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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## US Navy sends ships to Sudan

PHOTOS BY FREDERICK POIRIER/U.S. Navy

An aviation boatswain's mate directs an MV-22B Osprey aboard the expeditionary sea base USS Lewis B. Puller in the Red Sea in August. Lewis B. Puller is en route to Sudan's coast in case there is a need to evacuate American citizens from the African country.

### Vessels bound for Red Sea in case Americans need to evacuate from country

BY DOUG G. WARE  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy is moving at least three ships to the eastern coast of Sudan in case the United States needs to evacuate American citizens caught in the middle of a bloody struggle for control of the African country, military officials said.

The USS Truxtun, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, is near Port Sudan now, and the USS Lewis B. Puller, an expeditionary mobile bases vessel, is en route to Sudan's coast, Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon's top spokesperson, said on Monday.



USS Lewis B. Puller (above) will join the USS Truxtun, a guided missile destroyer, and the USNS Brunswick, a fast transport vessel, off the eastern coast of Sudan.

He said the Defense Department is assisting the State Department as needed and the ships could be used in various ways, including evacuations and medical treatment.

The Navy is also sending the USNS Brunswick, a fast transport vessel, 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Tim Hawkins said in an email Tuesday. The Brunswick has a top speed of 40 mph, the Navy's website said.

U.S. 5th Fleet service members departed Bahrain on Tuesday morning and will join the crew of 25 civilians on the Brunswick,

SEE SUDAN ON PAGE 12

### New US effort aims to deter nuclear action from N. Korea

BY AAMER MADHANI  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will use this week's celebratory state visit by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to underscore that the U.S. is ready to step up its efforts to deter a North Korean attack on South Korea, according to the White House.

Biden will announce specific new nuclear deterrence efforts as well as a new cyber security initiative, economic investments and an educational partnership, part of an effort to highlight the breadth and depth of the two countries' relationship as they mark the 70th anniversary of their alliance, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said.

White House officials say Biden hopes to put a particular emphasis on the United States' "iron clad" commitment to deterring nuclear action by North Korea as Pyongyang has stepped up ballistic missile tests, including flight-testing a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time earlier this month. The recent test is seen as a possible breakthrough in the North's efforts to acquire a more powerful, harder-to-detect weapon targeting the continental United States.

Sullivan didn't offer details on the new deterrence efforts ahead of the leaders' announcement, but said that the U.S. is looking to send a clear message to Pyongyang about its increasingly aggressive rhetoric.

"What I will say is that we believe that the statement will send a very clear and demonstrable signal of the United States' credibility when it comes to its extended

SEE DETER ON PAGE 6

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## ESPN to slash jobs, part of Disney cost-cutting

Associated Press

ESPN began informing employees of layoffs Monday, which are job cuts that are taking place throughout its corporate owner, the Walt Disney Co. Disney CEO Bob Iger announced in February that the company would reduce 7,000 jobs either through not filling positions or layoffs.

ESPN President Jimmy Pitaro said in a company memo sent to employees that those affected will hear from their supervisor

and someone from human relations this week.

“As we advance as a core segment of Disney, with operational control and financial responsibility, we must further identify ways to be efficient and nimble,” Pitaro said in the memo. “We will continue to focus our workforce on initiatives that are most closely aligned with our critical priorities and emphasize decision-making and responsibility deeper into the organization.”

ESPN was not part of the first phase of Disney reductions last month. Besides this week’s layoffs, another round of job cuts will take place by the start of summer. Both phases impact off-air employees.

A round of cuts involving on-air talent will happen over the summer via contracts not being renewed, buyouts or cuts. It is not expected to resemble what happened in April of 2017, when reporters and hosts were informed at one time.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)	0.8902
Euro costs (April 26)	\$1.08	Thailand (Baht)	34.44
British pound (April 26)	\$1.21	Turkey (NewLira)	19.4280
Japanese yen (April 26)	131.00		
South Korean won (April 26)	1300.00		
Commercial rates			
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769		
Britain (Pound)	1.2409		
Canada (Dollar)	1.3620		
China (Yuan)	6.9272		
Denmark (Krone)	6.7755		
Egypt (Pound)	30.9014		
Euro	0.9091		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8498		
Hungary (Forint)	341.30		
Israel (Shekel)	3.6350		
Japan (Yen)	133.82		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3063		
Norway (Krone)	10.6373		
Philippines (Peso)	55.62		
Poland (Zloty)	4.17		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7510		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3376		
South Korea (Won)	1341.38		

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	8.00
Interest Rates Discount rate	5.50
Federal funds market rate	4.58
3-month bill	5.19
30-year bond	3.71

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



### THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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## STARS AND STRIPES

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## MILITARY

# Army chief of staff pick has Russia insights

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Gen. Randy George, who commanded troops in Afghanistan and played a key role in reconstituting the Army's mission in Europe after Russia's initial invasion of Ukraine in 2014, is in line to become the service's next top officer.

President Joe Biden nominated the four-star general Thursday to replace Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, who is retiring after four years in the position.

George, the current Army vice



George

chief of staff, previously was the senior military assistant to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. George would assume leadership as the Army is focused on an array of modernization programs designed around better positioning the military to counter threats posed by China and Russia.

He also would have to grapple with a recruiting crisis that has

challenged the Army's ability to fill its ranks.

As a battlefield commander, George led a brigade of 4th Infantry Division soldiers in 2009 in Afghanistan. He also deployed to Iraq multiple times.

Besides a heavy focus on the wars that dominated the military's attention for two decades, George also got an early look at how the Army was adapting in Europe to a resurgent Russia.

As a brigadier general in 2015, he headed up a new mission command element, which at the time

was set up in Grafenwoehr, Germany, in the aftermath of Russia's armed seizure and illegal annexation of Crimea the year before.

The headquarters, which was tasked with overseeing maneuvers of soldiers sent to NATO's eastern flank, was part of the Army's gradual rebuilding of its mission in Europe. The command element later was shifted to Poland.

During testimony Thursday before the House Armed Services Committee, George said the Army is now focused on "the pacing challenge" of China while "hold-

ing the line in the European theater."

"All the while, (we are) adapting in real time to lessons learned from the war in Ukraine and rapidly incorporating new tactics into our doctrine and our training," George said.

He added that the Army "must be ready to deter war, and if deterrence fails, to take the fight to the enemy anywhere around the globe."

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## Navy aircraft carrier makes history with 350K trap landings

By DOUG G. WARE  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The oldest active aircraft carrier in the Navy has reached a major milestone — 350,000 arrested plane landings in nearly a half-century, the service announced.

The USS Nimitz hit the mark Saturday in the South China Sea when an F/A-18F Super Hornet touched down on the deck.

"I am honored and humbled to land this historic milestone for our ship," said Capt. Craig Sicola, the Nimitz's commanding officer and lead pilot of the fighter that made the landing. "I dedicate this landing to the countless naval aviators who have flown before me."

An arrested landing — also known as a trap — is one where a landing plane contacts the aircraft carrier and its tailhook snags one of four cables that are laid across the deck. By catching one of the cables, the tailhook immediately decelerates the fighter jet's speed so that it can safely stop. The decks of aircraft carriers are not long enough for planes to land

in traditional fashion.

The Nimitz is the first of the Navy's Nimitz-class carriers and entered service in 1975, making its first arrested landing that same year. It is now the oldest active aircraft carrier anywhere in the world, the Navy said.

Sicola was in the fighter jet's front seat and Cmdr. Luke Edwards the rear. Edwards is the commanding officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 22, known as the "Fighting Redcocks." Both men are longtime Navy pilots.

The USS Nimitz is part of the 3rd Fleet's Carrier Strike Group 11 and is based near Seattle. It's on a regularly scheduled deployment in the 7th Fleet area of operations in the South China Sea, the Navy said.

"As we sail through the South China Sea, we celebrate this once in a lifetime achievement, 350,000 arrested landings, over a hundred years of innovation in the U.S. aircraft carrier," said Rear Adm. Christopher Sweeney, commander of Carrier Strike Group 11. "This landmark is a testament to the nation's commitment to fly,



CAITLIN FLYNN/U.S. Navy

**Navy Capt. Craig Sicola, commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, front seat, and Cmdr. Luke Edwards, commanding officer of the "Fighting Redcocks" of Strike Fighter Squadron, make an arrested landing in an F/A-18F Super Hornet on Saturday in the South China Sea, marking the 350,000th time the carrier has landed a fixed-wing aircraft on its flight deck.**

sail and operate around the globe promoting peace and security."

It didn't take long after the milestone for the carrier to welcome arrested landing number 350,001. Since it entered service, the Nimitz has sailed 30 deployments and served in countless operations, the Navy said. It's scheduled to be retired in 2027. Nimitz-

class aircraft carriers, which are powered mostly by two nuclear reactors, have an expected lifespan of about 50 years.

The ship with the next-highest number of arrested landings is the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Navy's second-oldest active carrier. It has seen almost 327,000 such landings.

In the past five decades, there have been multiple deadly crashes on the deck of the Nimitz. Fourteen sailors were killed, and dozens were hurt during the crash of an EA-6B Prowler in 1981 and seven people died when an A3 Skywarrior bomber crashed in 1987.

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## Dem senator warns GOP counterpart on stalling Pentagon promotions

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Democratic chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee cautioned Monday that a Republican senator's stalling tactic on Defense Department promotions will eventually harm the military and deadlock the upper chamber's routine confirmation process for officer nominees.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., said the decision by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., to block the nominations as protest over the Defense

Department's abortion policies will have an accumulating "corrosive" effect on the military and pave the way for similar obstruction.

"There's only really one rule in the United States Senate: what goes around, comes around," Reed said during an event held by the Center for a New American Security, a left-leaning Washington think tank. "So if there's a situation in the future where someone has a social policy you disagree with — free health care for all, etc. — 'Well if this succeeds, I'll just pull the plug

on general officers.'"

Tuberville has been holding up the promotion of about 200 senior officers for months to force the Defense Department to rescind new abortion policies that provide leave and reimbursement for service members traveling to obtain the procedure.

His blockade prevents the Senate from confirming hundreds of nominations in a unanimous voice vote and could force the Senate into voting on each nominee one by one, a process that would consume months of Senate floor time.

"This is a very serious and intrusion of politics into what should be a professional military decision," Reed said. "It's virtually unprecedented."

Reed said the Defense Department will be able to manage without the promotions for the next few months but eventually those officers will tire of waiting and move on to other opportunities. The list of held-up promotions includes new commanders for the 7th Fleet in the Indo-Pacific region, the 5th Fleet under U.S. Central Command and the military representa-

tive to NATO.

"These are professional officers who, after 30 years of dedicated service, multiple tours and combat, are being told, 'You're hostages for a political issue,'" Reed said. "That should not be and it sets a very, very dangerous precedent."

About 650 additional nominations for senior commanders, including a new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are expected through the rest of the year.

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## PACIFIC

# Patriot's firing debut hits marks in Philippines

By **SETH ROBSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

SAN ANTONIO, Philippines — The U.S. Army's Patriot missile-defense system has shot down a pair of targets flying off Luzon's western coast, marking the first time the weapon has been fired in the Philippines.

A Patriot system deployed to the country last year, but Tuesday's event — part of the annual Balikatan exercise between the United States and its longtime ally — went a step further.

Two launchers, positioned near a beach at Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioqui, fired Patriot Advanced Capability-2, or PAC-2, missiles that destroyed Kratos MQM-178 Firejet target missiles flying 10,000 feet over the West Philippine Sea.

"Two for two," Maj. Gen. Brian Gibson, commander of the Hawaii-based 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, told reporters after the missiles inter-

cepted their targets.

The 10.8-foot-long, pneumatically launched Firejet flies at more than 500 mph, according to a fact sheet on the manufacturer's website.

PAC-2s can reach as high as 20 miles and travel up to 60 miles, according to the Missile Defense Agency.

The launchers were operated on Luzon by soldiers from the Okinawa-based 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Battalion, said Maj. Nicholas Chopp, a spokesman for the 94th, based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The battalion fired PAC-2s last summer from Palau in Micronesia.

Missile defense is in demand, said Gibson, who serves as chief of ground-based air and missile defense for U.S. forces in the Indo-Pacific.

"Look at operations around the globe," he said, noting the war in Ukraine and recent missile

launches by China and North Korea.

The North launched more than 90 cruise and ballistic missiles last year.

"If the call came to defend certain locations, this exercise allows that to happen," Gibson said of Tuesday's training.

An undisclosed number of U.S.-made Patriot systems have arrived in Ukraine, the country's defense minister Oleksii Reznikov said April 19, providing Kyiv with a new protection against Russian airstrikes that have devastated cities and civilian infrastructure.

Before the PAC-2s were launched on Luzon, members of the Mississippi National Guard's 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment fired .50 caliber machine guns and Stinger missiles from a Humvee-mounted AN/TWQ-1 Avenger Air Defense System.

The Avenger is another weapon



BULLIT MARQUEZ/For Stars and Stripes

**U.S. soldiers prepare to shoot down an MQM-170 Outlaw unmanned aerial vehicle with a .50 caliber machine gun and Stinger missiles during a Balikatan drill at Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioqui in San Antonio, Philippines, on Tuesday.**

the U.S. has provided to Ukraine.

The system, designed to protect ground forces against missiles, drones, fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, includes two four-round missile pods, Chopp said.

The soldiers used the Avenger to bring down a pair of MQM-170

Outlaw unmanned aircraft flying circular patterns at low altitude close to the beach; however, a second missile malfunctioned and dropped into the water.

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## 2 Air Force Ghost rider gunships join Balikatan drills

By **SETH ROBSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

SUBIC BAY, Philippines — The U.S. Air Force hasn't had this much gunship firepower in the Philippines since the Vietnam War, according to special operations airmen participating in this month's Balikatan drills.

A pair of AC-130J Ghost rider gunships — heavily armed versions of the C-130J Super Hercules tactical airlifter — landed recently at Cubi Point, a former U.S. naval air station in Subic Bay, on the Philippines' main island of Luzon.

The aircraft are in the islands for the large-scale annual Balikatan exercise involving about 17,000 U.S. and Filipino troops.

Special operations airmen are also flying two MC-130J Commando II airlifters out of Cubi Point. Those planes are assigned to the 353rd Special Operations Wing at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

The \$115 million Ghost rider is the latest version of a gunship that first saw combat in Vietnam.

The AC-130J replaced the AC-130U, known as "Spooky." Air Force officials have called it "the ultimate battle plane" due to an onboard arsenal that includes a 105 mm howitzer, 30 mm autocannon, missiles and laser-guided bombs.

A single AC-130J debuted at Balikatan in 2021.

This year, the Air Force has sent two gunships along with 107



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN SNYDER/Stars and Stripes

**Air Force Capt. Nestor Soriano, an AC-130J Ghost rider instructor pilot, speaks to Philippine navy sailors about the gunship's capabilities at the former home of Naval Air Station Cubi Point, on Sunday.**



**Philippine navy sailors check out an Air Force AC-130J Ghost rider gunship.**



**A Philippine navy sailor looks out the paratroop door of an Air Force AC-130J Ghost rider gunship.**

airmen from the 17th Special Operations Squadron at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

"It's the first time since the Vietnam era" that two gunships have been in the Philippines, said Capt. Nestor Soriano, a gunship pilot.

The aircraft, which can refuel in flight and loiter over targets for longer than previous models, have been practicing close air support with Filipino ground troops, he said.

The ground troops were maneuvering at Crow Valley Military Reservation, a live-fire range north of Clark Air Base on the island of Luzon, Soriano told Stars and Stripes on Sunday at Cubi Point.

A Ghost rider will attack a decommissioned fishing boat off the coast of Luzon during a live-fire exercise on Wednesday, he said.

The aircraft's involvement in the drill is about coordinating with the other forces rather than simulating a realistic attack, he said.

Historically, gunships were used in littoral combat but they're not the ideal weapon to sink a ship. The AC-130J is a precision tool for defending ground forces, Soriano said.

"We are not who you call to blow something up," he said. "Send a bomber or an F-16."

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PACIFIC

# Ex-USFJ commander tapped to lead PACAF

By **WYATT OLSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

The former commander of U.S. Forces Japan has been nominated to head Pacific Air Forces headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the Pentagon announced Monday.

If confirmed as the next PACAF commander by the U.S. Senate, Air Force Lt. Gen. Kevin B. Schneider would also be promoted to general. PACAF serves as the air component for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

It remains uncertain, however, how long Schneider's nomination will await Senate confirmation.

Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., is already holding up promotions for about 200 senior officers as a means of pressuring the Defense Department to rescind new abortion policies.



**Schneider**

Schneider is director of staff at Air Force headquarters in the Pentagon.

He would replace Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach, who has commanded PACAF since July 2020.

Schneider earned his commis-

sion from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1988 and has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels, including a combat wing in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, according to his official biography.

He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flight hours in F-16 and F-15E fighter jets, the T-38C trainer jet and the UH-1N Huey helicopter.

That total includes 530 combat flight hours, according to his biography.

He has held key commands in the Pacific over the past decade.

From 2015 to 2016, he served as

chief of staff at PACAF, moving from there to become chief of staff at INDOPACOM until 2019. From early 2019 to August 2021, he commanded USFJ and the Fifth Air Force at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Schneider as USFJ commander oversaw the first attempts to restrict the coronavirus from spreading among the U.S. military community. He also fielded complaints from Japanese authorities of U.S. personnel disregarding pandemic restrictions and ordered an end to the display of Confederate battle flags on U.S. installations in Ja-

pan, citing the "painful reminder of the history of hate, bigotry, treason, and devaluation of humanity that it represents."

Schneider offered stern words about America's adversaries on the day he relinquished command of USFJ.

"Authoritarian regimes in Beijing, Pyongyang and Moscow continue to work to undermine peace and disrupt the security that has enabled economies to flourish," he said during the Aug. 27, 2021, change-of-command ceremony.

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## Spring fest draws thousands to Atsugi

*Stars and Stripes*

NAVAL AIR FACILITY AT-SUGI, Japan — Approximately 34,000 Japanese visitors turned out for the first Spring Festival at Naval Air Facility Atsugi since 2019. The line to enter the base on Saturday stretched more than three miles and visitors waited more than four hours to attend the event, which featured live music, food booths and aircraft displays, according to the base.

"The NAF Atsugi Spring Festival is one of a few significant examples of the fact that this base continues to be forever embedded into the very fabric of each of the surrounding cities in this community," base spokesman Greg Mitchell told Stars and Stripes by email Monday.

"We see our neighbors as being our friends and extended family."

The first visitors lined up at 4 a.m. to pass through the gates, where they were greeted by members of the 7th Fleet Band.

Ryohoku Junior High School's marching band, the Mercury Winds, performed on a stage tucked between displays of U.S. Navy and Japan aircraft.

**"We see our neighbors as being our friends and family."**

**Greg Mitchell**

Naval Air Facility Atsugi spokesman



PHOTOS BY AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

**Members of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ride modified mopeds during the Spring Festival at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan on Saturday.**



**Visitors line up to purchase patches.**



**A youngster tries out a fire hose.**



**Ryohoku Junior High School's marching band, the Mercury Winds, perform during the festival.**



**Members of the 7th Fleet Band welcome visitors.**

## Japanese general's body found at crash site

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**  
AND **KEISHI KOJA**  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The body of a Japanese lieutenant general who died when his helicopter went down in the East China Sea nearly three weeks ago has been recovered and identified.

Lt. Gen. Yuichi Sakamoto, commander of the Ground Self-Defense Force's 8th Division, was one of 10 aboard a Japan Air Self-Defense Force UH-60JA Black Hawk that disappeared April 6 during a reconnaissance flight 11 miles northwest of Miyako Airport.

Sakamoto, 55, is among five service members whose remains have been recovered from a section of the helicopter's fuselage in 350 feet of water just offshore of Irabu Island, southwest of Okinawa. Two others have been identified and one body is still with the wreckage where the others were found. Sakamoto was division commander for less than a week at the time of the crash.

Japan's coast guard on Friday said it would suspend around-the-clock search efforts for the remaining four crew members. The Maritime Self-Defense Force continued the search this week.

A Ground Self-Defense Force spokesman on Tuesday declined to say when Sakamoto's body was recovered.

The Black Hawk was on a reconnaissance flight 11 miles northwest of Miyako Airport when it went down with Sakamoto, five members of the division's headquarters staff, four members of the Air Self-Defense Force's 8th Wing and Camp Miyako commander Col. Masahito Iyota aboard.

## PACIFIC

# Russia's war puts focus on Korean artillery stockpiles

By JON HERSKOVITZ  
Bloomberg News

Half a world away from the front line of Russia's war in Ukraine there's a stockpile of probably more than a million artillery shells on the Korean Peninsula — a hoard that's drawing attention as South Korea's leader heads to Washington.

President Yoon Suk Yeol has indicated his government may be open to changing its policy about providing lethal aid to Ukraine under certain conditions. That would be welcome news for U.S. President Joe Biden, who has been seeking help from partners to ease Kyiv's perennial ammunition shortage.

Yoon's office said any decision to send lethal aid depends on how far Russia goes in stepping up attacks on civilians. Yoon is due to meet Biden for a state visit on Wednesday, with security and economic cooperation high on the agenda.

One factor weighing on Yoon will be whether a decision by Seoul to move closer to Kyiv in the conflict would be met by Russian President Vladimir Putin increasing military cooperation with North Korea, said Soo Kim, a former Korea analyst at the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, who now works at U.S.-based management consulting firm LMI.

The Kremlin has said that if South Korea supplies arms to Ukraine it would make it a partici-

pant in the conflict, with former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev suggesting Moscow could respond by selling advanced weaponry to North Korea, according to a Tass report.

"The question is whether Yoon takes Putin's threat seriously, and whether he thinks a Russian retaliation would be as consequential as Putin makes it out to be," Kim said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has long sought weapons from South Korea and even made a personal appeal for the aid when he spoke to the South Korean parliament in April last year.

The Koreans have two of the world's largest artillery forces, with thousands of big guns pointing at each other across the demilitarized zone that separates them. They have stockpiled hundreds of thousands of shells that include North Korean artillery inter-operable with Soviet-era artillery in Russia, and South Korean 155 mm caliber shells, which are the standard used by the NATO countries supplying Ukraine.

South Korean Defense Ministry officials would not comment on the number of munitions it has in stock for security reasons and North Korea does not release that sort of information to the outside world.

"You can bet the stocks of both North and South easily exceed a million shells of differing types,"



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

Protesters stage a rally to oppose the visit of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to the United States in Seoul, South Korea, on Tuesday.

said Joost Oliemans, a weapons expert who co-authored the book *The Armed Forces of North Korea*. "Both operate many thousands of artillery pieces, which, even without being restocked, would necessitate hundreds of thousands of shells," he said.

The New York Times reported that leaked intelligence documents posted on social media last month showed Seoul was also looking at selling 330,000 rounds of 155 mm artillery shells to Poland. The paper said the documents showed a debate within the Yoon government between bowing to U.S. pressure to help supply Ukraine and the nation's official policy of not providing weapons to countries at war.

South Korea's DongA Ilbo newspaper reported earlier this month that the Yoon administration could lease about 500,000 155 mm shells to the U.S., which could be used to indirectly supply Ukraine. Yoon's government downplayed the reports, suggesting the

documents didn't reveal sensitive information and had parts that were fabricated.

Oliemans said the notion of the U.S. purchasing directly, loaning or acquiring the shells through Poland is "probably the most direct way South Korea could influence Ukraine's long-awaited spring offensive and the war in the near term, barring a sudden willingness to deliver armaments such as advanced air defenses."

Meanwhile, North Korea's huge stockpile of artillery has apparently attracted the attention of Russia.

The U.S. has accused Kim Jong Un's regime of providing arms and ammunition to aid Putin's war, including sending shells and rockets.

While the Biden administration said the weapons won't do much to alter the battlefield situation, the sales would open a new stream of revenue to a country isolated from much of world trade.

Some North Korean items likely

on Putin's wish list would be 122 mm and 152 mm artillery rounds as well as 122 mm rockets. The government in Pyongyang has denounced the charges as groundless rumors.

While Seoul may not be officially sending arms to Ukraine, Russia's war has opened a door for South Korea's defense exports, which were on track to more than double in 2022 as buyers including countries in Europe seek to replace Soviet-era weaponry with higher tech arms. In December, Poland received 10 K2 tanks and 24 self-propelled K9 howitzers, the first part of an almost \$6 billion agreement reached in August with Hyundai Rotem Co. and Hanwha Defense Systems Corp.

Washington seems to be giving the green light to South Korea to sell to states in places like eastern Europe as U.S. defense contractors race to fill orders for weapons that will go to Kyiv and Taipei, which is facing threats from China.

## Deter: Plan highlights countries' 70th anniversary as allies

FROM PAGE 1

deterrence commitments to the Republic of Korea and to the people of Korea," Sullivan said, using the formal name for South Korea.

Biden also hopes to use the visit, which began Tuesday, to underscore the importance of South Korea and Japan building on their security ties.

Biden has sought opportunities to help the historic rivals improve their long, fraught relationship as the Indo-Pacific region becomes increasingly complicated. He held trilateral meetings with Yoon and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida that largely focused on the North Korea threat on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Cambodia last November and at the NATO summit in Madrid in June.

Last month, South Korea an-

nounced a plan to compensate Koreans who performed forced labor during Tokyo's colonial rule that doesn't require Japanese companies to contribute to the reparations.

Biden hailed the step as a "groundbreaking new chapter" in cooperation between the countries. Yoon followed up by visiting Tokyo later in March for talks with Kishida. It was the first summit between the two nations' leaders in Japan since 2011.

Sullivan said Biden also plans to highlight Yoon's "determination and courage" in rapprochement with Japan during the visit.

Ahead of the Yoon visit, the United States, South Korea and Japan conducted a joint missile defense exercise last week aimed at countering North Korea's growing nuclear arsenal.

Experts say North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wants to pressure the United States into accepting North Korea as a legitimate nuclear power and hopes to negotiate an easing of sanctions from a position of strength.

The United States and South Korea conducted their biggest field exercises in years in March and have also held separate naval and aerial drills involving a U.S. aircraft carrier battle group and nuclear-capable B-52 bombers.

South Korean officials said that the two leaders would discuss human rights concerns in North Korea.

Experts believe the food situation in North Korea is the worst it has been under Kim Jong Un's 11-year rule, but they still say they see no signs of imminent famine or mass deaths. Kim vowed to

strengthen state control over agriculture and take a spate of other steps to increase grain production, according to North Korean state media.

Meanwhile, the White House recently declassified and released intelligence findings that show that Russia is looking again to North Korea for weapons to fuel the war in Ukraine in a deal that would provide Pyongyang with needed food and other commodities in return. The White House previously said North Korea had provided the Wagner Group, a private Russian military company, with arms to help bolster its forces as they fight side-by-side with Russian troops in Ukraine.

South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin in a virtual speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said

there is a "dire human rights situation on the ground" and urged the international community to work together "to ease the anguish of ordinary North Korean people."

As part of his visit to Washington, Yoon is scheduled on Tuesday to tour NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center with Vice President Kamala Harris.

The South Korean president will visit the Korean War Memorial with Biden and first lady Jill Biden on Tuesday evening. The two leaders and aides will hold formal talks and a joint news conference on Wednesday before Yoon is honored with the state dinner.

Yoon is to deliver a speech to the U.S. Congress on Thursday before traveling to Massachusetts where he is scheduled to speak at the Harvard Kennedy School.

## EUROPE

# Russian missiles hit museum, worker dead

By HANNA ARHIROVA  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A Russian missile hit a museum building in a Ukrainian city on Tuesday, killing at least two people and wounding 10 others, part of a relentless barrage that comes as Ukraine is readying its forces for an expected spring counteroffensive.

Ukrainian officials said the Russian military used S-300 air defense missiles to attack Kupiansk in the Kharkiv region, hitting the museum of local history in the city center.

The Russian military has repeatedly used S-300s, which Ukraine's air defenses can't intercept, to attack ground targets.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted a video from the site that shows the ruined building and emergency responders examining the damage.

"The terrorist country is doing everything to destroy us completely," Zelenskyy said. "Our history, our culture, our people. Killing Ukrainians with absolutely barbaric methods."

Zelenskyy said that a museum worker was killed, and Kharkiv regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov later reported that the body of another victim was pulled from the rubble.

Syniehubov said that three people were hospitalized and seven received minor injuries.

Kupiansk was captured by Russian forces in the earlier stages of the Russian invasion but was reclaimed by Ukrainian forces in a surprise counteroffensive in September that saw the Russians driven out of broad swaths of the Kharkiv region.

A woman also died in Russian shelling of the town of Dvorichna, near Kupiansk, and two civilians were killed in the eastern Donetsk region, according to the Ukrainian presidential office.

The Ukrainian military is now preparing for a new massive coun-



LIBKOS/AP

A Ukrainian soldier smiles standing in a trench on the frontline in the village of New York, Donetsk region, Ukraine, on Monday.

teroffensive, relying on the latest supplies of Western battle tanks and other weapons and fresh troops that were trained in the West.

Zelenskyy on Tuesday met with the top military brass to discuss the battlefield situation as well as prospects for new weapons supplies and the preparation of troops.

"We have to accelerate the pace of weapons supply because every day of delay is the lives of our soldiers," Zelenskyy said on Facebook.

Ukraine's military intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Kyrylo Budanov, in an interview with RBC-Ukraine released Monday, described the planned counteroffensive as a "landmark battle in Ukraine's modern history" that would see the country "reclaim significant areas."

The Kremlin, meanwhile, has regularly reminded the West about Russia's nuclear arsenal in a bid to discourage the U.S. and its allies from ramping up weapons supplies to Ukraine.

The U.S. and its NATO allies

have denounced Moscow's nuclear rhetoric as dangerous and irresponsible, but noted that they haven't seen any change in Russia's nuclear posture.

On Tuesday, Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of the Security Council chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin, warned that "the world is likely on the verge of another world war" and declared that Moscow wouldn't hesitate to use nuclear weapons if it faced an existential threat.

Medvedev described atomic weapons as pivotal for Russia's

survival, saying that "for our country, the nuclear weapons are the joint holding the state together."

He vowed that the Kremlin will achieve its goals in Ukraine and pointed at Russia's nuclear doctrine envisaging that it could atomic weapons in response to a nuclear attack or an attack with conventional weapons that threatens "the very existence" of the Russian state.

"Our potential adversaries shouldn't underestimate that," Medvedev said.

## UN chief, West berate Russia's top diplomat over Ukraine

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations chief and representatives from Western nations berated Russia's top diplomat as he chaired a U.N. meeting Monday, accusing Moscow of violating the U.N. Charter by attacking Ukraine and occupying part of its territory.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov responded by defending his country's military action and accusing the U.S. and its allies of undercutting global diplomacy, the foundation of the United Nations, which was created to prevent a third world war.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called cooperation among the U.N.'s 193 member nations the organization's "beating heart" and "guiding vision," and he



Lavrov

warned the Security Council that global collaboration is under the greatest strain since the creation of the United Nations in 1945 on the ashes of World War II.

The U.N. secretary-general and the ambassadors of the U.S., Britain, France and their allies pointed to the U.N. Charter's underlying principle requiring all countries to support the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every nation.

Russia convened the ministerial meeting on making "multilateralism" — when countries work together — more effective through the defense of the U.N. Charter,

calling it the high point of its monthlong presidency of the Security Council.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield called Russia a "hypocritical convenor" of the meeting whose "illegal, unprovoked and unnecessary" war in Ukraine "struck at the heart of the U.N. Charter and all that we hold dear."

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Barbara Woodward said the world has seen "what Russia's idea of multilateralism means for the world" — the trampling of the U.N. Charter and a war that has brought unimaginable suffering to Ukraine and been "an unmitigated disaster for Russia, too."

The 27-member European Union called Russia's attempt to portray itself as a defender of the U.N. Charter and multilateralism

"cynical," saying it is "in contempt" not only of the U.N. Charter but U.N. General Assembly resolutions demanding the withdrawal of Russian forces.

But Lavrov defended what Moscow calls its "special military operation," reiterating accusations that Ukraine was promoting "Nazi practices" and banning the Russian language and culture, and NATO was planning to expand into Ukraine.

"We cannot consider the Ukrainian issue separately from the geopolitical context," Lavrov said. "It's about how international relations will continue to be shaped through the establishment of a sound consensus on the basis of balance of interests, or through aggressive and volatile advancement of Washington's hegemony."

## NATION



AMY BETH HANSON/AP

**Montana Democratic state Rep. Zoey Zephyr hoists a microphone into the air Monday, as her supporters interrupt proceedings in the state House by chanting “Let her speak!” in Helena. Republican leaders in the Legislature didn’t let Zephyr, who is transgender, speak on the floor for the third consecutive day because she refuses to apologize for calling GOP lawmakers out for supporting a ban on gender-affirming care.**

## Montana transgender lawmaker silenced again, backers protest

BY AMY BETH HANSON  
AND SAM METZ  
*Associated Press*

HELENA, Mont. — Montana Republicans persisted in forbidding Democratic transgender lawmaker Zoey Zephyr from participating in debate for a second week and her supporters brought the House session to a halt Monday — chanting “Let her speak!” from the gallery before they were escorted out.

Zephyr defiantly hoisted her microphone into the air as her supporters interrupted proceedings for nearly half an hour in protest of Republicans denying her requests to speak on a proposal that would restrict when children can change the names and pronouns they use in school and require parental consent.

The interruption — hours after supporters rallied on the Capitol steps — was the latest development in a standoff over Zephyr’s remarks against lawmakers who support a ban on gender-affirming care for minors. Zephyr, a first-term Democrat from Missoula, hasn’t spoken

on the Statehouse floor since last Tuesday when she told Republican colleagues they would have “blood on their hands” if they banned gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth.

Law enforcement escorted Zephyr’s supporters from the gallery above the House floor, including several by force. Seven were arrested for criminal trespass, the sheriff said. They were going to be booked and released.

The disruption drew the ire of Republican leaders, who described it as a “riot” and an “insurrection.”

Leaders cut the sound on the video feed, and Zephyr remained on the floor holding her microphone as supporters also chanted “Whose House? Our House!” The sergeant-at-arms asked Zephyr to help settle things down — a request he said she rebuffed.

Zephyr did not return to the floor after lawmakers reconvened. She told *The Associated Press* she was headed to the county jail with the protesters who were arrested. She tweeted that she went there to show

“support for those who were arrested defending democracy.”

Supporters of the ban saw Zephyr’s admonishment as unprecedented and personal, yet most have refrained from commenting publicly.

House leadership declined to comment to journalists Monday but released a statement saying they “condemn violence and will always stand for civil debate and respect for our processes of government.”

“Today’s riot by far-left agitators damages our discourse and endangered legislators and staff. Their actions did not represent Montana values,” House Speaker Matt Regier, Speaker pro tempore Rhonda Knudsen and Majority Leader Sue Vinton said in the statement.

Zephyr and her supporters say her statements accurately illustrate the stakes of the legislation under discussion, arguing that restricting gender-affirming care endangers transgender youth, who studies suggest are at greater risk of depression and suicide.

# ‘Let’s finish this job’: Biden will seek a 2nd term

BY ZEKE MILLER  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Tuesday formally announced that he is running for reelection in 2024, asking voters to give him more time to “finish this job” and extend the run of America’s oldest president for another four years.

Biden, who would be 86 at the end of a second term, is betting his first-term legislative achievements and more than 50 years of experience in Washington will count for more than concerns over his age. He faces a smooth path to winning his party’s nomination, with no serious Democratic rivals. But he’s still set for a hard-fought struggle to retain the presidency in a bitterly divided nation.

The announcement, in a three-minute video, comes on the four-year anniversary of when Biden declared for the White House in 2019, promising to heal the “soul of the nation” amid the turbulent presidency of Donald Trump — a goal that has remained elusive.

“I said we are in a battle for the soul of America, and we still are,” Biden said. “The question we are facing is whether in the years ahead we have more freedom or less freedom. More rights or fewer.”

While the prospect of seeking reelection has been a given for most modern presidents, that’s not always been the case for Biden. A notable swath of Democratic voters have indicated they would prefer he not run, in part because of his age — concerns Biden has called “totally legitimate” but ones he did not address head-on in the launch video.

Yet few things have unified Democratic voters like the prospect of Trump returning to power. And Biden’s political standing within his party stabilized after Democrats

notched a stronger-than-expected performance in last year’s midterm elections. The president is set to run again on the same themes that buoyed his party last fall, particularly on preserving access to abortion.

“Freedom. Personal freedom is fundamental to who we are as Americans. There’s nothing more important. Nothing more sacred,” Biden said in the launch video, depicting Republicans as trying to roll back access to abortion, cut Social Security, limit voting rights and ban books they disagree with. “Around the country, MAGA extremists are lining up to take those bedrock freedoms away.”

As the contours of the campaign begin to take shape, Biden plans to campaign on his record. He spent his first two years as president combating the coronavirus pandemic and pushing through major bills such as the bipartisan infrastructure package and legislation to promote high-tech manufacturing and climate measures. With Republicans now in control of the House, Biden has shifted his focus to implementing those massive laws and making sure voters credit him for the improvements.

The president also has multiple policy goals and unmet promises from his first campaign that he’s asking voters to give him another chance to fulfill.

“Let’s finish this job. I know we can,” Biden said in the video, repeating a mantra he said a dozen times during his State of the Union address in February.

For now, Trump, 76, is the favorite to emerge as the GOP nominee, creating the potential of a sequel to the bitterly fought 2020 campaign. But Trump faces significant hurdles of his own, including the designation of being the first former president to face criminal charges.

## Famous Twitter users disavow Musk over verification return

*Associated Press*

SAN FRANCISCO — Celebrities, professional athletes and other high-profile Twitter users are once again being verified by the social media platform and they don’t know why their blue check marks reappeared — nor do they seem too happy about it.

Twitter removed the blue marks last week from accounts that don’t pay a monthly fee. But the check marks mysteriously returned for

many highly followed accounts over the weekend, leading some prominent users to disavow what’s become a divisive symbol of Twitter owner Elon Musk’s erratic changes to the platform.

The account belonging to the Auschwitz Memorial, which has 1.5 million followers and regularly tweets out photos and names of Holocaust victims, tweeted on Sunday that after two days of no blue check mark, its account was reverified.

The Memorial said it was “obliged to clarify” that it never subscribed and paid for Twitter Blue as the icon implies.

Other high-profile accounts with more than 1 million followers also took to Twitter to make it clear they didn’t pay to get their blue check back. Those who chimed in included Massachusetts Institute of Technology, actor Bette Midler, gymnast Simone Biles Owens, writer Neil Gaiman and rapper Lil Nas X.

“On my soul i didn’t pay for twitter blue, u will feel my wrath tesla man!” wrote the rapper who has 8 million followers. Added Gaiman, who has 3 million followers: “What a sad, muddled place this has become.”

Under the original blue-check system, Twitter had roughly 400,000 verified users, including Hollywood actors and star athletes as well as journalists, human rights activists and public agencies. In the

past, the checks meant that Twitter had verified that users were who they said they were, as a method to prevent impersonation and the spread of misinformation.

But now anyone can buy a Twitter Blue subscription starting at \$8 a month. It no longer means the user is verified — other than confirming a phone number — but promises a number of features including the ability to have more people see their tweets.

## NATION

# Lawyer for Proud Boys leader: Blame Trump

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A defense attorney argued Tuesday at the close of a landmark trial over the Jan. 6 riot that the Justice Department is making Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio a scapegoat for Donald Trump after the former president's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol.

Tarrio and four lieutenants are charged with seditious conspiracy for what prosecutors say was a plot to attack the Capitol to stop the transfer of presidential power from Trump to President Joe Biden after the 2020 election.

In his closing argument, defense lawyer Nayib Hassan noted Tarrio wasn't in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021, having been banned from the capital after being arrested on allegations that he defaced a Black Lives Matter banner. Trump, Hassan argued, was the one to blame for exhorting a crowd outside the White House to "fight like hell."

"It was Donald Trump's words.

It was his motivation. It was his anger that caused what occurred on January 6th in your beautiful and amazing city," Hassan told jurors in Washington federal court. "It was not Enrique Tarrio. They want to use Enrique Tarrio as a scapegoat for Donald J. Trump and those in power."

Seditious conspiracy, a rarely used charge that can be difficult to prove, carries a possible prison term of up to 20 years.

Tarrio is one of the top targets of the Justice Department's investigation of the riot, which temporarily halted the certification of Biden's election win.

From the outset of the trial, Tarrio's lawyers have accused prosecutors of using him as a scapegoat because charging Trump or his powerful allies would be too difficult. But his attorney's closing arguments were the most full-throated expression of that defense strategy since the trial started more than three months ago.

Trump has denied inciting any violence on Jan. 6 and has argued

that he was permitted by the First Amendment to challenge his loss to Biden. The former president is facing several civil lawsuits over the riot and a special counsel named by Attorney General Merrick Garland is also overseeing investigations into efforts by Trump and his allies to overturn the results of the election.

A prosecutor told jurors on Monday during the first day of closing arguments that the Proud Boys were ready for "all-out war" and viewed themselves as foot soldiers fighting for Trump as the Republican spread lies that Democrats stole the election from him.

"These defendants saw themselves as Donald Trump's army, fighting to keep their preferred leader in power no matter what the law or the courts had to say about it," said the prosecutor, Connor Mulroe.

Jurors could begin deliberating as soon as Tuesday after hearing closing arguments and a rebuttal from prosecutors.

Tarrio, a Miami resident, is on

trial with Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs, Zachary Rehl and Dominic Pezzola. Nordean, of Auburn, Wash., was a Proud Boys chapter president. Biggs, of Ormond Beach, Fla., was a self-described Proud Boys organizer. Rehl was president of a Proud Boys chapter in Philadelphia. Pezzola was a Proud Boys member from Rochester, N.Y.

Attorneys for Nordean and Rehl gave their closing arguments on Monday.

Tarrio is accused of orchestrating an attack from afar even though he wasn't in Washington that day. Police arrested him two days before the riot on charges that he burned a church's Black Lives Matter banner during an earlier march in the city. A judge ordered Tarrio to leave Washington after his arrest.

Defense attorneys have argued that there is no evidence of a conspiracy or a plan for the Proud Boys to attack the Capitol. Tarrio "had no plan, no objective and no understanding of an objective,"

his attorney said.

Pezzola testified that he never spoke to any of his co-defendants before they sat in the same courtroom after their arrests. Defense attorney Steven Metcalf said Pezzola never knew of any plan for Jan. 6 or joined in any conspiracy with the Proud Boys leaders.

"It's not possible. It's fairy dust. It doesn't exist," Metcalf said.

Mulroe, the prosecutor, told jurors that a conspiracy can be an unspoken and implicit "mutual understanding, reached with a wink and a nod."

The foundation of the government's case, which started with jury selection in January, is a trove of messages that Proud Boys leaders and members privately exchanged in encrypted chats — and publicly posted on social media — before, during and after the deadly Jan. 6 attack.

Defense attorneys have also tried to portray the far-right group as a drinking club that only engaged in violence for self-defense against antifascist activists.

## Trump accuser in court for jury selection in rape lawsuit trial

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For decades, former President Donald Trump has seemed to shake off allegations, investigations and even impeachments. Now his "Teflon Don" reputation is about to face a new test: a jury of average citizens in a lawsuit accusing him of rape.

Jury selection began Tuesday for a trial over former advice columnist's E. Jean Carroll's claim that Trump raped her nearly three decades ago in a department store dressing room. He denies it.

The trial is in a federal civil court, meaning that no matter the outcome, Trump isn't in danger of going to jail. He isn't required to be in court, either, and his lawyers have indicated he most likely won't testify.

But the trial, which comes as Trump is again running for president, still has the potential to be politically damaging for the Republican. The jury is poised to hear a reprisal of stories of sexual misconduct that rocked his 2016 presidential campaign, allegations he claimed were falsehoods spun up to try to stop him from winning.

The trial also comes a month after he pleaded not guilty in an unrelated criminal case surrounding payments made to bury accounts of alleged extramarital sex.

Carroll, who seeks unspecified damages, is expected to testify about a chance encounter with Trump in late 1995 or early 1996 that she says turned violent.



SETH WENIG/AP

**Former advice columnist E. Jean Carroll walks into Manhattan federal court Tuesday, in New York. Jury selection began Tuesday in a trial over Carroll's claim that former President Donald Trump raped her nearly three decades ago in a department store dressing room.**

The trial will also include Carroll's defamation claim against Trump over disparaging remarks he made about her in response to the rape allegations. She's seeking a retraction.

She says that after running into the future president at Manhattan's Bergdorf Goodman, he invited her to shop with him for a woman's lingerie gift before they teased one another to try on a garment. Carroll says they ended up alone together in a store dressing room, where Trump pushed her against a wall and raped before she fought him off and fled.

Since Carroll first made her accusations in a 2019 memoir, Trump

has vehemently denied that a rape ever occurred or that he even knew Carroll, a longtime columnist for Elle magazine.

Trump has labeled Carroll a "nut job" and "mentally sick." He claimed she fabricated the rape claim to boost sales of her book.

Carroll didn't stop to speak with reporters as she arrived at the courthouse Tuesday morning.

Jurors are also expected to hear from two other women who say they were sexually assaulted by Trump.

Carroll's allegations normally would be too old to bring to court. But in November, New York state enacted a law allowing for suits over decades-old sexual abuse claims.

## DA to decide on Ga. election probe charges in summer

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The prosecutor in Atlanta investigating whether then-President Donald Trump and his allies illegally meddled in the 2020 election in Georgia said Monday she expects to announce charging decisions in the case this summer and urged "heightened security."

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis wrote in a letter to county Sheriff Pat Labat that she expects to announce the decisions sometime between July 11 and Sept. 1. She said she wanted to give Labat time to coordinate with local, state and federal agencies "to ensure that our law enforcement community is ready to protect the public."

"Open-source intelligence has indicated the announcement of decisions in this case may provoke a significant public reaction," Willis wrote in the letter, adding that some could involve "acts of violence that will endanger the safety of our community."

As leaders, they need to be prepared, she wrote, adding that her team would be in touch to talk about arrangements.

The letter was first reported by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which reported that letters were also sent to Atlanta's police chief and the head of the Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency.

The Atlanta Police Department confirmed receipt of a letter from Willis and said it would "continue

to monitor the potential for unrest throughout our city."

"We stand ready to respond to demonstrations to ensure the safety of those in our communities and those exercising their First Amendment right, or to address illegal activity, should the need arise," a department statement said.

Willis has been investigating whether Trump and his allies broke any laws as they tried to overturn his narrow election loss to Democrat Joe Biden in Georgia.

She opened the investigation in early 2021, shortly after a recording of a phone call between Trump

and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger was made public. In that call, Trump suggested the state's top elections official could help "find" the votes needed to overturn his loss in the state.

It has become clear since then that the scope of her investigation has expanded far beyond that call.

Trump's legal team in Georgia — Drew Findling, Jennifer Little and Marissa Goldberg — said in a statement that Willis' announcement to law enforcement "does nothing more than set forth a potential timetable" for decisions Willis had already said were coming.



Willis

## NATION

# College board: Black history class to change

BY CHEYANNE MUMPHREY  
Associated Press

The College Board says changes will be made to its new AP African American studies course, after critics said the agency bowed to political pressure and removed several topics from the framework, including Black Lives Matter, slavery reparations and queer life.

In a statement on Monday, the College Board said the development committee and experts charged with authoring the Advanced Placement course “will determine the details of those changes over the next few months.”

“We are committed to providing an unflinching encounter with the facts and evidence of African American history and culture,” the company said.

It remains unclear what the changes are or when they will be made public.

The course gained national attention this winter when Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a possible Republican presidential candidate in 2024, said he would ban the course in his state because it pushed a political agenda.

“In the state of Florida, our education standards not only don’t prevent, but they require teaching Black history, all the important things. That’s part of our core curriculum,” DeSantis previously said. “We want education and not

indoctrination.”

But the official curriculum for the course, released after DeSantis’ administration rejected it, downplayed some components that had drawn objections from the governor and other conservatives. The College Board faced an onslaught of criticism from activists and African American scholars outraged at the notion the course changed because of political controversy.

The course was launched in 60 schools in the U.S. and will be expanded to 800 schools and 16,000 students this upcoming school year.

The nonprofit testing company previously said revisions to the course were substantially complete and not shaped by political influence before DeSantis shared his objections. College Board officials said developers consulted with professors from more than 200 colleges, including several historically Black institutions, and took input from teachers piloting the class.

The company said Monday the creation of the course had prioritized access to a discipline that is not widely available to high schoolers, plus bringing that content to as many students as possible — a possible reference to students in states run by conservatives. “Regrettably,” the nonprofit testing company said, those two goals “came into conflict.”

## Pot legalization moving up in Minn. Legislature

AP/Report for America

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Recreational marijuana could soon be legalized and regulated in Minnesota under bills that are entering the final rounds of debate at the Legislature.

The House, where Democrats comfortably outnumber Republicans, debated its marijuana bill late into the night Monday before breaking around midnight, and was expected to pass it Tuesday after green-lighting similar legislation in 2021. The Senate, where Democrats hold only a one-seat majority, is scheduled to vote Friday on its own version.

“Today is a big day because we are now at the five-yard line” for

legalizing cannabis, the lead author, Democratic Rep. Zack Stephenson, of Coon Rapids, said at a news conference.

The bill has an emphasis on social equity, Stephenson said, and the overall focus is to make sure that people who have been harmed most by previous marijuana laws would benefit most through jobs and opportunities in the new, legal cannabis market.

Across the country, Black and Hispanic Americans have been disproportionately burdened by state convictions for marijuana-related offenses.

At least 21 other states have passed laws legalizing recreational use of marijuana by adults.



BRIGHTLINE WEST/AP

An illustration of the Brightline West High Speed Rail project train traveling from Las Vegas to Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

## Las Vegas-to-California bullet train gets bipartisan backing

BY KEN RITTER  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A bipartisan congressional group from Nevada and California asked the Biden administration Monday to fast-track federal funds for a private company to build a high-speed rail line between Las Vegas and the Los Angeles area.

All six of Nevada’s elected federal lawmakers and four House members from California sent the letter to U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. They said they’re on board with a proposal from Brightline West to spend more than \$10 billion to lay tracks along the Interstate 15 corridor.

Traffic jams on the interstate often stretch for 15 miles near the

Nevada-California line as motorists head home after a weekend or holiday travel to Las Vegas.

The Mojave Desert is largely open space, and the electric-powered trains could potentially cut the four-hour trip in half, carrying passengers at speeds of nearly 200 mph.

“This project is a major priority because it will make southern Nevada more accessible to millions of visitors each year,” said U.S. Sen. Jacky Rosen, the Nevada Democrat leading the group. She said it “will boost our economy and create more good-paying jobs.”

Union labor will be used during construction, the company and the Southern Nevada Building Trades

Union have announced in recent weeks.

Brightline West is seeking \$3.75 billion in federal funding from the Biden administration-backed federal infrastructure law.

The project could be “the blueprint for how we can connect major city pairs that are too short to fly and too far to drive,” said Mike Reininger, CEO of Florida-based Brightline Holdings LLC, the only privately owned and operated intercity passenger railroad in the United States.

The lawmakers’ letter pointed to company projections of 35,000 construction jobs, 1,000 permanent jobs and reduced planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles.

## Ala., Miss. mark Confederate holiday amid failed attempts to abolish, alter

Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama and Mississippi closed most government offices Monday for Confederate Memorial Day as efforts have stalled to abolish state holidays that honor the old Confederacy.

Legislation has been introduced in the ongoing Alabama legislative session to remove, alter or rename Confederate-related holidays, but the effort has so far gained little traction.

Camille Bennett, the founder of Project Say Something, an organization that has worked for the removal of Confederate monuments in Alabama, said the determination to keep Confederate holidays comes at the same time Alabama lawmakers push legislation banning so-called “divisive concepts” from being taught in state classrooms and

diversity training for state workers.

“On one side, you have white conservative men defining what divisive is and what it means. ... At the same time, you are honoring the Confederacy, which in itself is a divisive concept. It’s really hypocritical, quite tone deaf,” Bennett said.

An Alabama Senate committee last week rejected a proposal to separate the joint state holiday celebrating Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and slain civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the same day.

“We’re trying to separate the holidays of two men whose ideologies were totally separate, from one end of the totem pole to the other. One believed in justice and fairness for all, and another believed in slavery,” state Sen. Vivian Davis Figures said.

Several Southern states have ended or renamed Confederate holidays. Louisiana in 2022 removed Robert E. Lee Day and Confederate Memorial Day from the list of state holidays. Georgia in 2015 renamed Confederate Memorial Day to “State Holiday.” Arkansas in 2017 ended the practice of commemorating Lee and King on the same day.

Mississippi Public Broadcasting on Monday had historians read Mississippi’s secession declaration, which makes clear that slavery was the central issue.

Mary Jane Meadows, a member of the north Mississippi chapter of the Indivisible advocacy group, told Mississippi Public Broadcasting that the group protested Confederate Memorial Day last year and planned to do the same for 2023.

NATION

# As snow melts, Californians brace for floods

By AMY TAXIN  
Associated Press

Ron Caetano is packed and ready to go. His family photos and valuables are in the trailer and he's put food in carry totes. He moved the rabbits and chickens and their automatic feeders to higher ground.

He and his family and dogs could get out in less than an hour, they figure, should more heavy rain or hot weather melt so much mountain snow that gushing water overwhelms the rivers and channel that surround their tight-knit, rural Central California community and give it its name, the Island District.

"The water is coming this way," said Caetano, who started a Facebook group to help organize his neighbors. "I am preparing for the worst and praying for the best and that's all we can do."

After more than a dozen atmospheric rivers dumped record rain and epic snowfall on California, a reservoir that typically stores water upstream is expected to receive three times its capacity. Caetano and his neighbors in the tree-lined Island District, home to

a school, pistachio orchards and horse ranches about halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, could soon be marooned by rising rivers or flooded out.

Water managers are concerned that the spring snowmelt in the Sierra Nevada will be so massive, the north fork of the Kings River won't be able to contain it and carry it toward the Pacific Ocean. Much of the water is being channeled into the river's south fork, which winds through the area to fill a vast basin.

More than a century ago, that basin was an enormous body of freshwater, the largest west of the Mississippi River, known as Tular Lake, that would grow in winter as snowmelt streamed down from the mountains. But over time, settlers dammed and diverted waterways to irrigate crops, and the lake went dry. Now, Tular Lake reappears only during the rainiest years, like this one, covering what is now a vast swath of farmland with water.

Today, paved roads vanish beneath the lake's lapping waves and utility poles and trees jut out above the water, vestiges of land-



JAE C. HONG/AP

**Earl Gomes, 33, stands for a photo outside his home with a berm he built to protect the property from possible flooding of the Kings River in the Island District of Lemoore, Calif., on Thursday.**

living put on hold. Fields that typically grow wheat, tomatoes, and other crops lie underneath.

David Merritt, general manager for the Kings River Conservation District, said the Pine Flat Reservoir about 50 miles upstream can hold up to 1 million acre-feet of water, but is expected to receive more than 3 million acre-feet this spring from the melting snow. Officials have been forced to increase the flow of water out of the reservoir to make space for more, Merritt said.

"Once we're at capacity, now you're putting a lot of stress on those conveyance channels," Merritt said. "It's a very fast moving stream and it's very deep right now."

Island District residents have revived a decades-old network of neighbors for the first time since 1983 to assist each other in the event of a crisis. The last time the Island Property Protection Association activated, there was no such thing as text messages or even emails to quickly spread the word, said Tony Oliveira, a former county supervisor and the network's administrator.

In a week, more than 200 people volunteered to help neighbors through the network, and the group's website received more than 4,000 hits.

"It's going to be four months of holding our breath," Oliveira said.

The winter rains were welcomed by California's parched ci-

ties and desperate growers, who have been grappling with intense drought for the past several years. The state has long tended toward wet and dry periods, but scientists at University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography have said they expect climate change will lead to drier dry years and wetter wet years.

What will determine how communities fare now is how quickly the weather heats up. If temperatures remain cool, snow will melt slowly, with water gradually flowing from the mountains. But a hot spell could send massive amounts of water churning through rivers that could potentially overflow, officials said.

## Fox News ousts Tucker Carlson, its most popular host

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fox News on Monday ousted prime-time host Tucker Carlson, whose stew of grievances and political theories about Russia and the Jan. 6 insurrection had grown to define the network in recent years and make him an influential force in GOP politics.

Fox said that the network and Carlson had "agreed to part ways," but offered no explanation for the stunning move, saying that

the last broadcast of "Tucker Carlson Tonight" aired last Friday. Carlson ended the show by saying, "We'll be back on Monday."

Yet on Monday night, viewers tuned in to morning anchor Brian Kilmeade, who said that Carlson was gone, "as you may have heard."

"I wish Tucker the best," Kilmeade said. "I'm great friends with Tucker and always will be."

Then, he switched to a story on Hunter Biden, the president's son.

The break from Carlson comes amid a cascade of bad legal news for the network.



Carlson

A week ago, Fox agreed to pay more than \$787 million to settle a lawsuit with Dominion Voting Systems over the network's airing of false claims following the 2020 presidential election — shortly before Carlson

was expected to be called to testify.

CBS' "60 Minutes" on Sunday aired a report about a man caught up in a Jan. 6 conspiracy theory who said Carlson was "obsessed" with him, and whose lawyer has put Fox on notice of potential litigation. Carlson was also recently named in a lawsuit by a former Fox producer who said the show had a cruel and misogynistic workplace, and that she had been pressured to give misleading testi-

mony in the Dominion case.

Meanwhile, CNN axed its own embattled anchor, Don Lemon, on Monday.

Carlson, however, had a greater influence, a higher viewer count and a more shocking exit. He worked at both CNN and MSNBC earlier in his career, then ditched his bow-tie look and quickly became Fox's most popular personality after replacing Bill O'Reilly in the network's prime-time lineup in 2017.

## Don Lemon fired from CNN after divisive morning show run

Associated Press

NEW YORK — CNN fired long-time host Don Lemon on Monday following his short and disastrous run as a morning show host, a little over two months after he apologized for on-air comments about Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley being past her prime.

The move quickly turned nasty. While CNN chairman and CEO Chris Licht announced, after



Lemon

"After 17 years at CNN I would have thought someone in management would have the decency to tell me directly," Lemon said.

Lemon had co-hosted the show Monday, that they had "parted ways," Lemon characterized it as a firing and said it was a surprise to him.

CNN said that Lemon was given the opportunity to meet with management but released a statement on Twitter instead. CNN offered no public explanation for Lemon's dismissal. During a February discussion on "CNN This Morning" with co-hosts Poppy Harlow and Kaitlan Collins about the ages of politicians, he said that the 51-year-old Haley was not "in her prime." A woman, he said, was considered

in her prime "in her 20s, 30s and maybe her 40s."

Harlow challenged Lemon, trying to clarify what he was referencing: "I think we need to qualify. Are you talking about prime for childbearing or are you talking about prime for being president?"

"Don't shoot the messenger, I'm just saying what the facts are," Lemon responded.

Lemon issued a statement the

same day saying he regretted his "inartful and irrelevant" comments. He was subsequently absent from the show for three days, returning the following week with a tweeted apology but no mention of the episode on air.

Haley, who had criticized Lemon's statements as sexist and used the incident to fundraise in February, took to Twitter on Monday to call Lemon's ouster "a great day for women everywhere."

WORLD

# Fitful start to new 3-day truce in Sudan as airlifts continue

Associated Press

CAIRO — Sudanese and foreigners streamed out of the capital of Khartoum and other battle zones, as fighting Tuesday shook a new three-day truce brokered by the United States and Saudi Arabia. Aid agencies raised increasing alarm over the crumbling humanitarian situation in a country reliant on outside help.

So far, a series of short cease-fires the past week have either failed outright or brought only intermittent lulls in the fighting that has raged between the forces of the country's two top generals since April 15. The lulls have been enough for dramatic evacuations of hundreds of foreign-

ers by air and land, which continued Tuesday.

But they have brought no relief to millions of Sudanese caught in the crossfire, struggling to find food, shelter and medical care as explosions, gunfire and looting fighters wreck their neighborhoods. The U.N. refugee agency said it was gearing up for potentially tens of thousands of people fleeing into neighboring countries.

Calls for negotiations to end the crisis in Africa's third-largest nation have been ignored.

Thousands of Sudanese have been fleeing Khartoum and its neighboring city of Omdurman. Bus stations in the capital were packed

Tuesday morning with people who had spent the night there in hopes of getting on a departing bus.

The new 72-hour cease-fire, announced by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was to last until late Thursday night.

But fighting continued, with explosions, gunfire and the roar of warplanes overhead around the capital region, including in Omdurman, a city across the Nile River from Khartoum.

The World Health Agency expressed concern that one of the warring parties had seized control of the central public health laboratory in Khartoum. "That is extremely, extremely dangerous because we



SPANISH DEFENCE MINISTRY/AP

Citizens of different nationalities fleeing Sudan sit inside a Spanish Air Force aircraft on its way to Madrid on Monday.

have polio isolates in the lab. We have measles isolates in the lab. We have cholera isolates in the lab," Dr. Nima Saeed Abid, the WHO representative in Sudan told a U.N. briefing in Geneva by video call from

Port Sudan.

He did not identify which side held the facility but said they had expelled technicians and power was cut, so it was not possible to properly manage the biological materials.

## Sudan: Thousands of American citizens believed to still be in country

FROM PAGE 1

which is en route to the Red Sea, Hawkins said.

For more than a week, fighting has raged in parts of Sudan between two powerful military factions that combined to overthrow the country's previous government in 2021. Together, the two forces mounted the coup, but tensions have been rising recently concerning power-sharing as the nation transitions to a new government.

More than 400 people have been killed since the fighting began earlier this month, according to news reports. American staffers at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum were evacuated Sunday by U.S. special forces troops, but thousands of other American citizens are still believed to be in the country.

Ryder said the Pentagon moved

U.S. forces into the region near Sudan last week, expecting that an evacuation of government personnel might be imminent. He also said the U.S. military has flown unmanned aerial vehicles over Sudan in order to support a U.N. convoy of evacuees during its 35-hour trek from Khartoum to Port Sudan.

"That is enabling us to support State Department efforts in terms of maintaining and understanding the situation on the ground in order to, for example, look at potential land routes out of Sudan," Ryder told reporters Monday at the Pentagon.

The U.S. and other countries have been moving quickly in recent days to remove their citizens from Sudan as fighting intensified. The Pentagon said U.S. forces will remain there for as long as

necessary.

"In the coming days, we will continue to work with the State Department to help American citizens who may want to leave Sudan," Christopher Maier, assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity warfare, said Sunday. "One of those ways is to potentially make the overland routes out of Sudan potentially more viable. So, [we are] considering actions that may include use of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities to be able to observe routes and detect threats."

Ryder said U.S. Africa Command has established a "deconfliction cell" in Germany that's designed to maintain communications between American forces and partners in Sudan to "keep them updated in terms of what the

U.S. government is doing."

Sudan is no stranger to conflict. Hundreds of thousands of people died in two civil wars between the 1950s and the mid-2000s, and many more died in the war in Darfur from 2003 to 2020. The new fighting is a conflict between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, mainly over integrating the RSF into the Sudanese military and who will have power. Most of the fighting has been limited to Khartoum, with sporadic clashes elsewhere. The State Department has designated Sudan with its strongest travel warning and has urged American citizens against traveling there.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cautioned in an address Monday that the violence in Sudan could spread to other parts

of Africa.

"I call on the parties to stop combat operations in densely populated areas and to allow unhindered humanitarian aid operations. Civilians must be able to access food, water and other essential supplies, and evacuate from combat zones," Guterres said. "It risks a catastrophic conflagration within Sudan, that could engulf the whole region and beyond."

Sudan is Africa's third-largest country by area — almost 730,000 square miles — and was the continent's largest nation before a segment broke off in 2011 and declared independence as South Sudan. A U.S. estimate last year said roughly 48 million people live in Sudan.

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# WORLD



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Members of the association of dog farmers shout during a rally in Seoul, South Korea, on Tuesday.

## Dog meat comment angers S. Korea farmers

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Dozens of dog farmers in South Korea rallied Tuesday to criticize the country's first lady over her reported comments that support a possible ban on dog meat consumption. Eating dog is a centuries-old Korean practice. But there have been growing calls for outlawing it in South Korea as animal rights campaigns have influenced public perception

and eating dog meat has fallen out of favor with most younger people. About 50 dog farmers gathered Tuesday near the office of President Yoon Suk Yeol to protest remarks made by his wife, Kim Keon Hee, during a private luncheon with animal rights activists earlier in April. Some local media outlets reported Kim told the activists that she would work for an end to dog meat consumption for the dura-

tion of Yoon's term, which ends in 2027. Dog farmers argued Kim isn't entitled to make such a policy promise because she isn't a government official. They also accused her of undermining their rights to their livelihoods and happiness. Yoon's office declined to confirm the contents of Kim's conversation with the activists because their luncheon was organized as a closed-door meeting.

# Kenyan president says cult deaths akin to terrorism

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenyan President William Ruto on Monday compared the dozens of starvation deaths among the followers of a pastor in the south of the country with the results of terrorist acts, as the new death toll rose to 73. He maintained that the pastor, Paul Makenzi, who is in police custody, should be in prison. "What we are seeing ... is akin to terrorism," Ruto said. "Mr. Makenzi ... pretends and postures as a pastor when in fact he is a terrible criminal." Makenzi was arrested on suspicion of telling his followers to fast to death in order to meet Jesus. A group of emaciated people were rescued alive, but some of them later died. Authorities then turned

their attention to dozens of shallow graves marked with crosses on Makenzi's 800-acre ranch. The total death toll now stands at 73, with 26 new bodies exhumed on Monday, Malindi sub-county police chief John Kemboi told the Associated Press. The Kenyan Red Cross Society on Sunday said 112 people had been reported missing at a tracing desk set up at Malindi, where the pastor's main church was located. Ruto said he had instructed law enforcement agencies to investigate the matter as a criminal case not linked to any religion. Ruto, who was elected in 2022, was hyped as the country's first evangelical Christian president and has not been shy about his faith. Makenzi remains in custody.

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Ex-Disney worker admits taking videos up skirts

**FL** ORLANDO — A former Walt Disney World employee is facing a charge that he surreptitiously took a video up the skirt of a female customer, allegedly telling investigators he had done it more than 500 times over the past six years.

Jorge Diaz Vega, 26, worked at the Star Wars gift shop inside Disney World's Hollywood Studios theme park in Florida until his recent arrest on one count of video voyeurism, a third-degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

According to court records filed by Orange County Sheriff's detectives, Vega was spotted by a witness shooting a video up an 18-year-old woman's skirt.

Detectives said that Vega volunteered during questioning that he takes the videos as a "guilty pleasure."

## States urge Kia, Hyundai recall as thefts rise

**CA** SACRAMENTO — Attorneys general in 17 states urged the federal government to recall millions of Kia and Hyundai cars because they are too easy to steal, a response to a sharp increase in thefts fueled by a viral social media challenge.

Some Kia and Hyundai cars sold in the United States over the last decade do not have engine immobilizers, a standard feature on most cars that prevents the engine from starting unless the key is present.

Videos circulating on TikTok have shown how people can start Kia and Hyundai models by using only a screwdriver and a USB cable. In Los Angeles, thefts of Hyundai and Kia cars increased by about 85% in 2022, now accounting for 20% of all car thefts in the city, according to the California attorney general's office.

"The bottom line is, Kia's and Hyundai's failure to install standard safety features on many of their vehicles have put vehicle owners and the public at risk," California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a news release.

## Prison commutations halted amid uproar

**CT** HARTFORD — Connecticut has paused all prison commutations in the wake of an uproar over a drastic rise in the number of inmates having their sentences reduced, the governor announced.

Conservative lawmakers and victims' rights advocates had called for the suspension of commutations and a review of the state's Board of Pardons and Paroles policies after it was revealed that 71 commutations were granted in 2022. Just three were approved between 2017 and 2021.

Those getting sentence reductions included 44 convicted murderers, who had an average of 15 years



SHAWNA BELL/AP

## Fire-breathing dragon goes up in flames

A fire during the "Fantasmic" show in the Tom Sawyer Island section of Disneyland resort in Anaheim, Calif., on Saturday. The feature's fire-breathing animatronic dragon suddenly burst into flames during the show and no injuries were reported.

shaved off their sentences, according to lawmakers.

Richard Sparaco, the board's executive director, said the board would review aspects of its policy that drew criticism, including protocols for notifying victims and a rule allowing people denied commutation to reapply after three years, according to Hearst Connecticut Media.

## State secures 3-year supply of abortion meds

**OR** SALEM — Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek said she has directed the state to obtain a supply of the most commonly used abortion medication in the U.S. amid fears that a court ruling could restrict access to it.

The Democratic governor said patients in Oregon will have access to mifepristone for years.

"I will make sure that patients are able to access the medication they need and providers are able to provide that medication without unnecessary, politically-motivated interference and intimidation," Kotek said in a statement.

According to Kotek's office, the state is partnering with Oregon Health & Science University to obtain 22,500 doses of mifepristone. The state joins Washington, California, New York and Massachusetts in buying bulk amounts of abortion

medication in recent weeks.

## Bird hits plane, sparking fire shortly after takeoff

**OH** COLUMBUS — A bird strike sparked an engine fire on a plane shortly after it took off from an Ohio airport, and the airliner returned safely with no injuries reported, authorities said.

American Airlines flight 1958 had departed from John Glenn Columbus International Airport in Columbus and was headed to Phoenix. The fire was detected a short time later and the Boeing 737 returned to the airport, where firefighters quickly doused the flames.

It wasn't clear how many passengers and crew members were aboard the aircraft. The airline said the plane was taken out of service for maintenance and it was working to get the passengers on other flights.

## Freeway the sea lion euthanized after falling ill

**CA** SAN DIEGO — Freeway, the sea lion rescued after wandering inland from his ocean home and crossing busy San Diego thoroughfares, has been euthanized after falling ill.

The sea lion earned his name in January 2022 after being found on State Route 94, a freeway several miles from shore, the San Diego

Union-Tribune reported.

Since being rescued last year, Freeway had contracted a "progressive disease that our animal care experts diagnosed," SeaWorld said in a statement.

"Despite extensive treatment, the disease caused his health to deteriorate over time," the statement said.

Given his decline, the team made the decision to humanely euthanize him, SeaWorld said.

## Groups urge tribal awareness in decisions

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Native American activists and environmentalists are pushing the U.S. Interior Department to move ahead with its promise to include tribal perspectives when making management decisions that could affect culturally significant areas beyond the boundaries of Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

A coalition of more than 20 groups and individuals sent a letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland saying oil and gas development in northwestern New Mexico remains a threat and that they want the agency to halt leasing until cumulative effects on cultural resources and the environment can be addressed.

The letter includes recommendations that supporters said would ensure lasting protections for an expansive area around the national

park.

## Sports betting growth outpaces online gambling

**NJ** ATLANTIC CITY — While two-thirds of the country now offers legal sports betting, only six states offer online casino gambling, confounding industry hopes that the rapid growth of sports betting would also bring internet casino wagering along with it.

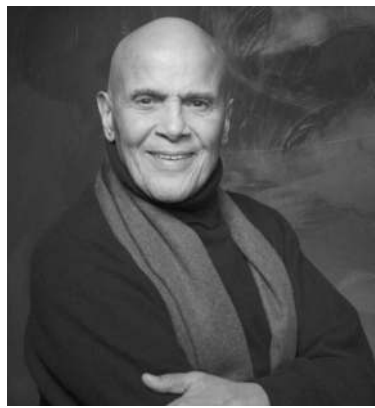
Speaking at the East Coast Gaming Congress in Atlantic City, industry executives and legislators from gambling states offered various explanations for why internet gambling has yet to expand beyond a handful of eastern states.

Internet gambling is legal in New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia; Nevada offers online poker but not casino games.

By contrast, 33 states plus Washington, D.C. offer legal sports betting.

"It's a mystery to me why we have 30 or so states that have sports wagering, and only six that allow I-gaming," said Lloyd Levenson, an attorney who represents many Atlantic City casino companies. "You have to scratch your head as to why."

FACES



AP

Harry Belafonte died Tuesday of congestive heart failure.

Belafonte, activist and entertainer, dies at 96

BY HILLEL ITALIE  
Associated Press

Harry Belafonte, the civil rights and entertainment giant who began as a groundbreaking actor and singer and became an activist, humanitarian and conscience of the world, has died. He was 96.

Belafonte died Tuesday of congestive heart failure at his New York home, his wife Pamela by his side, said Paula M. Witt, of public relations firm Sunshine Sachs Morgan & Lylis.

With his glowing, handsome face and silky-husky voice, Belafonte was one of the first Black performers to gain a wide following on film and to sell a million records as a singer. Many still know him for his signature hit “Banana Boat Song (Day-O),” and its call of “Day-O! Daaaaay-O.” He forged a greater legacy once he scaled back his performing career in the 1960s and lived out his hero Paul Robeson’s decree that artists are “gatekeepers of truth.”

He stands as the model and the epitome of the celebrity activist. Few kept up with Belafonte’s time and commitment and none his stature as a meeting point among Hollywood, Washington and the civil rights movement.

Belafonte not only participated in protest marches and benefit concerts, but helped organize and raise support for them. He worked closely with his friend and generational peer the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., often intervening on his behalf with both politicians and fellow entertainers and helping him financially. He risked his life and livelihood and set high standards for younger Black celebrities, scolding Jay Z and Beyonce for failing to meet their “social responsibilities,” and mentoring Usher, Common, Dany Glover and many others. In Spike Lee’s 2018 film “BlacKkKlansman,” he was fittingly cast as an elder statesman schooling young activists about the country’s past.

‘Question me at your own peril’

Porter defends James Baldwin biopic gig

BY ALEXANDRA DEL ROSARIO  
Los Angeles Times

Billy Porter says his critics can stay mad, weeks after he was cast as James Baldwin for a biopic.

The Emmy-winning “Pose” star appeared on the “Tamron Hall Show” to discuss his upcoming role as the author and activist, which he said “just fell into place.” “He’s one of the first people who I saw who looked like me,” he told Hall, “who represented me in the fullness — Black and queer and present. Unapologetic.”

Byron Allen’s Allen Media Group Motion Pictures announced this month that the “Kinky Boots” actor would star as Baldwin and co-write the upcoming biopic with Dan McCabe. The film will be based on the 1994 book “James Baldwin: A Biography” by David Leeming.

Porter’s casting divided social media. Some Twitter users wrote that the “80 for Brady” star is “gonna kill it” as Baldwin, and others were feeling unsure whether the role works.

“Hmm ... this is either going to be really good or disappointingly



Baldwin

inauthentic,” one Twitter user said. “Depends on Billy and the writing. I’m interested to see how it turns out, but I’m a big fan of James Baldwin and slightly terrified at ANYONE portraying him to be honest so... we’ll see”

The buzz around Porter’s casting made it to the “Tamron Hall Show,” where he fired back at social media users doubting his acting abilities.

“The internet has created a space where it’s made people think that their opinion matters at all,” he said. “It doesn’t.”

He continued. “I am 53 years old and I’ve dedicated my life to my art and craft. Question me at your own peril.”

Porter, who needs only an Academy Award to reach the coveted EGOT status, said that haters can “call me whatever you want,” but that the proof of his talent will be in the pudding.

Also vouching for Porter is By-



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Emmy, Grammy and Tony winner Billy Porter isn’t concerned what social media has to say about his casting as author James Baldwin. “The internet has created a space where it’s made people think that their opinion matters at all,” the 53-year-old actor said. “It doesn’t.”

ron Allen, who Porter said encouraged him to take on the “Go Tell It on the Mountain” writer.

“Billy Porter is a phenomenally talented and brilliant person,” Allen told The Times in a statement April 21. “We are one-thousand percent confident in Billy’s ability to portray any role, especially

James Baldwin.”

Baldwin was known for his works including “If Beale Street Could Talk,” “Notes of a Native Son” and “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” which spotlighted the Black experience on the cusp of the civil rights movement. He died in 1987 at age 63.

New this week: Bowie, Smokey, ‘Fatal Attraction’

Associated Press

Here’s a collection curated by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists of what’s arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ Filmmaker David Lowery (“The Green Knight,” “Ain’t Them Bodies Saints”) brought a lyrical magic and a quiet sweetness to his remake of “Pete’s Dragon” and now is trying his hand at a live-action take on the Peter Pan story. He follows in footsteps of people like Steven Spielberg (“Hook,” 1991), Joe Wright (“Pan,” 2015) and Benh Zeitlin (“Wendy,” 2020), some of whom struggled more than others in their attempt to capture the high-flying adventure of the J.M. Barrie tale that we can’t seem to quit. The cast includes Jude Law as Captain Hook, Yara Shahidi as Tinker Bell, Jim Gaffigan as Mr. Smee and Alan Tudyk as George Darling. “Peter Pan & Wendy” arrives on Disney+ on Friday.

■ Forget what you think you know about music documentaries. Brett Morgen, who did wonders with the Kurt Cobain story in “Montage of Heck,” rewrites the cliché script for his David Bowie doc “Moonage Daydream,” debuting on HBO and HBO Max on Saturday. He eschews the typical



DISNEY+, PARAMOUNT+/AP

From left: The live-action film “Peter Pan & Wendy” premieres Friday on Disney +; the TV series “Fatal Attraction,” an updated take on the 1987 film, premieres Sunday on Paramount+.

talking head format and a traditional narrator for something more experiential, allowing the viewer to immerse themselves in the music and the David Bowie experience. As A.O. Scott wrote in the New York Times, “it’s less a biography than a séance.”

■ “Glee” alum Dianna Argon is a woman facing intense societal pressure to have kids before her time runs out in Alexis Jacknow’s “Clock,” premiering Friday on Hulu. After a strange meeting with a doctor, she ends up at a biotech firm in a clinical trial run by Melora Hardin. That’s when the horrifying visions start in this sleek, sinister sci-fi thriller.

— AP Film Writer  
Lindsey Bahr

Music

■ Smokey Robinson’s new album, “Gasms,” finds the 83-year-old in a frisky mood, with the Motown icon writing a collection for the bedroom. There is yearning across its nine tracks and a few titles hint at that: “Beside You,” “I Wanna Know Your Body” and “How You Make Me Feel.” The album has a bit of old and new, with songs like “I Keep Calling You” and “Roll Around” written years ago melded with newer tunes. He admits it’s his most blatantly sexy collection and that jumps out with the title track, in which he tells his lover “You give me gasms.” The album is out Friday.

■ The National will release “First Two Pages of Frankenstein” and it’s got some monster collaborations. The band’s ninth full-length, out Friday, is led by “Eucalyptus” and “Tropic Morning News” and has songs with Taylor Swift (“The Alcott”), Phoebe Bridgers (“This Isn’t Helping,” “Your Mind Is Not Your Friend”) and Sufjan Stevens (“Once Upon a Poolside”). One song, “New Order T-Shirt,” has singer Matt Berninger crooning: “I keep what I can of you / Split-second glimpses and snapshots and sounds / You in my New Order T-shirt.”

— AP Entertainment Writer  
Mark Kennedy

Television

■ The CW is putting the pedal to the metal with a six-part docuseries about the adrenaline, colorful personalities and passion surrounding the Indianapolis 500, a premier auto race and one of the oldest around. “100 Days to Indy” takes viewers behind the scenes, beginning on day one of the IndyCar season. While production on episodes 1-5 of “100 Days to Indy” are completed, the final episode will be filmed May 28, the date of the 107th Indy 500. “100 Days to Indy” premieres Thursday.

■ Paramount+ is retelling the story of the 1987 film “Fatal Attraction” through a contemporary lens. Like the film starring Michael Douglas and Glenn Close, this version tells the story of a torrid affair between Alex, a single woman, played by Lizzie Caplan, and Dan, a married man (Joshua Jackson) with a young daughter. Where it differs is that this is a limited TV series and instead of portraying Alex as so-called “crazy” and a bunny boiler (although there are Easter eggs thrown in there for people who remember the movie), the show delves more into mental health. It also holds Dan more accountable for cheating on his wife. “Fatal Attraction” debuts Sunday.

— Alicia Rancilio

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Ernie Gates

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## GOP debt plan needs an endgame. Consider this.

BY HENRY OLSEN

Special to The Washington Post

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's budget and debt-limit plan is full of good policies, but it is more of an opening offer for budget negotiations than something likely to become law. That means he and House Republicans still need a strategy that could yield a deal with a meaningful impact on government spending.

Here's one option: Create a bipartisan budget commission that would develop a serious comprehensive plan — which Congress would be compelled to vote on.

McCarthy's proposal is fine from a conservative perspective. It would significantly reduce domestic discretionary spending and limit its future growth. It includes no tax hikes and does not touch any of the major entitlement programs. If Republicans controlled the Senate and held the White House, it's possible it might pass.

They don't, of course, and that's why McCarthy needs an endgame. He needs Democrats to agree, and they are not going to sign off on undoing much of what they passed in the last Congress. The question is, what can they agree on, and that leaves McCarthy with few appealing options.

He has only two possibilities that could achieve immediate spending cuts: The first is that they would be painfully small, which would infuriate conservatives who are tired of endless spending hikes. The second is that they would be more substantial but would also include some of Biden's tax hikes or impose some limits on defense spending increases. Neither would satisfy conservatives or defense hawks in both parties.

That's why a commission could be the best outcome. Such a body with serious appointees and instructions to produce a comprehensive,

long-term budget fix could yield much more progress than any one-year deal could possibly achieve.

Commissions are usually cop-outs that allow policymakers to avoid hard decisions. But there are examples of bipartisan panels producing the sort of outcomes that short-term politics makes almost impossible to achieve. The Greenspan Commission of the early 1980s produced a bipartisan deal to shore up Social Security's finances. And the Base Realignment and Closure Commission has successfully reduced the number of active U.S. military bases, which had been rendered superfluous.

A budget deficit reduction committee would need a few features to make it work. First, it would have to be able to look at all aspects of the budget, including defense and taxes. That doesn't mean that a final plan would increase taxes or limit defense spending, but progressives would only consider participating in such an effort if these items were on the table.

It would also need provisions that force votes on proposals and fast-track consideration of any plan that garners significant backing from both parties. These provisions would accomplish two things: Politicians would not be able to avoid accountability on ideas to cut the deficit, and proposals with widespread support could not be easily waylaid by procedural shenanigans.

At a minimum, any proposal that garnered support from 20% of commission members should get a floor vote in the House. Many of these will be signaling bills that have no chance of passing, but members would be forced to declare on the record where they stand on ideas that each party's base likes. Some of those views might be extreme, but what's considered extreme now could become more mainstream once it receives a

public hearing.

Proposals with at least majority support from the commission should also receive special treatment. These ideas should be submitted to the House for a floor vote without the possibility of amendments. If passed, they should go immediately to the Senate floor with a similar ban on amendments. They should also be immune from a filibuster and receive whatever procedural protections that would prevent a small group of senators from derailing the effort.

These rules avoid some of the weaknesses of the 2010 Simpson-Bowles Commission, the last serious attempt to tackle the deficit. That commission was hampered by a requirement that only proposals that garnered supermajority support would obtain automatic votes. That allowed each party's extremes to prevent the commission's reasonable plan from going to the floor.

The deal creating this new commission could also include another feature to make it politically palatable: Allow the commission to wait until Jan. 20, 2025, to wrap up its work. That would allow both parties to use the 2024 campaign to push their preferred budget plans. If one party decisively wins that argument, the commission could then take that into account. And fear that one party might take control of the entire process after the election could force the other party to compromise.

McCarthy's proposal is a good start to push forward the long-overdue conversation on our spending and deficit problems. If he can get Democrats to agree to sponsor a more comprehensive, long-term approach, that start could lead to an unexpectedly positive finish.

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist, a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center and the Thomas W. Smith distinguished scholar in residence at Arizona State University for the winter/spring 2023 semester.

## EPA's EV plan would hurt working-class car buyers

BY CHARLES J. MURRAY

Chicago Tribune

It should come as no surprise that President Joe Biden's administration has now hatched a plan to push more electric vehicles into the mainstream. An Environmental Protection Agency plan calls for electric vehicles to compose two-thirds of new car sales by 2032, largely by making gasoline cars too costly to buy. It is, in effect, a tacit admission that EVs aren't yet ready to compete with entry-level gasoline cars on their own merits.

For many, this is hard to believe. During the past decade, we've been told that the electric vehicle is on the cusp of broad adoption, awaiting only a few minor tweaks to its battery. But while we've been waiting, the tweaks haven't sufficed, and the modern electric car is still predominantly a product for the wealthy. EVs, it seems, still can't compete with the low-priced Civics and Corollas of the world. And those vehicles continue to make up a large percentage of global auto sales.

In popular culture, this seems impossible because we've come to believe that the battery-powered car is a new idea, rapidly progressing. We expect it to burst forth into stardom at any moment. But the truth is that the EV is neither new nor rapid. This year, the manufacturable electric vehicle will celebrate its 139th birthday, having been invented in the United Kingdom in 1884. During those 139 years, it has been surpassed by many

technologies that actually were evolving rapidly. Those include such notables as the airplane, television, transistor and electric refrigerator.

It could be argued, of course, that the electric car was slowed by a half-century hiatus. But even after its return to the stage in the late 1960s, its evolution has been excruciatingly slow. Three fledgling inventions of the 1970s and '80s — the personal computer, cellphone and internet — have all sped past it. All three now serve billions of people, while the EV still attempts to struggle to its feet. Even the lithium-ion battery, which is the electric car's saving grace, is rapidly reaching middle-age, having turned 50 years old last year.

The point is that the EV's evolution has been slow. And it may continue to be slow. It goes without saying that someone in the Biden administration recognized this and decided to push the panic button. The U.S. Energy Information Administration also apparently saw this in March, when it released a report stating that EV sales would reach just 15% by 2030 and just 19% by 2050.

But by tilting the playing field, we would now have a different ballgame. For many years, it's been assumed that the electric car would come down in cost until it reached price parity with the gasoline car. But the new EPA mechanism calls for the reverse: reaching parity, not by lowering the price of the EV, but by raising the price of the gasoline car. In the process, we now hope for 78% of sedans, 68%

of pickups and 62% of SUVs to be electric by 2032.

The rationale for this is climate change, of course. That being the case, the more honest message would be, "We want to curb greenhouse gas production, and we know we can't compete with your Toyota Corolla, so we're going to force you to buy an electric vehicle." But we'll never hear that. Voters don't like being forced. So we instead hear about how great this transition will be for consumers.

But it won't be, especially for working-class buyers of entry-level trucks and sedans. Unlike the wealthy, many of whom buy EVs to display their values, these buyers will be hurt. Low-end gasoline vehicles in the \$25,000 range will almost certainly rise in cost — a lot.

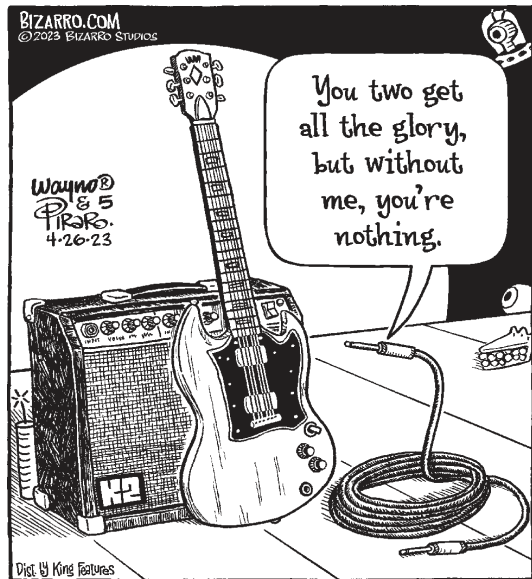
All of this could be avoided, of course, if the EV were able to compete with gasoline cars on an initial-cost basis. But there is no schedule for this. Past predictions have been repeatedly inaccurate, sometimes wildly so. The electric car, it seems, has always been five years away from glory.

So now we have an EPA plan to solve this dilemma. It's a fix for a century-old technology struggling toward prime time.

By handicapping the competition, the plan could make it possible for the electric car to finally reach its five-year goal of glory.

Charles J. Murray is a Chicago-area author who writes about the history of technology. His latest book is "Long Hard Road: The Lithium-Ion Battery and the Electric Car."

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbered squares for clues.

ACROSS

- 1 Retrieve
4 Sean Astin film
8 Anti-fur org.
12 Show to a seat, slangily
13 Sea eagle
14 Baseball stats
15 Actress West
16 Harangues
18 Poison —
20 Connections
21 Hairy no more
24 Traffic light color
28 Group migration
32 Auction
33 Tolkien monster
34 Pasta topper
36 Estuary
37 Tranquil
39 Bias
41 Ink squirter
43 Couturier
44 Seek restitution
46 Nome home
50 Screenplay conversations
55 Bonn conjunction
56 Perimeter
57 Bitty biter
58 Observe
59 Rosary unit
60 Poses
61 Pitch

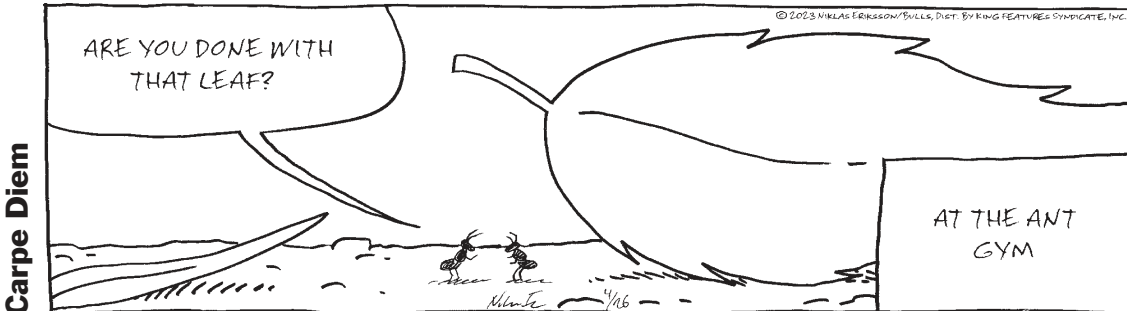
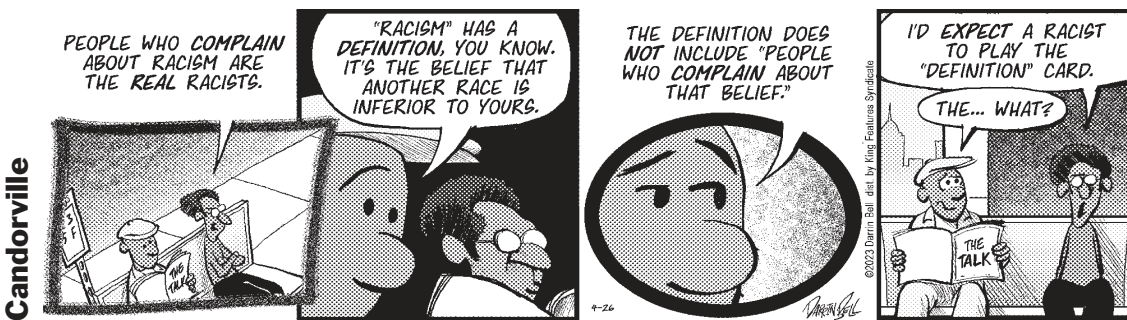
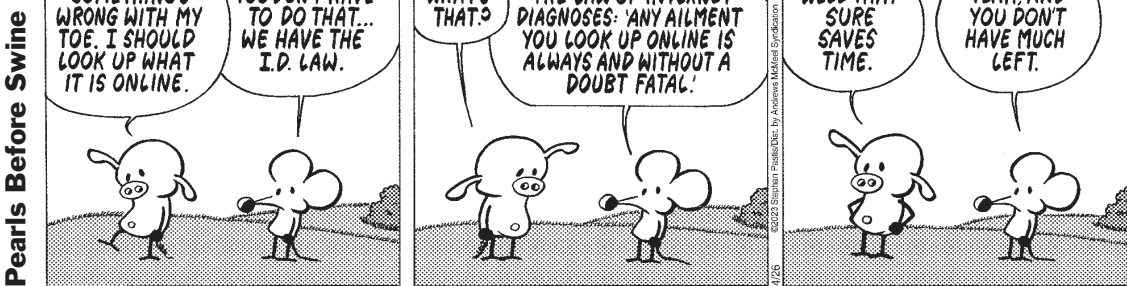
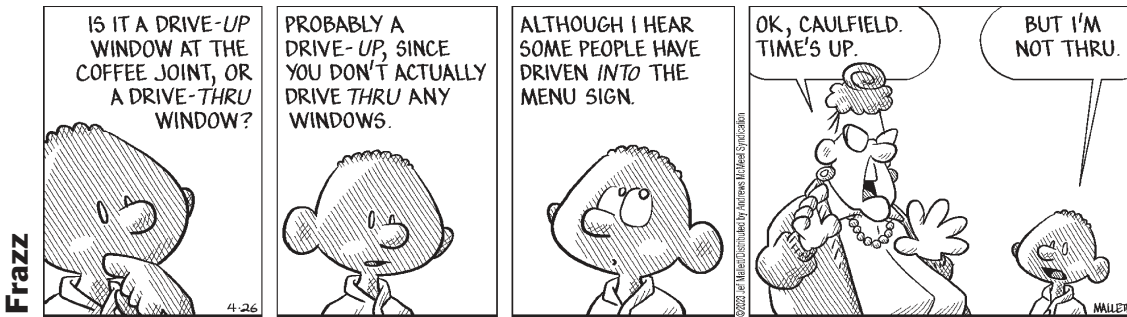
DOWN

- 1 Mouth parts
2 Isaac's eldest
3 Not us
4 Bag handlers
5 Mentalist Geller
6 "CSI" find
7 Bigfoot's kin
8 Spectrum creators
9 Recede situation?
11 Ninny
17 Genetic letters
19 Sit-up targets
22 Laundry unit
23 Celtic priest
25 Farm structure

- 26 Hollywood's Kazan
27 Authentic
28 Medics
29 Baghdad's land
30 Rights gp.
31 Antioxidant berry
35 Vain people
38 Deceived
40 URL ending
42 Pair with an air
45 Omelet needs
47 A deadly sin
48 Draft status
49 River to the Baltic
50 Cotillion celeb
51 Chemical suffix
52 Turkish title
53 Numerical prefix
54 "Dig in!"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Completed crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.



4-26

CRYPTOQUIP

CI XASANAMT XAMI-HCXBCDMCPAH
DARDMA JNA DNRHEBCPF
SCP AFJN, XQREMH UQAT EXA
JXBAUCB JBCH?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LARGE, ROUND ARTILLERY AMMO ITEMS BEING MANUFACTURED IN A HUGE CITY OF CHINA: CANTON-BALLS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals P

# SCOREBOARD/NHL

## DEALS

### Monday's transactions

#### BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League

**BOSTON RED SOX** — Recalled LHP Brennan Bernardino from Worcester (IL). Optioned RHP Brayton Bello to Worcester.

**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** — Reinstated RHP Joe Kelly from the 15-day IL. Placed RHP Lucas Giolito on the bereavement list.

**MINNESOTA TWINS** — Optioned RHP Bailey Ober to St. Paul (IL).

**OAKLAND ATHLETICS** — Placed RHP Adrian Martinez on the 15-day IL, retroactive to April 23. Designated INF Dermis Garcia for assignment.

**TORONTO BLUE JAYS** — Placed RHP Adam Cimber on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Nate Pearson from Buffalo (IL).

#### National League

**ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS** — Recalled LHP Tommy Henry from Reno (PCL). Optioned RHP Drey Jameson to Reno.

**CINCINNATI REDS** — Designated 3B Jason Vosler for assignment. Selected the contract of RF Henry Ramos from Louisville (IL).

**COLORADO ROCKIES** — Recalled OF Brenton Doyle from Albuquerque (PCL). Optioned INF Elehuris Montero to Albuquerque.

**MIAMI MARLINS** — Selected the contract of LHP Sean Nolin from Jacksonville (IL). Optioned RHP George Soriano to Jacksonville.

**MILWAUKEE BREWERS** — Placed RHP Matt Bush on the 15-day IL. Designated RHP Javy Guerra for assignment. Recalled RHP Jake Cousins from Nashville (IL). Selected the contract of LHP Alex Claudio from Nashville.

**SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS** — Reinstated OFs Mitch Haniger and Austin Slater from the 10-day IL. Placed INF/OF Darin Ruf on the 10-day IL. Optioned INF/OF Brett Wisely to Sacramento (PCL).

#### BASKETBALL

##### National Basketball Association

**NBA** — Suspended Atlanta G Dejounte Murray for one game without pay for making inappropriate contact with and verbally abusing a game official during an April 23 game against Boston.

#### FOOTBALL

##### National Football League

**BALTIMORE RAVENS** — Re-signed DB Keon Seymour.

**CHICAGO BEARS** — Released CB Harrison Hand.

**DALLAS COWBOYS** — Released LB Davante Bond, TE Ian Bunting and DB Isaac Taylor-Stuart.

**GREEN BAY PACKERS** — Traded QB Aaron Rodgers and their 2023 first-round draft pick and a fifth-round pick to the New York Jets in exchange for their 2023 first-round pick, a second-round pick and a sixth-round pick.

**NEW YORK GIANTS** — Signed DL A'Shawn Robinson to a one-year contract.

**NEW YORK JETS** — Re-signed C Connor McGovern.

**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** — Re-signed TE Tyree Jackson to his exclusive rights tender. Released S Marquise Blair.

**PITTSBURGH STEELERS** — Re-signed WR Miles Boykin.

#### HOCKEY

##### National Hockey League

**CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS** — Assigned F Cameron Hills from Rockford (AHL) to Indy (ECHL).

**MINNESOTA WILD** — Recalled G Jesper Wallstedt from Iowa (AHL).

**PHILADELPHIA FLYERS** — Announced the retirement of D Justin Braun.

**WINNIPEG JETS** — Recalled G Arvid Holm from Manitoba (AHL).

#### SOCCER

##### Major League Soccer

**MLS** — Suspended D.C. United D Mohamad Jeahze after he was arrested for assault in Sweden.

**LA GALAXY** — Signed M Gino Vivi to a one-year contract, pending receipt of his international transfer certificate (ITC) and P-1 visa.

**NEW YORK CITY FC** — Traded 2023 international roster spot to LA Galaxy for \$162,500 in 2024 general allocation money (GAM).

**SPORTING KC** — Signed D Mo Abualnadi and Ms Ethan Bryant and Sebastian Cruz to short-term loan contracts.

## PRO SOCCER

### MLS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	6	1	2	20	15	8
Cincinnati	6	1	2	20	12	10
Atlanta	5	1	3	18	18	13
NYCFC	4	2	3	15	12	10
Columbus	4	3	2	14	18	10
Nashville	3	3	3	12	8	5
Philadelphia	3	4	2	11	14	13
D.C. United	3	4	2	11	11	13
Orlando City	3	3	2	11	8	10
Chicago	2	2	4	10	12	12
Charlotte FC	2	4	3	9	10	16
Toronto FC	1	2	6	9	12	13
New York	1	3	5	8	6	9
Inter Miami CF	2	6	0	6	6	9
CF Montréal	2	6	0	6	5	17

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Saint Louis SC	6	2	1	19	21	10
Seattle	6	2	1	19	17	7
LAFC	5	0	3	18	16	6
FC Dallas	4	3	2	14	12	11
San Jose	4	3	2	14	11	11
Houston	4	3	1	13	10	8
Minn. United	3	3	2	11	8	8
Vancouver	2	2	4	10	11	7
Real Salt Lake	3	5	0	9	10	17
Portland	2	5	2	8	11	15
Austin FC	2	4	2	8	6	12
Colorado	1	3	5	8	6	11
LA Galaxy	1	4	3	6	7	12
Sporting KC	0	6	3	3	3	13

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

#### Saturday's games

Atlanta at Nashville  
Miami at Columbus  
Charlotte FC at D.C. United  
Cincinnati at New England  
LA Galaxy at Orlando City  
New York City FC at Toronto FC  
San Jose at Austin FC  
New York at Chicago  
CF Montréal at Sporting Kansas City  
Portland at Saint Louis City SC  
Seattle at Real Salt Lake  
Houston at Los Angeles FC  
Colorado at Vancouver

#### Sunday's game

FC Dallas at Minnesota

#### NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	3	0	1	10	11	2
OL Reign	3	1	0	9	8	3
San Diego	3	1	0	9	8	4
Gotham FC	3	1	0	9	5	3
Washington	2	0	2	8	5	3
Houston	1	0	3	6	3	2
Angel City	1	2	1	4	5	7
Louisville	0	1	3	3	4	6
Chicago	1	3	0	3	9	12
North Carolina	1	3	0	3	3	6
Kansas City	1	3	0	3	5	9
Orlando	0	4	0	0	1	10

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

#### Friday's game

North Carolina at Houston

#### Saturday's games

OL Reign at Louisville  
Washington at Chicago  
Orlando at San Diego  
Angel City at Portland

#### Sunday's game

Gotham FC at Kansas City

## TENNIS

### Madrid Open

Tuesday

At Caja Magica

Purse: \$7,705,780

Surface: Red clay

(seedings in parentheses)

Men's Singles

Qualification

Aslan Karatsev (22), Russia, def. Jan-Lennard Struff (1), Germany, 6-4, 6-2.

Marco Cecchinato (2), Italy, def. Giulio Zepieri (19), Italy, 7-6, 6-4.

Hugo Grenier (21), France, def. Daniel Rincon, Spain, 6-3, 6-7, 6-2.

Benoit Paire, France, def. Kaichi Uchida, Japan, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Andrea Vavassori, Italy, def. Felipe Meligeni Alves, Brazil, 6-3, 7-6.

#### Women's Singles

Qualification

Eugenie Bouchard, Canada, def. Elizabeth Mandlik, United States, 6-3, 6-2.

Clara Burel (19), France, def. Viktoriya Tomova (1), Bulgaria, 1-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Anna-Karolina Schmiedlova (9), Slovakia, def. Kimberly Birrell (21), Australia, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania, def. Leolia Jeanjean (22), France, 6-4, 6-3.

Nuria Parrizas Diaz (3), Spain, def. Tamara Korpatsch (15), Germany, 6-3, 7-5.

Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, def. Julia Grabher (2), Austria, 6-1, 6-2.

#### Women's Singles

Round of 128

Jule Niemeier, Germany, def. Wang Xinyu, China, 6-4, 6-2.

Ana Bogdan, Romania, def. Anna Bondar, Hungary, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2).

Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Lauren Davis, United States, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, def. Barbora Strycova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Karolina Muchova, Czech Republic, def. Anett Kontaveit, Estonia, 6-2, 6-2.

# Horvat among stars with subpar efforts in playoffs

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

Leon Draisaitl has been lighting it up for Edmonton, Mitch Marner is scoring for Toronto and Roope Hintz is leading the way for Dallas.

They are among the top performers early in the NHL playoffs.

Then there are some big stars around the league who have not yet made a mark. A week into the first round, Bo Horvat and Aleksander Barkov have combined for a goal and two assists with the Islanders and Panthers, respectively, each trailing their series three games to one.

Tampa Bay's elite goaltender, Andrei Vasilevskiy, also has not been himself, allowing 19 goals through four games as he and the Lightning have fallen behind 3-1 in their series against Toronto and are now on the brink of elimination.

**Bo Horvat, Islanders:** After scoring a short-handed goal with 2:03 left in a loss to Carolina that put the Islanders on the brink of elimination, Horvat did not even celebrate. New York's big midseason trade acquisition had been held without a point until garbage time of Game 4.

Winning 55% of his faceoffs and doing a lot of little things right, Horvat acknowledged he needs to produce for the Islanders to avoid a first-round exit.

"I think I can be a lot better," Horvat said after the 5-2 loss in Game 4. "At the end of the day, I have to find a way to score big goals or get on the scoresheet not in a 5-1 game or a 5-2 game. I've got to find ways to make it meaningful, and I've got to be better."

With teammate Mathew Barzal fresh off an extended injury absence and few other offensive stars around him, the Islanders are counting on that from Horvat, who scored 31 goals for Vancouver



KARL B. DEBLAKER/AP

The Islanders' Bo Horvat controls the puck against the Carolina Hurricanes during the first-round series. Horvat was held without a point in the series before a goal in garbage time of Game 4.

before the trade and has just eight since.

**Aleksander Barkov, Panthers:** Florida's captain has two assists in four games, with the Panthers falling behind 3-1 against top-seeded Boston. The Bruins haven't had captain Patrice Bergeron and also lost No. 2 center David Krejci to an injury, so Barkov has not had to play defense on them.

After scoring the sixth-most goals in the league during the regular season, the Panthers have averaged less than three a game against the rugged Bruins; of the 11 goals, just two have come from Barkov's top line.

"You don't want to say you're getting frustrated," Barkov said. "The bounces are going to come if you keep working, keep putting pucks to the net, keep going, keep getting guys there. They're going to come, and we don't want to get away from that."

If nothing changes on that front, Florida could get bounced as soon as Wednesday at Boston.



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

The Bruins' Dmitry Orlov controls the puck in front of Panthers center Aleksander Barkov, who has just two assists in four games.

**Andrei Vasilevskiy, Lightning:** Vasilevskiy has not been the only problem for the Lightning, who are understandably tired after three consecutive trips to the Stanley Cup Final. But he has not been the stalwart in net they've needed amid injuries and other mistakes.

The 2019 Vezina Trophy winner as the league's top goalie and 2021 Conn Smythe Trophy winner as playoff MVP, Vasilevskiy has a save percentage of .856 — worst among those with three-plus starts in the playoffs. If he doesn't find his form quickly, Tampa Bay could be out as soon as Game 5 in Toronto on Thursday, with the Maple Leafs winning a series for the first time in nearly two decades.

**Kaprizov & Boldy, Wild:** Minnesota's Kirill Kaprizov and Matt Boldy have been buzzing around plenty against Dallas. But after combining for 71 goals in the regular season, Kaprizov has one and Boldy none through four games of a bruising series tied at 2.

Wild coach Dean Evason said he wasn't worried: "They've just got to continue to play the right way, the same way — they'll get rewarded."

**Vincent Trocheck, Rangers:** The Rangers gave Trocheck a seven-year contract worth \$40 million to upgrade down the middle in the offseason. He had zero points through the first three games against the New Jersey Devils before scoring New York's only goal in a 3-1 loss Monday night that evened the series at 2.

He wasn't alone, though. Rangers teammate Alexis Lafrenière still hasn't made it on the scoresheet. On the Devils side, trade-deadline pickup Timo Meier has zeros across the board, too.

# NHL PLAYOFFS



LINDSEY WASSON/AP

Seattle Kraken right wing Jordan Eberle throws a stuffed fish to fans after scoring to win the game against the Colorado Avalanche after Game 4 of a first-round playoff series Monday in Seattle.

## Eberle lifts Kraken past Avs in OT to even series

By TIM BOOTH  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — As one of the originals from Seattle's difficult opening season, Jordan Eberle found himself joking with some of his teammates of Game 4 against the defending Stanley Cup champions of being the biggest game to date in the brief history of the Kraken.

It will forever be memorable for the Kraken. First overtime playoff game. First overtime playoff win. And an unexpectedly tied series headed back to Denver.

Eberle scored on the power play 3 minutes into overtime and the Seattle Kraken beat the Colorado Avalanche 3-2 on Monday night to even their best-of-7 series at 2-2.

Eberle collected a deflection and buried his first goal of the playoffs past Colorado goalie Alexandar Georgiev. Seattle was on the power play after Josh Manson was called for tripping on Jaden Schwartz on a breakaway attempt in the opening moments of OT.

"We've been kind of the underdog from day one and we're just trying to fight back in this series," Eberle said. "We still have a lot of work ahead of us."

Seattle's first playoff overtime victory ensured there would be at least one more game played at home this season for the Kraken.

But the Kraken will be short-handed for Game 5 after Seattle coach Dave Hakstol said leading scorer Jared McCann won't play in Denver. McCann was injured on a questionable hit from Colorado's Cale Makar midway through

the first period.

"Late hit, really late, no puck in play. Our 40-goal scorer not available for the rest of the game and is not going to be available going forward here," Hakstol said.

Will Borgen and Daniel Sprong scored in the first period to give Seattle a 2-0 lead. Mikko Rantanen scored twice in the second period for Colorado to pull even.

Rantanen now has five goals in four games, but the rest of Colorado's stars were held in check.

"You knew it was going to be tougher and tougher as the series goes on. Space is going to be less available, and you have to go earn every inch of ice," Colorado coach Jared Bednar said. "We didn't do a good enough job early in the hockey game taking care of our side of the ice."

Seattle dominated play in the offensive zone most of the night, outshooting Colorado 43-22. But after taking a 2-0 lead, the Kraken were unable to extend their advantage thanks largely to Georgiev. Colorado's goalie made 39 saves and kept the Avalanche from getting overrun in the first period.

But in the extra session, Manson's penalty at 1:59 provided the Kraken a chance to end their overtime debut quickly. Schwartz had his shot in front of the net blocked, but it fell to Eberle's stick and he didn't miss the open net after being held in check for most of the series.

"It happened fast. I can't really remember before that but it was obviously really exciting," Schwartz said.

### ROUNDUP

## Maple Leafs rally, top Lightning in OT

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Auston Matthews knows as well as anyone that Toronto's job is not finished.

The Maple Leafs took advantage of another late collapse by the Tampa Bay Lightning, moving to the brink of their first playoff series win in nearly two decades Monday night with a 5-4 overtime win in Game 4 of the best-of-seven matchup.

Toronto hasn't won a playoff series since 2004 and has been ousted from the first round each of the past six postseasons, including a year ago when Tampa Bay rallied from 2-1 and 3-2 deficits to advance in seven games.

"The fourth one is the hardest to get," Matthews said after Alexander Kerfoot scored on the power play at 4:14 of overtime to give the Maple Leafs a 3-1 series lead.

"It's feel different," coach Sheldon Keefe said, though he also noted it's important for the team not to get ahead of itself.

"We've got a tough task," the coach added, looking ahead to Game 5 in Toronto on Thursday night.

The Lightning have won 11 of 12 playoff series over the past three postseasons, advancing to the Stanley Cup Final three straight years and winning the championship twice.

"We know what we're up against, what they've accomplished," Matthews said.

**Golden Knights 4, Jets 2:** William Karlsson and Ivan Barbashev scored 47 seconds apart in the second period, and visiting Vegas held on to beat Winnipeg and take a 3-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

The Golden Knights could elim-

inate Winnipeg in Game 5 of the best-of-seven series on Thursday night in Las Vegas. Teams that take a 3-1 lead in a best-of-seven series hold a series record of 299-31.

Winnipeg lost more than the game when veteran star centre Mark Scheifele left the ice early in the first period and the team announced he wouldn't return because of an upper-body injury.

Manitoba-born forward Brett Howden scored twice for the Golden Knights, including one into an empty net. Chandler Stephenson and Shea Theodore each had two assists. Laurent Brossoit made 24 saves.

Blake Wheeler had a goal and assist, and Pierre-Luc Dubois also scored for Winnipeg. Neal Pionk added two assists, extending his point streak to seven assists in four games. Connor Hellebuyck stopped 26 of the 29 shots he faced for Winnipeg.

**Devils 3, Rangers 1:** Jonas Siegenthaler scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period, Akira Schmid had 22 saves in another shutdown start and visiting New Jersey beat New York to even the first-round playoff series at two games apiece.

Jack Hughes and Ondrej Palat also scored for New Jersey, which got its second straight tight win at Madison Square Garden after a pair of lopsided losses at home.

Vincent Trocheck scored for the Rangers, and Igor Shesterkin stopped 20 shots. New York has totaled just two goals in the last two games after scoring five each in the first two.

Game 5 is at Prudential Center in Newark, N.J., on Thursday night, with Game 6 back at MSG on Saturday night.

### Scoreboard

**First round**  
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Boston 3, Florida 1**  
Boston 3, Florida 1  
Florida 6, Boston 3  
Boston 4, Florida 2  
Boston 6, Florida 2  
**Wednesday:** at Boston, **AFN-Sports2, 11:30 a.m. Thursday CET; 9 a.m. Thursday JKT**  
**x-Friday:** at Florida  
**x-Sunday:** at Boston  
**Carolina 3, N.Y. Islanders 1**  
Carolina 2, N.Y. Islanders 1  
Carolina 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT  
N.Y. Islanders 5, Carolina 1  
Carolina 5, N.Y. Islanders 2  
**Tuesday:** at Carolina  
**x-Friday:** at N.Y. Islanders  
**x-Sunday:** at Carolina  
**N.Y. Rangers 2, New Jersey 2**  
N.Y. Rangers 5, New Jersey 1  
N.Y. Rangers 5, New Jersey 1  
New Jersey 2 N.Y. Rangers 1, OT  
**Monday:** New Jersey 3, N.Y. Rangers 1  
**Thursday:** at New Jersey  
**Saturday:** at N.Y. Rangers  
**x-Monday, May 1:** at New Jersey  
**Toronto 3, Tampa Bay 1**  
Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 3  
Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 2  
Toronto 4, Tampa Bay 3, OT  
**Monday:** Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 4, OT  
**Thursday:** at Toronto  
**x-Saturday:** at Tampa Bay  
**x-Monday, May 1:** at Toronto

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Los Angeles 2, Edmonton 2**  
Los Angeles 4, Edmonton 3, OT  
Edmonton 4, Los Angeles 2  
Los Angeles 3, Edmonton 2, OT  
Edmonton 5, Los Angeles 4, OT  
**Tuesday:** at Edmonton  
**Saturday:** at Los Angeles  
**x-Monday, May 1:** at Edmonton  
**Minnesota 2, Dallas 2**  
Minnesota 3, Dallas 2, 2OT  
Dallas 7, Minnesota 3  
Minnesota 5, Dallas 1  
**Sunday:** Dallas 3, Minnesota 2  
**Tuesday:** at Dallas  
**Friday:** at Minnesota  
**x-Sunday:** at Dallas  
**Colorado 2, Seattle 2**  
Seattle 3, Colorado 1  
Colorado 3, Seattle 2  
Colorado 6, Seattle 4  
**Monday:** Seattle 3, Colorado 2, OT  
**Wednesday:** at Colorado, **AFN-Sports2, 3:30 a.m. Thursday CET; 11:30 a.m. Thursday JKT**  
**Friday:** at Seattle  
**x-Sunday:** at Colorado  
**Vegas 3, Winnipeg 1**  
Winnipeg 5, Vegas 1  
Vegas 5, Winnipeg 2  
Vegas 5, Winnipeg 4, 2OT  
**Monday:** Vegas 4, Winnipeg 2  
**Thursday:** at Vegas  
**x-Saturday:** at Winnipeg  
**x-Monday, May 1:** at Vegas



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Toronto Maple Leafs center Noel Acciari celebrates his goal against the Tampa Bay Lightning during the second period in Game 4 of their first-round playoff series Monday in Tampa, Fla.

## NFL DRAFT

## Trading: Wage scale for young QBs can help build rest of roster

## FROM PAGE 24

duction of the rookie wage scale in the 2011 collective bargaining agreement that gave teams with a QB on an entry-level contract the ability to use those savings to build up the rest of the roster.

“There’s such a discernible advantage when you can get any sort of production in the first couple of years because of the discount you’re getting is so material,” Tannenbaum said.

That was just the thinking that led to the Panthers’ decision. After a good run behind 2011 No. 1 overall pick Cam Newton that included a trip to the Super Bowl in the 2015 season, the Panthers have had a conveyor belt of starters the past five seasons.

Carolina has used eight starting quarterbacks in that span starting with Newton’s final stretch as starter for the Panthers, trading picks for veterans such as Teddy Bridgewater, Sam Darnold and Baker Mayfield.

The results have been lacking as Carolina has posted the fifth-worst record and the second-worst passer rating in the NFL during that span, leading to the decision to trade for the top pick, who the Panthers hope can be a building block for the future.

“Go draft, because if you hit it right and you get a young quarterback who’s a superstar, you’ve got five years under contract,” said coach Frank Reich, who had a similar run of veterans at his previous job in Indianapolis with only moderately more success than Carolina.

“Where if he’s a superstar on a first contract, as opposed to a guy making \$50 million who’s a superstar who’s on his third contract, that just allows you to build a stronger team. So you’ve got to take advantage of those years.”

The history of these moves is mixed, which is fitting considering how much difficulty teams have identifying which college prospects will turn into NFL stars.

For every example such as Kansas City’s move to trade up for two-time MVP Patrick Mahomes in 2017 or Buffalo’s decision the next year to move up for franchise quarterback Josh Allen, there are misses.

That history hangs over the Panthers headed into this year’s draft and potentially other teams such as Indianapolis (fourth pick), Las Vegas (seventh pick) or Tennessee (11th pick) that could be considering moving up for a quarterback.

“Look it’s the hardest position to find,” Colts general manager Chris Ballard said. “I mean, everybody’s grabbing the phone and when you find one you know you do whatever it takes to keep that guy and but it’s difficult position to evaluate difficult. A difficult position.”

**“There’s such a discernible advantage when you can get any sort of production in the first couple of years because of the discount you’re getting is so material.”**

**Mike Tannenbaum**  
former Jets GM



JOSHUA BESSEX/AP

The Buffalo Bills traded up to No. 7 in 2018 to draft Josh Allen, who has become one of the league’s top quarterbacks.

## Some of the best and worst trade-ups for QBs

BY JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

Trading up to draft a quarterback in the first round has become commonplace in recent years. It has happened 17 times in the past 12 drafts.

Carolina is expected to be the 18th team to do it since 2011 after trading up from No. 9 to No. 1. The Panthers will have their choice of Bryce Young, C.J. Stroud, Anthony Richardson or Will Levis.

The history of these moves has been mixed with success stories such as Kansas City getting Patrick Mahomes and Buffalo moving up for Josh Allen, as well as failures such as Chicago moving up for Mitch Trubisky.

Here’s a look at some of the best and worst recent moves to trade up to draft a quarterback:

## Hits

**Chiefs trading up for Mahomes in 2017.** No draft-day trade had a bigger impact on the game today than the one Kansas City made in 2017. Fresh off back-to-back playoff berths with Alex Smith at quarterback, Kansas City wanted an upgrade and dealt the 27th overall pick, along with a third-rounder and a 2018 first-rounder to Buffalo to move up to No. 10 and take Mahomes.

Mahomes sat for one season behind Smith before taking over and becoming the game’s top QB with two MVP awards. He led the Chiefs to two Super Bowl titles, one additional Super Bowl appearance and five trips in five years to the AFC title game.

**Bills trading up for Allen in 2018.** While Buffalo gave up the pick for Mahomes, the Bills made up for it the following season when they made two deals to move from No. 21 into the top 10.

Buffalo moved up nine spots to 12th



AP

**North Carolina’s Mitch Trubisky, left, poses with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell after being selected No. 2 overall by the Chicago Bears in 2017.**

early in the 2018 season by trading tackle Cordy Glenn and the No. 21 pick to Cincinnati for the 12th selection.

Then on draft day, the Bills sent the 12th pick and two second-rounders to Tampa Bay to get up to No. 7 where they took Allen, who has developed into one of the game’s top QBs.

**Baltimore trading up for Lamar Jackson in 2018.** The Ravens were aggressive in getting a star QB in that 2018 draft but it came after passing on Jackson twice.

Baltimore traded down from No. 22 to No. 25 before taking tight end Hayden Hurst. Then, with Jackson still on the board at the end of the round, the Ravens sent a package centered on two second-round picks to Philadelphia for the No. 32 selection where they took Jackson, who won the MVP his second season.

## Misses

**Bears trading up for Trubisky in 2017.** Chicago traded two third-round picks and one fourth-rounder to move up one spot and take Trubisky second overall.

The biggest blunder came in their choice of QB, taking Trubisky instead of Mahomes or Deshaun Watson.

Adding insult to injury, two picks that Chicago gave up turned into stars in Alvin Kamara and Fred Warner.

**Jets trading up for Sam Darnold in 2018.** New York paid a heavy price for Darnold, trading three second-round picks to move up three spots in the draft to take Darnold third overall.

Darnold lasted three mostly ineffective years as the starter before he was traded away to Carolina as the Jets got back on the QB carousel by taking Zach Wilson second overall in 2021.

Making matters worse is the fact that Allen went one spot after the Jets’ original No. 6 selection and Jackson went later in the first round.

**49ers trade up for Trey Lance in 2021.** After having a season derailed by an injury to Jimmy Garoppolo for the second time in three years, San Francisco got aggressive in pursuing a replacement.

The Niners sent the No. 12 pick, two future first-rounders and a third-rounder to move up to No. 3 to take the untested Lance, who had thrown only 318 passes in college at lower-level North Dakota State.

Lance spent most of his first season on the bench, went down with a season-ending injury after less than five quarters in 2022 and now has fallen behind 2022 seventh-rounder Brock Purdy in the pecking order in San Francisco.

Despite the heavy cost, the Niners have overcome the blunder and made it to the NFC title game the past two seasons.

## NFL

# Jets, Packers agree on deal for Rodgers

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.  
Associated Press

After six weeks of waiting, Aaron Rodgers is leaving behind his brilliant legacy in Green Bay and heading to the bright lights — and massive expectations — of the Big Apple.

The New York Jets agreed on a deal Monday to acquire the four-time NFL MVP from the Packers, according to a person with knowledge of the trade. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the teams had not officially announced the deal.

Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst said at a pre-draft news conference that the deal hasn't been finalized, but should be completed before the draft begins Thursday.

"We were expecting it to be done very quickly, hopefully soon," Gutekunst said. "A lot of things have been agreed upon. Some things to go through."

The Jets will receive Rodgers, the No. 15 overall pick and a fifth-rounder this year from the Packers, according to another person with knowledge of the trade. In exchange, Green Bay will get the 13th overall selection, a second-rounder (No. 42) and a sixth-rounder this year and a conditional 2024 second-round pick that can become a first-rounder if Rodgers plays 65% of plays for New York this season.

ESPN first reported the agreement on terms.

The 39-year-old Rodgers spent



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

**Aaron Rodgers salutes fans after a game in Chicago on Dec. 4. Rodgers is leaving his brilliant legacy in Green Bay and heading to the bright lights — and massive expectations — of New York.**

a few days in February contemplating his life and playing future during a retreat in Oregon — while fans and reporters speculated about what he would decide.

He emerged and deliberated some more before deciding on March 10 he intended to play again — and for the Jets. Rodgers made his intentions official during an appearance on "The Pat McAfee Show" on YouTube and Sirius XM on March 15. That came after New York had sent a contingent that included owner Woody Johnson, coach Robert Saleh and general manager Joe Douglas to Rodgers' home in Southern Cali-

fornia in early March.

And then he and the sports world waited — and waited — for the Packers and Jets to complete a deal.

"We've been working on this for a while," Gutekunst said. "To get beyond the draft I think would have been tough for both teams."

It took a while, but the sides were finally able to agree on compensation. And the deal puts the one-time Super Bowl champion in New York after Zach Wilson, the No. 2 overall draft pick in 2021, struggled mightily in his first two seasons.

New York was 7-10 last season,

finishing on a six-game losing streak that extended the NFL's longest active playoff drought to a franchise-record 12 straight years.

With the Jets, Rodgers reunites with offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett to try to jump-start an offense that was among the NFL's worst.

Rodgers joins some promising young playmakers on offense, such as wide receiver Garrett Wilson, the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year, and running back Breece Hall.

"There's a lot of reasons why the Jets are attractive," Rodgers said during his appearance on "The Pat McAfee Show." "But there's one coach that has meant as much to me as any coach I've ever had. And he happens to be the coordinator there."

Saleh acknowledged a few times this offseason that the Jets were looking for a veteran quarterback to add to a team that features a top-five defense. And Johnson said he was "absolutely" on board with paying an established signal caller — "the missing piece," he called it — if Douglas could get him.

They ended up getting one of the NFL's greatest quarterbacks.

Rodgers said shortly after the season ended that he was making up his mind on whether he wanted to return to the Packers for a 19th season, retire or request a trade. Meanwhile, the Jets explored a few quarterback options, including meeting with free agent Derek

Carr at their facility and then again at the NFL combine in Indianapolis.

But after Carr agreed to terms to sign with New Orleans, it became even more apparent that New York would be all-in on Rodgers — as long as he wanted to play there.

Rodgers was the league MVP in 2020 and 2021, but didn't perform as well last season while playing with a broken right thumb and dealing with the absence of star wideout Davante Adams, who was traded to Las Vegas. He had his lowest passer rating as a starter (91.1) and threw 12 interceptions, his highest total since 2008. The Packers went 8-9 and missed the playoffs to end a string of three straight NFC North titles.

Rodgers led the Packers to their most recent Super Bowl title in the 2010 season. Rodgers never got the Packers back to the Super Bowl, but he helped make them annual contenders. The Packers have lost in the NFC championship game four of the past nine seasons.

Rodgers now will be tasked with leading a franchise that hasn't been in the Super Bowl since Joe Namath led the franchise to a victory in its only appearance in January 1969.

Saleh said the Jets remain committed to developing Wilson, the second overall pick in 2021. But the 23-year-old will do so as a backup to Rodgers, who was Wilson's idol while growing up in Utah.

## Green Bay's goals remain the same after trade

BY STEVE MEGARGEE  
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Green Bay Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst disputed the idea that trading four-time MVP quarterback Aaron Rodgers means starting a rebuilding project.

"The goals don't change around here," Gutekunst said Monday while confirming a trade sending Rodgers to the New York Jets should be finalized this week. "It's going to be the same goals we've always had, right? There's one goal here every single year, no matter what."

That goal has been a realistic one for the Packers for the past three decades because they had Hall of Fame-caliber quarterback production most of those seasons, first with Brett Favre and later with Rodgers.

Favre and Rodgers combined to win seven MVP awards. Each brought a Super Bowl title to Green Bay. Now their Packers tenures end the same way, with a trade to the Jets.



DOUG MURRAY/AP

**Jordan Love will take over as Packers quarterback after Aaron Rodgers was traded to the Jets.**

Although Gutekunst said Monday that the trade hasn't been finalized, he expects it to be done in the next couple of days.

Rodgers' exit makes way for Jordan Love, the 2020 first-round pick from Utah State who has made one career start. Love has backed up Rodgers the past three seasons.

"We're really excited where

Jordan could go," Gutekunst said. "He needs to play, and having him sit another year, I think, would have really delayed kind of where we were going and what we're trying to build."

Gutekunst was asked about the risk in making this kind of move.

"There's risk in the National Football League, but I mean, we were 8-9 last year," Gutekunst said. "You know what I mean? So we're trying to get better."

Gutekunst said the Packers decided earlier in the offseason that this move "made a little bit of sense for us." Gutekunst referenced the age of Rodgers, who turned 39 in December.

Rodgers and Gutekunst had a conversation shortly after the season, but Gutekunst said they haven't talked to each other since. Gutekunst said he has talked "quite a bit" with David Dunn, Rodgers' agent.

Rodgers said last month on "The Pat McAfee Show" on YouTube and SiriusXM that he was told after the season to take as long

as he wanted to decide on his future, but he returned from a darkness retreat in late February and got indications the Packers wanted to move on from him.

Rodgers won MVP awards in 2020 and 2021, but didn't match that production last season as he played with a broken right thumb for much of the season.

Gutekunst said Love made notable strides during that season.

"There were a number of times because of Aaron's injuries where he had to kind of take over the ones during practice in some of the competitive areas, and I just think you saw him grow and grow and grow," Gutekunst said.

The Packers must add more playmakers to surround Love.

Green Bay lost its 2022 leader in catches and yards receiving when Allen Lazard signed with the Jets.

Tight end Robert Tonyan, who caught 53 passes for 470 yards, has joined the Chicago Bears.

Although Christian Watson and Romeo Doubs performed well as rookies last season, they're the on-

ly Green Bay wideouts currently under contract who had at least 100 yards receiving last season.

Love showed promise last season by going 6 of 9 for 113 yards and a touchdown in relief of an injured Rodgers in a 40-33 loss at Philadelphia.

Gutekunst compared this transition to the one the Packers made in 2008 when Rodgers took over for Favre. The Packers went 6-10 during Rodgers' first season as a starter, but won a Super Bowl title two years later.

Packers coach Matt LaFleur noted at the NFL owners meetings last month that "we've all got to kind of temper our expectations" for what Love can do immediately.

"Certainly I think we're fooling ourselves if we think he's going to go out there and perform at a level to the likes of what Aaron Rodgers (has done)," LaFleur said. "This guy is a once-in-a-lifetime, a generational talent. And I don't think it necessarily started that way when he first started, you know. But he progressed into that."

MLB

ROUNDUP

# Strider no-hits Marlins into 8th

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Spencer Strider sensed it could be a special night once he got through the fourth inning without issuing a walk.

He didn't know he would soon be flirting with a perfect game and then a no-hitter.

"It started to become aware to me that I had a chance to go deep in the game, if nothing else, pretty early on and I felt like each inning I could get going from the first pitch on," he said. "I didn't fall behind 2-0 a lot to the first hitter."

Strider took a no-hitter into the eighth and struck out a season-high 13 as the Atlanta Braves snapped a four-game skid Monday, hitting five home runs in an 11-0 victory over the Miami Marlins.

Fans booed when Jean Segura singled to left field to end Strider's no-hit bid with one out in the eighth, and Jon Berti followed with a single. But the right-hander fanned the next two batters to finish his dominant outing with a flourish.

Strider had a perfect game going until Gold Glove first baseman Matt Olson made a fielding error on a leadoff grounder by Jazz Chisholm Jr. in the seventh.

"He didn't have any stressful innings," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "He was flowing. It was just so smooth, and the ball was coming out really hot, too."

**Rays 8, Astros 3:** Rookie Taj Bradley won his third consecutive start to begin his big league career and host Tampa Bay set a modern-era MLB record with its 14th consecutive home win to begin a season.

The Rays are 20-3 overall. Only the 1911 Detroit Tigers and 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers had better starts at 21-2 since 1901.

The 22-year-old Bradley (3-0) allowed three runs and four hits with six strikeouts and no walks in five innings.

**Tigers 4, Brewers 2:** Nick Matton had a three-run homer and Matthew Boyd pitched effectively for five innings to lead visiting Detroit over Milwaukee.

Boyd (1-1) allowed two runs on five hits in five innings, striking out eight and walking one as the Brewers lost consecutive games for the first time this season.

José Cisnero, Tyler Holton and Jason Foley each tossed a scoreless inning and Alex Lange finished with a perfect ninth for his second save in three chances.

**Reds 7, Rangers 6:** TJ Friedl drove in the game-winning run with a ninth-inning single and host Cincinnati snapped a six-game losing streak.

José Leclerc (0-1) walked Jonathan India to lead off the ninth. India then went to second on a passed ball and scored on Friedl's



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Spencer Strider, delivers in the first inning against the Miami Marlins on Monday in Atlanta. Strider held the Marlins hitless into the eighth inning in the Braves' 11-0 victory.

single to right.

The Reds came back from a 5-1 third-inning deficit and tied the game in the eighth on back-to-back bases-loaded walks to Henry Ramos and Nick Senzel by Leclerc.

**Orioles 5, Red Sox 4:** Ramón Urías hit a two-run double in the fourth inning, and host Baltimore rallied from a four-run deficit for its seventh straight victory.

Chris Sale (1-2) allowed nine hits — one by each member of the Baltimore batting order — in five innings, failing to hold onto a 4-0 lead after Triston Casas and Rafael Devers homered for Boston. Dean Kremer (2-0) wasn't great either for the Orioles, but he made it into the sixth inning after some early struggles and gave his team a chance to come back.

After Kremer exited, the Baltimore bullpen pitched 3 1/3 hitless innings. After Danny Coulombe allowed a leadoff walk in the ninth, Yennier Cano came on and balked the runner to second. Kiké Hernández struck out looking, Casas went down swinging and Jarren Duran lined out for Cano's first career save.

**Blue Jays 5, White Sox 2:** Chris Bassitt pitched 6 1/2 innings before leaving because of a sore lower back, Cavan Biggio hit a three-run home run and host Toronto beat Chicago.

Bassitt (3-2) called manager John Schneider and the trainer to the mound in the seventh after bouncing his first pitch to Luis Robert Jr. Zach Pop came on and finished

the inning. Jordan Romano finished for his eighth save in nine chances.

Chicago's Andrew Vaughn opened the scoring with a two-run double off Bassitt in the third, but the Blue Jays answered with a four-run fourth off White Sox right-hander Lance Lynn (0-3), who allowed four runs and five hits in five innings.

**Twins 6, Yankees 1:** Sonny Gray pitched seven scoreless innings and Joey Gallo homered as the two former Yankees helped host Minnesota beat New York.

Jorge Polanco added two hits and three RBIs for the Twins, who have won three of the first five meetings with their longtime nemesis this year. The Yankees are 100-41 against Minnesota in the regular season since 2002, the best record for any team versus one opponent during that span.

Gray (3-0) gave up three hits and struck out eight, dropping his ERA to a big league-best 0.62. The veteran right-hander went 15-16 with a 4.51 ERA in parts of two seasons for New York.

**Diamondbacks 5, Royals 4:** Christian Walker scampered home for the go-ahead run in the eighth inning on Nick Ahmed's infield single, leading host Arizona past Kansas City.

Ahmed — who was pinch hitting — brought home Walker on a one-out infield single off reliever Aroldis Chapman (0-1). Ahmed hit the ball off the end of his bat and the result was essentially a swinging bunt

down the first base line. Vinnie Pasquantino tried to get Walker at home, but the throw was late.

**Rockies 6, Guardians 0:** Austin Gomber bounced back from a hideous start to get his first win, Jurickson Profar drove in three runs and visiting Colorado won for just the second time in 13 games.

Gomber (1-4) held the Guardians to three singles — all by Steven Kwan — in five scoreless innings. The left-hander was pounded for nine runs and nine hits in just two innings in a loss to Pittsburgh on April 19.

**Giants 4, Cardinals 0:** Alex Cobb pitched his first shutout in 11 years and J.D. Davis hit a three-run homer, leading host San Francisco over St. Louis.

Cobb (1-1) scattered six hits and struck out four in his fifth career complete game and first since 2018 with Baltimore. His only other major league shutout was a four-hitter for Tampa Bay against Oakland in August 2012.

**Athletics 11, Angels 10 (10):** Ryan Noda hit a two-run double in the 10th inning, Brent Rooker and Jesús Aguilar became the first Oakland teammates to hit back-to-back homers twice in one game as the visiting Athletics rallied past Los Angeles after blowing an early six-run lead.

The Angels got within a run on Brandon Drury's two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th and had runners on first and second with two outs, but Mike Trout hit a grounder to third that ended the game.

## Scoreboard

### American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	20	3	.870	—
Baltimore	15	7	.682	4½
Toronto	14	9	.609	6
New York	13	10	.565	7
Boston	12	12	.500	8½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	13	10	.565	—
Cleveland	11	12	.478	2
Detroit	8	13	.381	4
Chicago	7	16	.304	6
Kansas City	5	18	.217	8
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	14	8	.636	—
Houston	12	11	.522	2½
Los Angeles	11	12	.478	3½
Seattle	10	12	.455	4
Oakland	5	18	.217	9½

### National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	15	8	.652	—
New York	14	9	.609	1
Miami	12	11	.522	3
Philadelphia	11	12	.478	4
Washington	7	14	.333	7
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Pittsburgh	16	7	.696	—
Milwaukee	15	8	.652	1
Chicago	12	9	.571	3
St. Louis	9	14	.391	7
Cincinnati	8	15	.348	8
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	13	11	.542	—
Los Angeles	12	11	.522	½
San Diego	12	12	.500	1
San Francisco	9	13	.409	3
Colorado	7	17	.292	6

### Monday's games

Colorado 6, Cleveland 0  
 Baltimore 5, Boston 4  
 Cincinnati 7, Texas 6  
 Tampa Bay 8, Houston 3  
 Toronto 5, Chicago White Sox 2  
 Detroit 4, Milwaukee 2  
 Minnesota 6, N.Y. Yankees 1  
 Arizona 5, Kansas City 4  
 Oakland 11, L.A. Angels 10, 10 innings  
 Atlanta 11, Miami 0  
 San Francisco 4, St. Louis 0

### Tuesday's games

Colorado at Cleveland  
 Boston at Baltimore  
 L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh  
 Houston at Tampa Bay  
 Seattle at Philadelphia  
 Texas at Cincinnati  
 Chicago White Sox at Toronto  
 Washington at N.Y. Mets  
 Miami at Atlanta  
 San Diego at Chicago Cubs  
 Detroit at Milwaukee  
 N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota  
 Oakland at L.A. Angels  
 Kansas City at Arizona  
 St. Louis at San Francisco

### Wednesday's games

Texas (Gray 1-1) at Cincinnati (Ashcraft 2-0)  
 Boston (TBD) at Baltimore (Wells 0-1)  
 Chicago White Sox (Kopech 0-2) at Toronto (Kikuchi 3-0)  
 Colorado (Davis 0-0) at Cleveland (TBD)  
 N.Y. Yankees (Germán 1-2) at Minnesota (Maeda 0-3)  
 Detroit (Lorenzen 0-0) at Milwaukee (Peralta 2-2)  
 Kansas City (TBD) at Arizona (Gallen 3-1)  
 L.A. Dodgers (TBD) at Pittsburgh (Contreras 2-1)  
 Houston (Brown 2-0) at Tampa Bay (TBD)  
 Seattle (Gonzales 1-0) at Philadelphia (Walker 2-1)  
 Washington (Gore 2-1) at N.Y. Mets (Senga 3-0)  
 Miami (Alcantara 1-2) at Atlanta (Elder 2-0)  
 San Diego (Wacha 2-1) at Chicago Cubs (Smyly 2-1)  
 Oakland (TBD) at L.A. Angels (Sandoval 1-1)  
 St. Louis (Matz 0-3) at San Francisco (DeSclafani 1-1)

### This date in baseball

#### April 26

**1912** — Hugh Bradley of the Red Sox hits the first home run at Fenway Park.  
**1961** — Roger Maris hits his first of 61 homers in 1961.

# NBA PLAYOFFS

## Scoreboard

### Playoffs

**First round**  
**Best-of-seven; x-if necessary**  
**Eastern Conference**  
**Boston 3, Atlanta 1**  
 Boston 112, Atlanta 99  
 Boston 119, Atlanta 106  
 Atlanta 130, Boston 122  
 Boston 129, Atlanta 121  
**Tuesday:** at Boston  
**x-Thursday:** at Atlanta  
**x-Saturday:** at Boston  
**Philadelphia 4, Brooklyn 0**  
 Philadelphia 121, Brooklyn 101  
 Philadelphia 96, Brooklyn 84  
 Philadelphia 102, Brooklyn 97  
 Philadelphia 96, Brooklyn 88  
**Miami 3, Milwaukee 1**  
 Miami 130, Milwaukee 117  
 Milwaukee 138, Miami 122  
 Miami 121, Milwaukee 99  
**Monday:** Miami 119, Milwaukee 114  
**Wednesday:** at Milwaukee  
**x-Friday:** at Miami  
**x-Sunday:** at Milwaukee  
**New York 3, Cleveland 1**  
 New York 101, Cleveland 97  
 Cleveland 107, New York 90  
 New York 99, Cleveland 79  
 New York 102, Cleveland 93  
**Wednesday:** at Cleveland  
**x-Friday:** at New York  
**x-Sunday:** at Cleveland  
**Western Conference**  
**Sacramento 2, Golden State 2**  
 Sacramento 126, Golden State 123  
 Sacramento 114, Golden State 106  
 Golden State 114, Sacramento 97  
 Golden State 126, Sacramento 125  
**Wednesday:** at Sacramento, **AFN-Sports, 4 a.m. Thursday CET; 12 p.m. Thursday JKT**  
**Friday:** at Golden State  
**x-Sunday:** at Sacramento  
**Phoenix 3, L.A. Clippers 1**  
 L.A. Clippers 115, Phoenix 110  
 Phoenix 123, L.A. Clippers 109  
 Phoenix 129, L.A. Clippers 124  
 Phoenix 112, L.A. Clippers 100  
**Tuesday:** at Phoenix  
**x-Thursday:** at L.A. Clippers  
**x-Saturday:** at Phoenix  
**L.A. Lakers 3, Memphis 1**  
 L.A. Lakers 128, Memphis 112  
 Memphis 103, L.A. Lakers 93  
 L.A. Lakers 111, Memphis 101  
**Monday:** L.A. Lakers 117, Memphis 111,  
**OT**  
**Wednesday:** at Memphis, **AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m. Thursday CET; 9:30 a.m. Thursday JKT**  
**x-Friday:** at L.A. Lakers  
**x-Sunday:** at Memphis  
**Denver 3, Minnesota 1**  
 Denver 109, Minnesota 80  
 Denver 122, Minnesota 113  
 Denver 120, Minnesota 111  
 Minnesota 114, Denver 108, **OT**  
**Tuesday:** at Denver  
**x-Thursday:** at Minnesota  
**x-Saturday:** at Denver

# LeBron leads Lakers to overtime win

BY GREG BEACHAM  
 Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — When LeBron James got back to the Los Angeles locker room after Game 4, his fellow Lakers greeted him with a symphony of bleats.

They were simply saluting the G.O.A.T. in his own language to celebrate a performance that was anything but old — and a gritty win that put the Lakers on the brink of the second round.

James made the tying layup with 0.8 seconds left in regulation before scoring four of his 22 points in overtime, and the Lakers surged to a 3-1 lead in their first-round playoff series with a 117-111 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night.

The 38-year-old James also grabbed a career playoff-high 20 rebounds for the first 20-20 game of his 20-year career. The top scorer in NBA history added seven assists and two blocked shots while committing just one turnover in his record 270th playoff game.

“I just try to be as great as I can be offensively, but more importantly on the defensive end,” James said. “That was the mindset tonight. I was able to make a couple of plays. ... My teammates told me I had 20 and 20. It’s the first time I’ve done it in my career, so that’s pretty cool, I guess.”

James never responded with words after Dillon Brooks dismissed him as “old” following Game 2



JAE C. HONG/AP

Lakers LeBron James and Anthony Davis celebrate a basket by James in overtime in Game 4 of their first-round series against Memphis on Monday in Los Angeles. The Lakers lead the series 3-1.

last week, but his play has continued to make the Grizzlies’ agitator look just as hubristic and foolish as he sounded. It has also put the second-seeded Grizzlies on the precipice of first-round elimination.

Austin Reaves scored 23 points and Anthony Davis had five of his 12 in overtime for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who won two straight home games to move one

win shy of their first playoff series victory outside the Florida bubble since 2012.

“He just took over down the stretch,” Davis said of James. “Got us a bucket to get to overtime. ... All our guys, it was a good team effort. This team is not going to go away.”

Los Angeles surged back from a seven-point deficit with five min-

utes left in regulation with a rally that abruptly began when D’Angelo Russell hit three consecutive three-pointers, and the Lakers never trailed in OT.

“I’m so proud of our guys, the way we fought,” Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. “We found a way.”

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Memphis.

# Butler scores 56, Heat push Bucks to brink of elimination

BY TIM REYNOLDS  
 Associated Press

MIAMI — Jimmy Butler had the game of his life, and the Miami Heat had a comeback for the ages.

Butler scored 56 points — tying the fourth-best scoring performance ever in an NBA playoff game — and the Heat roared back from 14 points down in the final quarter to stun the Milwaukee Bucks 119-114 on Monday night to put the NBA’s top overall seed on the brink of early elimination.

The 56 points also is Butler’s career high, as well as a franchise playoff record. And the 14-point fourth-quarter comeback is Miami’s biggest of the season, at the absolute biggest time.

“We knew what we were capable of, even if nobody outside of this building, outside of this roster and outside of this organization believed in us,” Butler said. “That’s fine. We just want to continue to do what we know is possible.”

It is a statistically improbable story: The No. 8 seed now leads the No. 1 seed 3-1, something that has only happened four other times since the NBA went to the 16-team playoff format in 1984.

But Butler has willed them there.



MARTA LAVANDIER/AP

Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler dunks the ball during Game 4 of a first-round series against the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday in Miami.

He was 19-for-28 from the field, 15-for-18 from the foul line and added nine rebounds.

“We deserved to win that game,” Heat center Bam Adebayo said, “because he played incredible.”

Brook Lopez scored 36 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for Milwaukee. Giannis Antetokounmpo returned from a two-game absence with a bruised back and had a triple-double — 26 points, 10 re-

bounds and 13 assists.

The Bucks — who now need to win three straight, starting with Game 5 at Milwaukee on Wednesday — led almost the whole way, until the Heat roared back in the final minutes. Miami was 8-for-9 from the floor in the final six minutes, Milwaukee was 4-for-13, and the Heat outscored the Bucks 30-13 in that game-ending stretch.

“We didn’t make enough plays on

either end,” Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. “And they did.”

Butler had 21 of his points in the fourth, and the Heat still trailed 101-89 after a layup by Lopez with 6:09 left.

That’s when a 13-0 run, capped by a Butler dunk off a Bucks turnover, put Miami up for the first time all night with 3:17 left — 102-101.

The lead changed hands four more times, and Butler’s three-pointer with 1:20 left put Miami ahead for good. He added a step-back jumper on Miami’s next possession, punched the air in celebration, and the Heat knew they would soon be leaving with a 3-1 lead.

“For 40 minutes of this game, it was frustrating. ... It just shows you that when you have the right grit and perseverance, you can win,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “And then it always helps to have a guy like him.”

The only players to score more in a playoff game: Michael Jordan had 63 in 1986, Elgin Baylor had 61 in 1962 and Donovan Mitchell had 57 in 2020. Butler became the fourth with 56, joining Jordan, Wilt Chamberlain and Charles Barkley.

“He obviously played great,” Lopez said. “He’s been great all series

long. He’s been aggressive. He’s been knocking down shots, shooting the three extremely well. There hasn’t been a thing he hasn’t been doing. It’s a tough draw, but we have to keep getting better, keep making life tough for him, one game at a time.”

Adebayo scored 15, Caleb Martin had 12 and Gabe Vincent scored 10 for the Heat.

Antetokounmpo missed Games 2 and 3 of the series — and most of Game 1 — with a bruised lower back. He worked out Sunday, went through shootaround with the Bucks on Monday, got cleared to play and looked good as new.

But Butler was better than ever. He set the tone early — with the highest-scoring quarter of his career. He had 22 of Miami’s 28 first-quarter points, including 20 in a row over a span of 5:45 late in the period.

And in the fourth, he had 21 more — leading a massive comeback, one that put a team that won an NBA-best 58 games this season squarely on the ropes in Round 1.

“The series is still going,” Spoelstra said. “And we have great respect for the championship DNA that group has.”

# SPORTS



## Kraken keep pressure on Avs

Seattle beats defending champs in OT to tie series 2-2 » NHL playoffs, Page 19

# 'Get the guy that you want'

## Teams trading up for quarterbacks has become more common in NFL Draft

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

Tired of spending years in the quarterback wilderness, shuffling in a string of mostly ineffective veterans at the game's most important position, the Carolina Panthers made a bold move that has been all too common in recent years.

The Panthers packaged two first-round picks, two second-round picks and star receiver D.J. Moore to move up from No. 9 in the draft to the top overall selection to give Carolina the pick of the lot at quarterback in next week's draft.

"You go get the guy that you want," Panthers general manager Scott Fitterer said before making the move. "If you have a conviction on a guy, you go get him."

Whether that guy is betting favorite from FanDuel Sportsbook Bryce Young, or one of the three other QBs projected to go in the first round — C.J. Stroud, Anthony Richardson or Will Levis — won't be known for certain until next Thursday night.

This marks the first time since 2016 that a team traded the top pick, with the Rams trading up to take Jared Goff that season.

But moving up in the draft for quarterbacks has become a common occurrence of late, with 17 teams moving up in the first round to draft a QB in the past 12 drafts after that happened only four times in the first 34 years of the common draft.

"If you don't have one, you have no shot," former Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum said of the predicament in the modern NFL. "Without one of those quarterbacks, it's really hard to be competitive."

Tannenbaum traded up 12 spots in the 2009 draft to take Mark Sanchez fifth overall in 2009. While Sanchez never developed into a star, the Jets did manage to make the AFC title game his first two seasons as starter.

Moves like that only became more common following the intro-

SEE TRADING ON PAGE 20



Top: The Kansas City Chiefs traded up to draft Patrick Mahomes in 2017, and the move has paid off with two Super Bowl victories.



Left: Carolina Panthers head coach Frank Reich talks with former Alabama quarterback Bryce Young at Alabama's pro day March 23 in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The Panthers traded for the No. 1 pick in Thursday's draft so they could have their choice of the top quarterbacks.

AP photos



**INSIDE**  
Some of the best and worst QB trade-ups  
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Rodgers going to Jets  
Page 21

# Braves' Strider takes no-hitter into eighth » MLB, Page 22



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