

## US sending more troops to Mideast

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is sending additional troops to the Middle East in response to a sharp spike in violence between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon that has raised the risk of a greater regional war, the Pentagon said Monday.

Pentagon press secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder would provide no details on how many additional forces or what they would be tasked to do. The U.S. currently has about 40,000 troops in the region.

“In light of increased tension in the Middle East and out of an

abundance of caution, we are sending a small number of additional U.S. military personnel forward to augment our forces that are already in the region. But for operational security reasons, I’m not going to comment on or provide specifics.”

The new deployments come after significant strikes by Israeli forces against targets inside Lebanon that have killed hundreds and as Israel is preparing to conduct further operations. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday warned Lebanese civilians in a videotaped message to

evacuate their homes ahead of further airstrikes. He spoke as Israeli warplanes continued to strike alleged Hezbollah targets in southern and eastern Lebanon.

The State Department is warning Americans to leave Lebanon as the risk of a regional war rises.

“Due to the unpredictable nature of ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and Israel and recent explosions throughout Lebanon, including Beirut, the U.S. Embassy urges U.S. citizens to depart Lebanon while commercial options still remain availa-

ble,” the State Department cautioned Saturday. Ryder would not say if those additional forces might support the evacuation of those citizens if needed.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin held back-to-back calls with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant over the weekend as he pressed for a cease-fire and a reduction of tensions in the region, Ryder said.

“Given the tensions, given the escalation, as I highlighted, there is the potential for a wider regional conflict. I don’t think we’re there yet, but it’s a dangerous, situation” Ryder said.

## Spending deal will avert shutdown for three months

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders announced an agreement Sunday on a short-term spending bill that will fund federal agencies for about three months, averting a possible partial government shutdown when the new budget year begins Oct. 1 and pushing final decisions until after the November election.

Temporary spending bills generally fund agencies at current levels, but an additional \$231 million was included to bolster the Secret Service after the two assassination attempts against Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, and additional money was added to aid with the presidential transition, among other things.

Lawmakers have struggled to get to this point as the current budget year winds to a close at month’s end.

At the urging of the most conservative members of his conference, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., had linked tem-

porary funding with a mandate that would have compelled states to require proof of citizenship when people register to vote.

But Johnson abandoned that approach to reach an agreement, even as Trump insisted there should not be a stop-gap measure without the voting requirement.

Bipartisan negotiations began in earnest shortly after that, with leadership agreeing to extend funding into mid-December. That gives the current Congress the ability to fashion a full-year spending bill after the Nov. 5 election, rather than push that responsibility to the next Congress and president.

In a letter to Republican colleagues, Johnson said the budget measure would be “very narrow, bare-bones” and include “only the extensions that are absolutely necessary.”

“While this is not the solution any of us prefer, it is the most prudent path forward under the present circumstances,” John-

son wrote. “As history has taught and current polling affirms, shutting the government down less than 40 days from a fateful election would be an act of political malpractice.”

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said Democrats would evaluate the bill in its entirety before this week’s vote, but with the agreement, “Congress is now on a bipartisan path to avoid a government shutdown that would hurt everyday Americans.”

Rep. Tom Cole, the House Appropriations Committee chairman, had said on Friday that talks were going well.

“So far, nothing has come up that we can’t deal with,” said Cole, R-Okla. “Most people don’t want a government shutdown and they don’t want that to interfere with the election. So nobody is like, ‘I’ve got to have this or we’re walking.’ It’s just not that way.”

Johnson’s earlier effort had no chance in the Democratic-con-

trolled Senate and was opposed by the White House but it did give the speaker a chance to show Trump and conservatives within his conference that he fought for their request.

The final result—government funding effectively on autopilot—was what many had predicted. With the election just weeks away, few lawmakers in either party had any appetite for the brinksmanship that often leads to a shutdown.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the same agreement could have been reached two weeks ago, but “Speaker Johnson chose to follow the MAGA way and wasted precious time.”

“As I have said throughout this process, there is only one way to get things done, with bipartisan, bicameral support,” Schumer said.

Now a bipartisan majority is expected to push the short-term measure over the finish line this week.

# Israel fires strikes on Lebanon, warns residents to leave

*Associated Press*

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon — Israeli strikes on Monday killed more than 270 Lebanese in the deadliest barrage since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war as the Israeli military warned residents in southern and eastern Lebanon to evacuate their homes ahead of a widening air campaign against Hezbollah.

Thousands of Lebanese fled the south, and the main highway out of the southern port city of Sidon was jammed with cars heading toward Beirut in the biggest exodus since the 2006 fighting. More than 1,000 other people were wounded in the strikes — a staggering one-day toll for a country still reeling from a deadly attack on communication devices last week.

The death toll surpassed that of Beirut's devastating port explosion in 2020, when hundreds of tons of ammonium nitrate stored in a warehouse detonated, killing at least 218 people and wounding more than 6,000.

In a recorded message to Lebanese civilians, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged them to heed Israeli calls to evacuate, saying "take this warning seriously."

"Please get out of harm's way now," Netanyahu said. "Once our operation is finished, you can come back safely to your homes."

The Israeli military said Monday evening that it had carried out a targeted strike in Beirut.

Lebanese Health Minister Firass Abiad told a news conference in Beirut that the strikes hit hospitals, medical centers and ambulances. The govern-

ment ordered schools and universities to close across most of the country and began preparing shelters for people displaced from the south.

The Israeli military announced that it hit some 800 targets, saying it was going after Hezbollah weapons sites. Some strikes hit in residential areas of towns in the south and the eastern Bekaa Valley. One strike hit a wooded area as far away as Byblos in central Lebanon, more than 80 miles from the border north of Beirut.

The military said it was expanding the airstrikes to include areas of the valley along Lebanon's eastern border with Syria. Hezbollah has long had an established presence in the valley, and it is where the group was founded in 1982 with the help of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari repeated warnings urging residents to immediately evacuate areas where Hezbollah is storing weapons, including in the valley. The warnings left open the possibility that some residents could live in or near targeted structures without knowing that they are risk.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah said in a statement that it fired dozens of rockets toward Israel, including at military bases. It also targeted for a second day the facilities of the Rafael defense firm, headquartered in Haifa.

The increasing strikes and counterstrikes have raised fears of an all-out war, even as Israel is still battling Hamas in Gaza.

# Japan uses flares to warn Russian plane to leave

*Associated Press*

TOKYO — Japan said its warplanes used flares to warn a Russian reconnaissance aircraft to leave northern Japanese airspace on Monday.

Japanese Defense Minister Minoru Kihara told reporters that the Russian Il-38 plane breached Japan's airspace above Rebun Island, just off the coast of the country's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, for up to a minute in three instances, during its five-hour flight in the area.

It came a day after a joint fleet of Chinese and Russian warships sailed around Japanese northern coasts.

Kihara said the airspace violation could be related to a joint military exercise that Russia and China announced earlier

this month.

Japan scrambled an undisclosed number of F-15 and F-35 fighter jets, which used flares for the first time after the Russian aircraft apparently ignored their warnings, Kihara said.

"The airspace violation was extremely regrettable," Kihara said. He said Japan "strongly protested" to Russia through diplomatic channels and demanded preventive measures.

Kihara said the use of flares was a legitimate response to airspace violation and "we plan to use it without hesitation."

Japanese defense officials are highly concerned about growing military cooperation between China and Russia, and China's increasingly assertive activity around Japanese waters and airspace.

# Study touts permanent over rotations in Europe

**BY JOHN VANDIVER**

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — Turning U.S. Army rotational brigades into units permanently based in Europe could give the security assurances needed to nudge allies into playing a larger role in supporting Ukraine, a new U.S. Army War College study asserts.

The report, released Thursday, said U.S. policymakers should consider making permanent the deployments of armored combat brigades that for the past decade have been the centerpiece of Army efforts to bolster defenses along NATO's eastern flank.

European reluctance to dig deeper into domestic military stocks is related to allies' security concerns, according to the report, which also noted that

many countries on the Continent are struggling to balance equipping their own military with ramping up weapons production for Ukraine.

"American forward-stationed military forces can play a critical role in reassuring allies they can take on greater risk and dig deeper for Ukraine," wrote Army War College researchers John Deni and Lisa Aronsson.

The change would have the added benefit of saving the U.S. money, the report said. Past U.S. Army War College research has shown that the longstanding practice of rotating armored brigades back and forth between the United States and Poland costs about \$135 million more per brigade compared with the permanent basing of such units in Europe.

# Suspect left note about Trump intentions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The man accused in the apparent assassination attempt of Donald Trump at a golf course in Florida left behind a note saying that he intended to kill the former president and maintained in his car a handwritten list of dates and venues where Trump was to appear, the Justice Department said Monday.

The new allegations were included in a detention memo filed ahead of a hearing Monday at which the Justice Department was expected argue that 58-year-old Ryan Wesley Routh should remain locked up as the case moves forward.

The details are meant to buttress prosecutors' assertions

that Routh had set out to kill Trump before the plot was thwarted by a Secret Service agent who spotted a rifle poking out of shrubbery on the West Palm Beach golf course where Trump was playing.

The note, addressed "Dear World," was placed in a box that was dropped at the home of an unidentified person who contacted law enforcement officials after last Sunday's arrest. It appears to have been based on the premise that the assassination attempt would be ultimately unsuccessful.

The box, which also contained ammunition, a metal pipe and other items, was not opened by the person until after Routh was taken into custody. The person

who received the box and contacted law enforcement was not identified in the Justice Department's detention memo.

"This was an assassination attempt on Donald Trump but I failed you. I tried my best and gave it all the gumption I could muster. It is up to you now to finish the job; and I will offer \$150,000 to whomever can complete the job," the note said, according to prosecutors.

An attorney for Routh didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Monday morning.

Authorities who searched his car found six cellphones, including one that showed a Google search of how to travel from Palm Beach County to Mexico.

They also found a list with dates in August, September and October and venues where Trump had appeared or was scheduled to, according to prosecutors.

A notebook found in his car was filled with criticism of the Russian and Chinese governments and notes about how to join the war on behalf of Ukraine.

Cellphone records indicate he traveled to West Palm Beach from Greensboro, N.C., in mid-August, and that he was near Trump's golf club and the former president's Mar-a-Lago residence "on multiple days and times" between Aug. 18 and the day of the apparent attempted assassination.

## NC GOP candidate's staffers flee amid fallout over posts

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Several top staffers in North Carolina Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson's campaign for governor have quit their posts, marking more fallout from a CNN report outlining evidence that he made disturbing posts on a pornography website's message board more than a decade ago.

The campaign said in a news release Sunday that senior adviser Conrad Pogorzelski III, campaign manager Chris Rodriguez, the campaign's finance director and the deputy campaign manager "have stepped down from their roles with the campaign." Information on new campaign staffers would be forthcoming soon, the release said.

"I appreciate the efforts of these team members who have made the difficult choice to step away from the campaign, and I wish them well in their future endeavors," Robinson said in the release.

Pogorzelski, who helped Robinson get elected lieutenant gov-

ernor in 2020 in his first bid for public office and later became his chief of staff, said separately on Sunday that additional staffers also left the campaign — the deputy finance director, two political directors and the director of operations.

Pogorzelski, in a text, said that he "along with others from the campaign have left of our own accord."

The CNN report on Thursday unearthed past posts it said Robinson left on a porn site's message boards in which he referred to himself as a "black NAZI," said he enjoyed transgender pornography; said in 2012 he preferred Hitler to then-President Barack Obama; and slammed the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as "worse than a maggot."

Robinson denied writing the posts and said Thursday that he wouldn't be forced out of the race by "salacious tabloid lies." He avoided directly discussing the controversy during a gubernatorial campaign event on Saturday evening at a race track in Fayetteville.

## Harris event raises \$27M; economic strategy on way

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Vice President Kamala Harris raised \$27 million at a packed New York City fundraiser on Sunday, her largest fundraising haul since she took over at the top of the ticket from President Joe Biden, according to a Harris campaign aide.

Though Harris has far more money than former President Donald Trump, the money will be needed to compete with pricey advertising by deep-pocketed outside groups that support Trump, said the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private fundraising details.

The blockbuster fundraiser was held at Cipriani Wall Street in a massive Greek Revival ballroom with over a dozen columns. Much of the crowd stood shoulder to shoulder as Harris needed Trump for refusing to debate her again.

"My opponent seems to be looking for an excuse," Harris told the crowd. "I feel very strongly that we owe it to the

American people, to the voters, to meet once more before Election Day."

She reiterated that later, telling reporters after landing outside Washington, "We have more to discuss."

Trump has rejected more debates, saying Saturday that "it's just too late."

"Voting is already started," he said at a rally in Wilmington, N.C. Voters cast the first in-person ballots last week in Minnesota, South Dakota and Virginia, the states with the first early in-person voting opportunities. About a dozen more states will follow by mid-October.

Harris also said she would deliver a speech Wednesday outlining her economic vision, saying there is "more we can do to invest in the aspirations and ambitions of the American people while addressing the challenges they face."

She cited the high cost of home ownership and stubbornly high grocery bills as examples.



# Alabama officials search for shooting info

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Officials in Birmingham, Ala., pleaded Monday with members of the public for information leading to arrests in a weekend mass shooting that killed four people and injured more than a dozen others, announcing rewards of up to \$100,000.

Police Chief Scott Thurmond said at a news conference that police are still sifting through tips. Five of the injured victims remain in the hospital, he said.

The FBI is offering a \$50,000 reward, and Crime Stoppers is offering \$50,000, officials said.

Tipsters can remain anonymous, they said.

Authorities have still made no arrests after Saturday's shooting killed four people and left 17 others injured in what police described as a targeted "hit" by multiple shooters who opened fire outside a popular nightspot in Birmingham's Five Points South district.

The shooting rocked an area of restaurants and bars that is often bustling on weekend nights. The mass shooting, one of several this year in the city, unnerved residents and left officials at home and beyond plead-

ing for help to both solve the crime and address the broader problem of gun violence.

"The priority is to find these shooters and get them off our streets," Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin said a day after the shooting.

The shooting occurred on the sidewalk and street outside Hush, a lounge in the entertainment district, where blood stains were still visible on the sidewalk outside the venue on Sunday morning.

Thurmond has said authorities believe the shooting targeted one of the people who was

killed, possibly in a murder-for-hire.

A vehicle pulled up and "multiple shooters" got out and began firing, then fled, he said.

"We believe that there was a 'hit,' if you will, on that particular person," Thurmond said.

Police said about 100 shell casings were recovered. Thurmond said that law enforcement was working to determine what weapons were used, but that they believe some of the gunfire was "fully automatic." Investigators also were trying to determine whether anyone fired back, creating crossfire.

# Calif. bans all plastic shopping bags at stores

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — "Paper or plastic" will no longer be a choice at grocery store checkout lines in California under a new law signed Sunday by Gov. Gavin Newsom that bans all plastic shopping bags.

California had already banned thin plastic shopping bags at supermarkets and other stores, but shoppers could pur-

chase bags made with a thicker plastic that purportedly made them reusable and recyclable.

The new measure, approved by state legislators last month, bans all plastic shopping bags starting in 2026.

Consumers who don't bring their own bags will now simply be asked if they want a paper bag.

State Sen. Catherine Blakes-

pear, one of the bill's supporters, said people were not reusing or recycling any plastic bags.

She pointed to a state study that found that the amount of plastic shopping bags trashed per person grew from 8 pounds per year in 2004 to 11 pounds per year in 2021.

Blakespear, a Democrat from Encinitas, said the previous bag

ban passed a decade ago didn't reduce the overall use of plastic.

"We are literally choking our planet with plastic waste," she said in February.

The environmental nonprofit Oceana applauded Newsom for signing the bill and "safeguarding California's coastline, marine life, and communities from single-use plastic grocery bags."

# Ban sought for autonomous vehicles software, hardware

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Commerce Department said Monday it's seeking a ban on the sale of connected and autonomous vehicles in the U.S. that are equipped with Chinese and Russian software and hardware with the stated goal of protecting national security and U.S. drivers.

While there is minimal Chinese and Russian software deployed in the U.S., the issue is more complicated for hardware. That's why Commerce officials said the prohibitions on the software would take effect for the 2027 model year

and the prohibitions on hardware would take effect for the model year of 2030, or Jan. 1, 2029, for units without a model year.

The measure announced Monday is proactive but critical, the agency said, given that all the bells and whistles in cars like microphones, cameras, GPS tracking and Bluetooth technology could make Americans more vulnerable to bad actors and potentially expose personal information, from the home address of drivers, to where their children go to school.

In extreme situations, a for-

ign adversary could shut down or take simultaneous control of multiple vehicles operating in the United States, causing crashes and blocking roads, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo told reporters on a call Sunday.

"This is not about trade or economic advantage," Raimondo said. "This is a strictly national security action. The good news is right now, we don't have many Chinese or Russian cars on our road."

But Raimondo said Europe and other regions in the world where Chinese vehicles have become commonplace very

quickly should serve as "a cautionary tale" for the U.S.

Security concerns around the extensive software-driven functions in Chinese vehicles have arisen in Europe, where Chinese electric cars have rapidly gained market share.

"Who controls these data flows and software updates is a far from trivial question, the answers to which encroach on matters of national security, cybersecurity, and individual privacy," Janka Oertel, director of the Asia program at the European Council on Foreign Relations, wrote on the council's website.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Card game maker sues SpaceX in alleged breach

**TX** BROWNSVILLE — The maker of the popular party game Cards Against Humanity is accusing Elon Musk's SpaceX of trespassing on and damaging a plot of vacant land the company owns in Texas.

In a lawsuit filed at a Texas court, Cards Against Humanity alleges SpaceX has essentially treated the game company's property — located in Cameron County — as its own for at least the past six months.

The lawsuit said SpaceX, which had previously acquired other plots of land near the property, has placed construction materials, such as gravel, and other debris on the land without asking for permission to do so.

SpaceX did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Cards Against Humanity, which is headquartered in Chicago, had purchased the plot of land in 2017 as part of what it said was a stunt to oppose former President Donald Trump's efforts to build a border wall.

The company is asking for \$15 million in damages, which it said includes a loss of vegetation on the land.

## Highway vehicle crash injures 8 firefighters

**CA** SANTA ANA — Eight firefighters were injured in a severe highway crash involving a fire truck in Southern California, authorities said.

Chief Brian Fennessy of the

Orange County Fire Authority said the truck overturned on the California State Route 241 just north of Portola Hills.

The vehicle was transporting a ground crew after a 12-hour shift fighting a massive wildfire in Orange County called the Airport Fire. A ladder in the road caused the truck to swerve, strike a guard rail and overturn, Fennessy said.

At least one firefighter was flown by helicopter with others transported by ambulance to hospitals.

## National park trail closed after bear attacks hiker

**MT** WEST GLACIER — A section of a popular Glacier National Park trail was closed after a man was attacked by a bear and injured, park officials said.

Rangers are still trying to determine if the attack involved a grizzly bear or a black bear.

The 35-year-old man sustained non-life-threatening injuries when his hiking party encountered the bear near the Grinnell Glacier Overlook trailhead on the Highline Trail.

The man hiked over a mile to Granite Park Chalet with assistance and was flown to a spot where he could be taken by ambulance to a hospital in Whitefish.

The trail from Haystack Butte to the Granite Park Chalet will remain closed until further notice, officials said.

## Interim commissioner says feds searched homes

**NY** NEW YORK — New York City's interim police commissioner revealed

that federal authorities had executed search warrants at his homes.

Thomas Donlon, who became the interim commissioner after the resignation of his predecessor, issued a statement on the search through the police department.

"On Friday, September 20, federal authorities executed search warrants at my residences. They took materials that came into my possession approximately 20 years ago and are unrelated to my work with the New York City Police Department," the statement said.

"This is not a department matter, and the department will not be commenting," he added.

The statement did not address what the investigation was about, which federal authorities were involved or what "materials" had been seized.

## City settles suit accusing officer of excessive force

**VT** BURLINGTON — Vermont's largest city, Burlington, has paid \$215,000 to settle a lawsuit accusing a police officer of using excessive force by grabbing a man and slamming him to the ground, knocking him unconscious in September 2018.

According to the lawsuit filed in 2019, Mabiok Jok was standing outside with a group when a conversation became heated. Officer Joseph Corrow, without announcing himself or issuing any instructions, then slammed Jok to the ground, the lawsuit said.

The police chief at the time said an internal investigation found Corrow did not call for backup or use verbal commands, but he did not use exces-

sive force, according to a court filing. He also had said that Jok was known to officers "as a person who has a violent history who has attacked the community and police officers."

The settlement was reached about a week before the planned start of a trial, said Jok's lawyer Robb Spensley, who called it a reasonable settlement. It was first reported by Seven Days.

## More dengue fever seen from local mosquitoes

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Health officials warned that the Los Angeles area is seeing more dengue fever cases in people who have not traveled outside the U.S. mainland, a year after the first such case was reported in California.

Public health officials said at least three people apparently became ill with dengue this month after being bitten by mosquitoes in the Baldwin Park neighborhood east of downtown Los Angeles.

"This is an unprecedented cluster of locally acquired dengue for a region where dengue has not previously been transmitted by mosquitoes," said Barbara Ferrer, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Other cases that stemmed from mosquito bites originating in the U.S. have been reported this year in Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, where officials have declared a dengue epidemic. There have been 3,085 such cases in the U.S. this year, of which 96% were in Puerto Rico, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

— From wire reports

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# Barkley's late TDs help Eagles top Saints

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Saquon Barkley and the Eagles emerged from a flood of Philadelphia-style scrutiny and delivered a masterclass on grinding out — and closing out — a physical, defensive struggle in which a lot went wrong before it ended just right.

Barkley rushed for fourth-quarter touchdowns of 65 and 4 yards, and the Eagles rebounded from a maddening late-game collapse six days earlier to beat the previously surging New Orleans Saints, 15-12 on Sunday.

"Last week was rough. Our guys had to pick ourselves off the mat, and every one of them did," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said, alluding to a 22-21 home loss to Atlanta on Monday night. "You have to overcome those things. I'm so proud of those guys that they did."

Barkley's shorter scoring run came with 1:01 left, one play after Dallas Goedert got free across the middle on third-and-16 for a 61-yard catch and run that gave him a career-high 170 yards on 10 receptions.

Barkley's 147 yards rushing and clutch scoring runs brought him no small measure of re-

demption after his failure to make what could have been a game-sealing catch against the Falcons.

"When things like that happen, everyone thinks the world's ending, but it really doesn't matter what the outside world thinks," Barkley said. "Today, we kept trusting each other and kept having each other's back."

Eagles safety Reed Blankenship sealed the victory by intercepting Derek Carr's pass over the middle with 48 seconds left, capping a banner performance by Philadelphia's defense against an offense that had scored an NFL-high 91 points during the regular season's first two weeks under new coordinator Klint Kubiak.

"You knew adversity would happen at some point. It's not going to be that easy all the time," Carr said, adding that he regretted not throwing away the second-down pass that Blankenship intercepted. "At the very end, they made one more play than we did and that's how this game goes sometimes."

The Eagles (2-1) did not allow a touchdown until Carr found

Chris Olave for a 12-yard, go-ahead score with just more than two minutes left. That gave the Saints a 12-7 lead after a failed 2-point try.

The Eagles looked like the better team on both sides of the ball, outgaining New Orleans (2-1) in total net yards, 460 to 219. But a number of curious decisions by Sirianni, along with some clutch plays by the Saints' defense, kept the Eagles off the board for three quarters.

Hurts finished 29-for-38 for 311 yards passing and scrambled for 25 yards. But he also turned the ball over twice in the first half, intercepted by Tyrann Mathieu in the end zone and losing a fumble on a sack by Carl Granderson.

The Eagles again threatened to score late in the second quarter, only to come away empty when they eschewed a field goal on fourth-and-1 from the New Orleans 15 with just 14 seconds left.

Defensive end Chase Young and linebacker Pete Werner stuffed Barkley's run, preserving the Saints' 3-0 lead at halftime.

The Eagles twice drove into Saints territory in the third

quarter, only to fail on fourth-and-short and then have an illegal substitution penalty contribute to a stall near midfield.

But after J.T. Gray's block of Braden Mann's punt gave New Orleans the ball inside the Philadelphia 30, New Orleans stalled out on its own fourth-and-1 failure when it otherwise could have tried a field goal late in the third quarter.

Barkley's long run came four plays later to make it 7-3.

Already missing receiver A.J. Brown, the Eagles lost Devonta Smith early in the fourth quarter on a hit by defensive tackle Khristian Boyd that knocked the receiver's helmet off as he tried to prevent two other Saints defenders from bringing him to the turf.

What appeared to be a concussion-causing, helmet-to-helmet hit came after Smith's seventh catch, giving him 79 yards receiving for the game.

That drive wound up stalling when the Eagles elected to try a 60-yard field goal by Jake Elliott, who missed.

Carr finished 14-for-25 for 142 yards. Saints running back Alvin Kamara rushed for 87 yards on 26 carries.

## Ravens race to big lead, hang on to beat Cowboys

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens had an early, emphatic answer for the first 0-2 start since before he was their franchise quarterback.

The two-time MVP added a couple of clutch plays late when the Ravens were at risk of letting a big fourth-quarter lead get away.

Derrick Henry ran for 151 yards and two touchdowns, Jackson accounted for two scores and the Ravens held on for a 28-25 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

The Ravens (1-2) scored

touchdowns on their first two drives and led 28-6 before Dak Prescott and the Cowboys rallied late with some help from a rare onside kick recovery.

Baltimore was a play away from having to give the ball back to the Cowboys (1-2) leading by just three when Jackson had a clutch completion to Zay Flowers.

Jackson put the game away with a nifty fake to start a 10-yard run as the Ravens finished with 274 yards rushing. It's the most Dallas has allowed since twice giving up at least 294 with one of the worst defenses in franchise history in 2020.

The Ravens, coming off a trip to the AFC championship game in which they lost to Super Bowl champion Kansas City, were 0-2 for the first time since 2015, three years before they drafted Jackson. Only one team since 2000 has made the playoffs after starting 0-3.

"Every game is a big game for us because we're trying to get somewhere," Jackson said. "We've got to win these games to get to the playoffs, and we need to get to the Super Bowl. But it starts with the game that's in front of us."

The Cowboys have allowed 120 points in their past three

home games, including a 48-32 wild-card loss to Green Bay in January that ended Dallas' 16-game winning streak at AT&T Stadium.

Brandon Aubrey kicked a 65-yard field goal for the Cowboys, 1 yard shy of the NFL record from 2021 held by the kicker on the other sideline, Baltimore's Justin Tucker.

Just as in last week's 44-19 loss to New Orleans, the Cowboys needed more than field goals because of their porous defense.

The touchdowns eventually came for Dallas. They were just a little late.



# Darnold's 4 TDs keep Vikings unbeaten

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Sam Darnold matched his career high with four touchdown passes, and the undefeated Minnesota Vikings used another dominant performance on defense to trounce C.J. Stroud and the Houston Texans 34-7 on Sunday.

Jonathan Greenard had three of the four sacks of Stroud, his former teammate, as the Vikings (3-0) intercepted the 2023 AP NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year twice while rattling the Texans (2-1) with their aggressive and unpredictable scheme — and the crowd noise that cranked up with each stop.

Darnold connected with Justin Jefferson and Aaron Jones for scores in the first quarter on third-down plays inside the 10. In the second half, he delivered a touchdown to Jalen Nailor for the third straight game and got tight end Johnny Mundt one, too.

Jefferson had six catches for 81 yards and Jones rushed 19 times for 102 yards and caught five passes for 46 yards for the Vikings, who were a trendy pick for last place in the NFC North but have beaten back-to-back contenders to start their home slate against San Francisco and Houston.

**Rams 27, 49ers 24:** Rookie Joshua Karty hit a 37-yard field goal with 2 seconds to play, and visiting Los Angeles staged a spectacular late rally for a victory over San Francisco.

Kyren Williams rushed 4 yards for his third touchdown of the day with 1:50 left for the Rams (1-2), who came back from a 14-point deficit in the second half for their second straight win over San Francisco (1-2) after losing 10 of the NFC West archrivals' previous 12 meetings.

Jauan Jennings set career highs with 11 catches for 175 yards and three touchdowns for the 49ers, who blew a lead of at least 14 points for the first time since 2018.

Los Angeles trailed 24-14 midway through the fourth quarter, but Jake Moody missed a 55-yard field goal attempt for San Francisco with 2:43 to play. Matthew Stafford quickly hit Tutu Atwell for a 50-yard completion to the San Francisco 5, and Williams took it in two plays later.

**Chiefs 22, Falcons 17:** Patrick Mahomes threw a pair of touchdown passes and Kansas City's defense made a couple of late stands against Atlanta to keep the visiting Chiefs unbeaten.

The two-time reigning Super Bowl champion Chiefs have been far from perfect — Mahomes threw another interception — but they won their first three games by a combined 13 points.

Thank the defense for this one.

Coming off an upset victory at Philadelphia, the Falcons (1-2) had a couple of shots at the go-ahead touchdown in the closing minutes.

Kirk Cousins threw a pair of incompletions in the end zone from the Chiefs 6 to end one chance, and the final drive ended with Bijan Robinson being thrown for a 3-yard loss on fourth-and-1 at the Kansas City 13 with less than a minute remaining.

**Giants 21, Browns 15:** Daniel Jones threw two touchdown passes to rookie Malik Nabers and the Giants' defensive players took turns sacking Deshaun Watson as visiting New York held off Cleveland.

Jones completed 24 of 34 passes for 236 yards as the Giants (1-2) shook off a loss at Washington that prompted a week of criticism toward coach Brian Daboll.

The Browns (1-2) rallied in the fourth after being dominated for three quarters and losing three offensive linemen to injuries.

**Steelers 20, Chargers 10:** Justin Fields threw for a touchdown and ran for another and

host Pittsburgh topped Los Angeles.

Pittsburgh improved to 3-0 for the first time since 2020 behind another efficient performance from Fields, who completed 25 of 32 passes for 245 yards, including a 55-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Austin III midway through the fourth quarter that broke it open.

Fields has played largely mistake-free through three games, though he did throw his first interception of the season on a tipped pass in the third quarter.

**Packers 30, Titans 14:** Malik Willis ran for a touchdown and threw for a score in his best performance in the NFL, leading visiting Green Bay to a rout of Tennessee.

Willis not only won his second straight start subbing for Jordan Love, he got a sweet measure of revenge against the team that traded him to Green Bay (2-1) in August. Willis accounted for 134 of the Packers' 137 yards in the first quarter. He finished with 202 yards passing and 73 rushing.

Cornerback Jaire Alexander had his first career pick-6 late in the first quarter, helping Green Bay jump out to a 17-7 lead after 15 minutes.

**Broncos 26, Buccaneers 7:** Rookie Bo Nix ran for an early touchdown and Wil Lutz kicked four field goals to help visiting Denver avoid starting 0-3 for the second straight season with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Nix completed 25 of 36 passes for 216 yards without an interception. The 12th overall pick in this year's NFL Draft, however, still hasn't thrown for a TD through three games.

Denver's defense did its part in helping Nix rebound from struggling the previous two weeks, too, sacking Baker Mayfield seven times and intercepting the Bucs quarterback once to set up a second-quarter touchdown.

**Colts 21, Bears 16:** Jonathan Taylor had two touchdown runs

and Trey Sermon added another as host Indianapolis held on for a victory over Chicago.

Taylor ran 23 times for 110 yards as the Colts (1-2) avoided their first 0-3 start since 2021. Anthony Richardson completed 10 of 20 passes for 167 yards, but had two more interceptions.

Chicago (1-2) lost its second straight despite getting two offensive TDs — one more than its total in the first two weeks. Caleb Williams, this year's No. 1 overall draft pick, went 33-for-52 with 363 yards through the air — all season bests — and threw the first two TD passes of his NFL career.

**Panthers 36, Raiders 22:** Andy Dalton gave Carolina the quarterback play it's been sorely lacking, throwing for 319 yards and three touchdowns in a victory over host Las Vegas.

Promoted to the starting job in place of the ineffective Bryce Young, Dalton guided the Panthers (1-2) to their first win and moved to 4-0 lifetime against the Raiders.

**Seahawks 24, Dolphins 3:** Geno Smith threw for 289 yards and a 71-yard touchdown to DK Metcalf, Zach Charbonnet rushed for two TDs, and host Seattle won while the attention turned to another injury suffered by a Miami quarterback.

A week after losing Tua Tagovailoa to a third concussion in the past two years, the Dolphins watched Skylar Thompson suffer a chest injury in the second half, leaving Tim Boyle to try to lead the charge back from a 17-3 deficit.

**Lions 20, Cardinals 13:** Jared Goff threw two touchdown passes, David Montgomery ran for 106 yards and a score and visiting Detroit held on late to beat Arizona.

The Lions continued their recent dominance in the series, improving to 5-0-1 against the Cardinals since 2017. Detroit's defense kept Kyler Murray and Arizona out of the end zone in the second half, giving up just one field goal.

# Twins fall behind in AL wild-card race

Associated Press

BOSTON — The struggling Minnesota Twins were swept in a split doubleheader against Boston on Sunday, when Romy Gonzalez hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs in the nightcap to lead the Red Sox to a 9-3 victory.

Losing for the 13th time in 19 games, the Twins fell a game behind both Detroit and Kansas City for the AL's final two wild-card spots. They own the tiebreaker over both. All three teams have six games left to play.

Minnesota (81-75) is just 11-22 since going 17 games over .500 on Aug. 17.

In the opener, Triston Casas homered in his first three at-bats and drove in seven runs, carrying the Red Sox to an 8-1 victory.

**Padres 4, White Sox 2:** Visiting Chicago tied the post-1900 MLB record of 120 losses by the 1962 expansion New York Mets when the San Diego won by rallying for three runs in the eighth inning, capped by Fernando Tatis Jr.'s towering home run.

The White Sox (36-120) had taken a 2-1 lead on home runs by Corey Lee and Miguel Vargas off Yu Darvish, but that lead quickly disappeared in the eighth.

**Tigers 4, Orioles 3:** Kerry Carpenter homered twice, Parker Meadows made a home run-saving grab and surging Detroit moved into a tie for the second American League wild card with a victory over host Baltimore.

Baltimore (86-70) lost its fifth consecutive series and fell 5½ games behind New York (91-64) in the AL East race.

**Rays 4, Blue Jays 3:** Jonathan Aranda homered in a third straight game and host Tampa Bay beat Toronto to complete a three-game sweep.

Aranda gave the Rays a 2-1 lead on his two-run drive against Zach Pop in the sixth inning. Aranda has connected for six of his 10 career homers against the Blue Jays.

**Braves 5, Marlins 4:** Michael Harris II tripled, singled and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and visiting Atlanta beat Miami.

Gio Urshela and Ozzie Albies homered while Matt Olson had two hits and an RBI for the Braves (85-71), who remain two games behind the New York Mets for the third NL wild card.

**Rangers 6, Mariners 5:** Marcus Semien's line single into the left-field corner scored Leody Taveras as Texas rallied from a five-run deficit in a walk-off win over visiting Seattle.

The Mariners are two games out of the last AL wild-card spot with six games remaining. Seattle closes out the season with three games at Houston and hosting the Oakland Athletics.

**Brewers 10, Diamondbacks 9:** Jake Bauers drove in the go-ahead run with a pinch-hit infield single that capped a four-run eighth inning as host Milwaukee overcame an eight-run deficit and avoided a series sweep, rallying for a win over Arizona.

**Cardinals 2, Guardians 1:** Lars Nootbaar scored the go-ahead run from second base on a wild pitch and Andre Pallante allowed one hit in seven innings as host St. Louis beat Cleveland.

Pallante (8-8) walked two and struck out three.

**Angels 9, Astros 8:** Zach Neto hit two home runs and drove in six, and visiting Los Angeles came from behind twice to beat Houston.

The Angels trailed 4-0 in the sixth before scoring two runs in back-to-back innings, and then took the lead in the eighth on a solo shot from Neto. The Astros responded with two runs in the bottom of the inning before the Angels had a four-run ninth.

**Dodgers 6, Rockies 5:** Shohei Ohtani hit a game-tying home run in the ninth inning

and Mookie Betts followed with a game-ending blast as host Los Angeles rallied past Colorado to maintain its three-game lead in the National League West.

Ohtani had four hits and added two stolen bases, giving him 53 home runs and 55 steals on the season.

**Yankees 7, Athletics 4:** Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 55th homer of the season, Gleyber Torres and Jasson Domínguez also went deep and visiting New York beat Oakland for a three-game sweep and moved to the verge of the AL East title.

Already assured of a playoff berth, the Yankees (92-64) can clinch the division with one victory over second-place Baltimore (86-70) during a three-game series in the Bronx that starts Tuesday night.

**Mets 2, Phillies 1:** Brandon Nimmo hit a tiebreaking, sixth-inning home run off Zack Wheeler that sailed just over the glove of leaping right fielder Nick Castellanos, and host New York prevented Philadelphia from clinching the NL East at Citi Field.

The Mets (87-69) took three of four from the Phillies and have won 18 of their last 23 to move a season-high 18 games over .500.

**Pirates 2, Reds 0:** Paul Skenes struck out nine and pitched two-hit ball through five innings, leading visiting Pittsburgh to a win over Cincinnati.

Skenes (11-3) recorded his 16th game with seven or more strikeouts.

**Giants 2, Royals 0:** Blake Snell struck out nine in six strong innings and visiting San Francisco completed a three-game series sweep of Kansas City.

The Royals lost their seventh straight and dropped into a tie with Detroit (82-74) in the race for an AL wild card.

**Cubs 5, Nationals 0:** Shota Imanaga pitched seven crisp innings in his sixth consecutive win, and host Chicago beat Washington.

## Reds fire manager Bell after 6 seasons, 409-456 mark

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Reds fired manager David Bell on Sunday night after six seasons.

The team announced the move hours after a 2-0 loss to the Pittsburgh Pirates, and named bench coach Freddie Benavides as interim manager for the final five games of the season.

"David provided the kind of steadiness that we needed in our clubhouse over the

last few seasons. We felt a change was needed to move the Major League team forward. We have not achieved the success we expected, and we need to begin focusing on 2025," President of Baseball Operations Nick Krall said on a statement posted on the Reds' website.

With a week left in the season, the Reds are 76-81 and in fourth place in the NL Central, 13½ games behind division champion Milwaukee. Cincinnati closes

out the season with five road games. The Reds have a two-game series in Cleveland on Tuesday and Wednesday before closing out the campaign with three games in Chicago against the Cubs.

The 52-year-old Bell — whose grandfather Gus and father Buddy both spent part of their careers playing in Cincinnati — was hired by the Reds in October 2018. He had a 409-456 record in six seasons.