City. Seattle (84-71) trails Houston by a half-game for the third and final wild card.

**Nationals 3-5, Braves 2-8:** Spencer Strider earned his major league-leading 19th win and Atlanta got its 100th victory of the season, splitting a doubleheader with host Washington.

In the opener, rookie Jackson Rutledge earned his first major league victory. Rutledge (1-1) allowed three hits and struck out four over five innings in his third career start. Kyle Finnegan allowed a homer in the ninth, but earned his 27th save.

**Phillies 5, Mets 2:** Nick Castellanos hit his 29th homer to move host Philadelphia within one win of a National League playoff berth, completing a four-game sweep of New York.

**Royals 6, Astros 5:** Nelson Velázquez hit two home runs and Salvador Perez and Matt Duffy also homered as visiting Kansas City built a big lead early and held on for a win over slumping Houston.

**Cubs 4, Rockies 3:** Patrick Wisdom put his team ahead with a two-run homer in the sixth inning, Seiya Suzuki had two hits

and scored twice, and host Chicago remained a game in front of Miami for the National League's final postseason berth by beating Colorado.

**Reds 4, Pirates 2:** TJ Friedl hit a two-run homer and drove in the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning as host Cincinnati bounced back from a historic collapse the night before to beat Pittsburgh.

**Dodgers 3, Giants 2 (10):** Chris Taylor's line-drive single to center field in the 10th inning lifted NL West champion Los Angeles past visiting San Francisco.

**Twins 9, Angels 3:** Ryan Jeffers homered, tripled and drove in three runs to back a strong outing by Joe Ryan as host Minnesota pulled away late to beat Los Angeles.

**Padres 12, Cardinals 2:** Juan Soto hit a 461-foot homer and had four RBIs for host San Diego, which was pushed closer to elimination from the playoff picture even as it beat St. Louis in its home finale.

**White Sox 3, Red Sox 2 (6):** Mike Clevinger pitched six solid innings, Elvis Andrus had a two-run double and visiting Chicago beat Boston in a rain-shortened game, ending a string of 12 straight series losses.

**Tigers 2, Athletics 0:** Eduardo Rodríguez threw seven scoreless innings and visiting Detroit beat last-place Oakland in its last home game.

## Braves' Morton ruled out for NLDS with finger injury

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Atlanta Braves took another blow to their injury-plagued rotation, placing right-hander Charlie Morton on the 15-day injured list Sunday. The move means the 14-game winner won't be eligible to pitch in the NL Division Series.

The 39-year-old Morton left his start Friday against the Washington Nationals after only

one inning with pain in his right index finger. An MRI showed it was a sprain, manager Brian Snitker said.

Morton won't be eligible to come off the IL until Oct. 7, which is after the Braves will have set their roster for the best-of-five NLDS. Atlanta, with baseball's best record, has already earned a bye in the best-of-three opening round.

The only way Morton could be

activated would be as a replacement for a player who is injured in the Division Series.

"This isn't anything or any hill we haven't climbed before," Snitker said. "There is never good timing on that kind of stuff. Hopefully we have the depth to cover everything up and go on and be competitive."

The Braves, who are seeking their second World Series title in three years, are hopeful that

Morton (14-12, 3.64 ERA) could return for the NL Championship Series if the team gets past the NLDS.

"The best-case scenario is he could be ready for that if we advance," Snitker said.

The loss of Morton came shortly after the Braves placed lefty Max Fried on the 15-day IL with a lingering blister issue. He would be eligible to return for the NLDS, however, if healthy.