

## Trump lashes out after being charged

*The Washington Post*

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Donald Trump spent much of Tuesday in an unfamiliar position, at the mercy of others: whisked around Manhattan by the Secret Service; getting fingerprinted in the custody of the district attorney; sitting still and quietly before a judge. He was the center of attention, but not the master of ceremonies, almost entirely silent beyond uttering “not guilty” in court and blasting out all-caps posts on his social media site.

But as soon as the former president returned home, to his namesake ballroom filled with his adoring fans, he was a rock star again, and he snapped back to his usual combative posture, lashing out at the prosecutor and judge in personal terms, despite the latter’s admonition Tuesday to watch his words.

In contrast to the scowl Trump wore all day, his seething speech was delivered to an ebullient crowd, packed with

the “Front Row Joes” who frequent every rally, a group of bikers wearing “Born to Ride for Donald J. Trump” leather vests, longtime adviser Roger Stone, and a handful of loyal lawmakers, such as Reps. Matthew M. Rosendale (R-Mont.) and Ronny Jackson (R-Texas). Many other prominent Republicans, such as senators and national committee members, passed on the invitation, billed as a “memorable and historic evening!”

“It’s weird to see all these people celebrating,” said Caroline Wren, a pro-Trump fundraiser who attended with Kari Lake, the failed Arizona gubernatorial candidate and election denier who received chants of “Kari Won!”

The split-screen highlighted the two worlds Trump is spanning as he makes a third straight bid for the presidency: one in which he is a defiant political hero and early polling leader for the 2024 Republican nomination, and another in

which he is in increasing legal peril.

Hours after Trump pleaded not guilty to 34 felony counts related to payments intended to silence an adult-film actress during his 2016 presidential run, his event at Mar-a-Lago on Tuesday night was set up like a wedding, with a center aisle down which Trump was preceded by Donald Trump Jr. and his fiancée, Kimberly Guilfoyle; daughter Tiffany Trump and her husband; Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) and his fiancée; Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.); and Eric Trump and wife Lara.

MyPillow CEO and election conspiracy theorist Mike Lindell entered to cheers during the theme from “Phantom of the Opera.” Some campaign advisers who’d traveled with Trump to New York walked in to David Bowie’s “Rebel Rebel.”

Trump’s wife, Melania, whose wedding was the ballroom’s inaugural event in 2005,

did not appear on Tuesday.

Lake, speaking from the Mar-a-Lago ballroom to the Right Side Broadcasting Network, said Trump’s spirits were lifted by the crowds who came out to see him, and he raised his fist upon returning to the club, repeating the gesture he made earlier while leaving Trump Tower for court in New York. Trump traveled with a large coterie of aides, some of whom tried to cheer him up by showing him tweets, statements and interviews criticizing the indictment by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

He did not bring reporters on the plane, as he has to recent campaign stops, and he did not approach the cameras to make a statement while heading in or out of court. One of his lawyers, Todd Blanche, characterized him as “absolutely frustrated and upset and believes there is a grave injustice happening with him being in this courtroom today.”

## NATO chief warns China over aiding Russia’s war

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

NATO’s top official on Wednesday warned China against supplying Russia with weapons for its war in Ukraine, saying such a move would have serious consequences for Beijing.

“Allies have been clear that any provision of lethal aid by China to Russia would be a historic mistake, with profound implications,” NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said at the end of two days of talks in Brussels that included U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his allied counterparts.

At NATO headquarters, members gath-

ered this week to welcome Finland into the alliance fold. They also took stock of Russia’s war in Ukraine, which has raised security concerns that extend beyond Europe.

Allies met with officials from several Pacific countries, including Japan, South Korea and Australia, to deliberate on the “global consequences” of Russia’s war, Stoltenberg said.

“This war is not only an attack on Ukraine, but on the international rules-based order that preserves peace and stability,” he said. “If President (Vladimir) Putin wins in Ukraine, it will send a dangerous message to authoritarian leaders around the

world that they can achieve their goals through brute force.”

The NATO chief declined to detail what types of consequences China could face if it begins supplying lethal aid to Russian troops, but U.S. officials have also said such a step would have costs.

Stoltenberg said Moscow and Beijing’s ties have grown closer since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, with China “propping up Russia’s economy.”

Joint military drills between the two countries have also increased, he said.

“What we know is Russia is more and more dependent on China,” Stoltenberg said.

# Marines treat teenager after accident

By JEREMY STILLWAGNER

*Stars and Stripes*

Three members of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines rendered first aid to a Japanese teenager who suffered a head wound from a snowboarding accident at a Nagano ski area earlier this year.

The Marines were skiing and snowboarding together at the Hakuba Happoone Winter Resort on Feb. 11. All are stationed in Japan temporarily from Camp Pendleton, Calif., as part of the unit deployment program.

"I saw a kid take a pretty bad fall on his snowboard," Sgt. Scott Dike, of North Platte, Neb., told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday. "It looked like the snow-

board had hit his helmet."

After Sgt. Tyler Rallo, of Galloway, N.J., and Sgt. Ryan Cartwright, of Cincinnati, caught up to Dike, the Marines found the Japanese snowboarder sitting on the snow with blood running down his face.

Reichi Sekiguchi, of Kyoto, initially believed he was fine and could make his way down the slope to the lodge, but he and his friends panicked when they saw his bleeding head wound, the 3rd Marine Division said in a March 23 news release.

Rallo and Cartwright said they treated Reichi's wound with a first aid kit they carried and did what they could to calm the panicking teens using hand and arm

signals while Dike went to get ski patrol.

The ski patrol moved Reichi to the lodge while the Marines trailed behind in case their help was needed again.

The resort medical staff examined Reichi before sending him to a hospital for stitches, according to the release.

Reichi's father, Toshiya Sekiguchi, contacted the three Marines later through social media to express his gratitude, and the family and the Marines met in Kyoto a few weeks later for dinner, according to the division's news release.

"A couple days ago, [Toshiya] reached out to me and said that [Reichi] is back to playing soccer and that he's all healthy," Rallo said.

## Navy sailor charged in Capitol riot was stationed on carrier Truman

*Associated Press*

A Navy sailor charged with storming the U.S. Capitol was stationed on an aircraft carrier in Virginia when he joined a mob's attack on the building, according to a court filing Monday.

The FBI arrested David Elizalde on Sunday in Arlington, Va., on misdemeanor charges, including disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, according to a court filing.

Elizalde told the FBI he was stationed on the USS Harry S. Truman when he drove alone from Norfolk, Va., to Washington, D.C., to attend the "Stop the Steal" rally on Jan. 6, 2021. Then-President Donald Trump addressed a crowd of supporters before the mob attacked the Capitol, disrupting the congressional certification of President Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory.

Videos show a man matching Elizalde's description holding a flag when he entered the Capitol through the Senate wing doors and leaving the building about three minutes later through the same doors. Elizalde said he heeded a police officer's command to leave the building but lingered outside "to observe the scene for a little while because he knew something historic was happening," the FBI said.

Elizalde, an aviation structural mechan-

ic, was an active-duty sailor on the day of the Capitol riot, according to a Navy Office of Information spokesperson. The Texas resident enlisted in June 2007 and has also served on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier, according to Navy records.

Federal agents interviewed Elizalde at a Naval Criminal Investigative Service office on Naval Station Rota, in Rota, Spain, in December 2021.

He had reported for duty in Spain on Jan. 22, 2021, the Navy records say.

The complaint against Elizalde was filed under seal in February and made public on Monday.

Online court records didn't immediately name a lawyer representing Elizalde.

Approximately 1,000 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the Jan. 6 riot. Many of them are military veterans, but only a few were on active duty at the time of the Capitol attack.

A Marine Corps officer was the first active-duty service member to be charged in the riot. Maj. Christopher Warnagiris, of Woodbridge, Va., was arrested in May 2021 and charged with assaulting an officer at the Capitol.

Three other active-duty Marines were charged in January with participating in the riot.

## 2 Marines jailed in separate Okinawa nightlife incidents

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

AND KEISHI KOJA

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese police jailed two Marines on Okinawa in separate incidents over the weekend at a popular nightlife district outside Kadena Air Base.

Okinawa police arrested Lance Cpl. Alfredo Francesco Rubinstein, 21, of Camp Schwab, at 2:22 a.m. Saturday after he allegedly grabbed a restaurant employee, age 58, by the neck and lacerated the man's forehead, a police spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone Monday.

A day later, Pfc. Adrian Jesus Martinez, 20, of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, was detained after a woman said he grabbed her and threw her down, bruising her leg, the spokesman said.

Both Marines were held on suspicion of causing bodily injury, according to the spokesman. He said breath tests on both men measured their blood alcohol content at 0.12%, four times the legal driving limit in Japan. The men denied the allegations against them. Both incidents occurred on Prefectural Road 20, an area of bars and restaurants in the Chuo district of Okinawa city, the police spokesman said.

# Lethal predawn Missouri tornado sows destruction

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — A large tornado tore through southeastern Missouri before dawn on Wednesday, causing widespread destruction and killing at least five people as a broad swath of the Midwest and South kept a wary eye out for further storms that could spawn additional twisters and hail.

The tornado touched down around 3:30 a.m. and moved through a rural area of Bollinger County, about 50 miles south of St. Louis, said Sgt. Clark Parrott of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Crews from more than 20 agencies were on the scene and clearing debris in search of any others who might have been killed or injured, he said.

"The damage is pretty widespread. It's just heartbreaking to see it," Parrott said.

The twister caused significant destruction in and around the small rural communities of Glen Allen and Grassy, Bollinger County Sheriff Casey A. Graham said in a Facebook post.

At least five people were killed, Graham wrote, noting that he was withholding the names of the dead to make sure their families could be notified first.

The patrol posted an overhead photo of the damage that showed uprooted trees and damaged and destroyed homes. Drone footage showed that some had been turned into piles of debris and splinters. One area that appeared to be hit especially hard was a narrow stretch between a road and a stream where emergency crews could be seen peering into the wreckage with flashlights.

Parrott said that crews had to use chainsaws to cutback trees and brush to reach some of the homes.

"It's going to be a slow process but for now it's an active search and rescue" Parrott said.

Justin Gibbs, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Paducah, Kentucky, said the tornado remained on the ground for roughly 15 minutes, traveling an estimated 15-20 miles.

The storms moving through the Midwest and South on Wednesday threaten some areas still reeling from a deadly bout of bad weather last weekend. The Storm Prediction Center said up to 40 million people in an area that includes major cities including Chicago, Indianapolis, Detroit and Memphis, Tenn., were at risk from the storms.

# Government to pay \$144M in vet shooting lawsuit

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The Justice Department said Wednesday it has tentatively settled a lawsuit over a mass shooting at a Texas church in which the U.S. Air Force was held "60% liable."

The government will pay victims and their families more than \$144 million.

More than two dozen people were killed when Devin Patrick Kelley opened fire during a Sunday service at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs. Kelley, who died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound after he was shot and chased by two men who heard the gunfire at the church, had served in the Air Force prior to the attack. Authorities put the official death toll at 26 because one of the 25 people killed was pregnant.

U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez had previously ruled that the Air Force was "60% liable" for the attack because it failed to submit Kelley's assault conviction during his time in the Air Force to a national database.

The Justice Department said the settlement is still subject to court approvals.

A lawyer for Sutherland Springs families did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

"No words or amount of money can diminish the immense tragedy of the mass shooting in Sutherland Springs," said Vanita Gupta, associate attorney general for the Justice Department, in a statement. "Today's announcement brings the litigation to a close, ending a painful chapter for the victims of this unthinkable crime."

Kelley had served nearly five years in the Air Force before being discharged in 2014 for bad conduct, after he was convicted of assaulting a former wife and stepson, cracking the child's skull. The Air Force has publicly acknowledged that the felony conviction for domestic violence, had it been put into the FBI database, could have prevented Kelley from buying guns from licensed firearms dealers, and also from possessing body armor.

Rodriguez said in 2021 that had the government done its job and entered Kelley's history into the database, "it is more likely than not that Kelley would have been deterred from carrying out the Church shooting."

# Appeals court orders Stormy Daniels to pay \$122,000 in Trump legal bills

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Stormy Daniels must pay nearly \$122,000 of Donald Trump's legal fees that were racked up in connection with the porn actor's failed defamation lawsuit, an appeals court ruled Tuesday.

The decision in California came at about the same time that that Trump became the only ex-president to be charged with a crime. Trump pleaded not guilty in a New York City courtroom to a 34-count felony indictment accusing him of falsifying business records in a scheme to hush up allegations of extramarital affairs with Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal that broke during his first White House run.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, alleges she had an affair with Trump in 2006 and was paid \$130,000 as part of a nondisclosure agreement days before the 2016 presidential election.

She sued him for defamation after he dismissed her claims of being threatened to keep quiet about the tryst as a "total con job." A judge threw out the case in 2018.

On Tuesday, a commissioner for the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Trump's attorneys "reasonably spent" more than 183 hours on an appeal of the case but denied a request for another \$5,150 in other fees because it wasn't itemized.

In all, Daniels has been ordered to pay more than \$600,000 in Trump's legal fees, tweeted Harmeet Dillon, one of his attorneys.

That includes some \$300,000 in attorney's fees that Daniels previously was ordered to pay.

After a federal appeals court upheld that award last year, Daniels stated: "I will go to jail before I pay a penny."



# Johnson wins in Chicago mayoral runoff

*Associated Press*

CHICAGO — Brandon Johnson, a union organizer and former teacher, was elected as Chicago's next mayor Tuesday in a major victory for the Democratic Party's progressive wing as the heavily blue city grapples with high crime and financial challenges.

Johnson, a Cook County commissioner endorsed by the Chicago Teachers Union, won a close race over former Chicago schools CEO Paul Vallas, who was backed by the police union. Johnson, 47, will succeed Lori Lightfoot, the first Black woman and first openly gay person to be the city's mayor.

Lightfoot became the first Chicago mayor in 40 years to lose her reelection bid when she finished third in a crowded February contest.

Johnson's victory in the nation's third-largest city capped a remarkable trajectory for

a candidate who was little known when he entered the race last year. He climbed to the top of the field with organizing and financial help from the politically influential Chicago Teachers Union and high-profile endorsements from progressive Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. Sanders appeared at a rally for Johnson in the final days of the race.

Taking the stage Tuesday night for his victory speech, a jubilant Johnson thanked his supporters for helping usher in "a new chapter in the history of our city." He promised that under his administration, the city would look out for everyone, regardless of how much money they have, whom they love or where they come from.

"Tonight is the beginning of a Chicago that truly invests in all of its people," Johnson said.

Johnson, who is Black, recalled growing up in a poor family, teaching at a school in Cabrini Green, a notorious former public housing complex, and shielding his own young kids from gunfire in their West Side neighborhood.

He referenced civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and the Rev. Jesse Jackson and called his victory a continuation of their legacies.

He also noted he was speaking on the anniversary of King's assassination.

"Today the dream is alive," Johnson said, "and so today we celebrate the revival and the resurrection of the city of Chicago."

It was a momentous win for progressive organizations such as the teachers union, with Johnson winning the highest office of any active teachers union member in recent history, leaders have said.

## Dems' pick wins key Wisconsin Supreme Court race

*Associated Press*

MADISON, Wis. — A Democratic-backed Milwaukee judge won the high stakes Wisconsin Supreme Court race Tuesday, ensuring liberals will take over majority control of the court for the first time in 15 years with the fate of the state's abortion ban on the line.

Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Janet Protasiewicz, 60, defeated former Justice Dan Kelly, who previously worked for Republicans and had support from the state's leading anti-abortion groups.

The victory speaks to the importance of abortion as an issue for Democrats in a

key swing state, with turnout the highest ever for a Wisconsin Supreme Court race that didn't share the ballot with a presidential primary.

In a jubilant scene at her victory party, the other three liberal justices on the court joined Protasiewicz on the stage and raised their arms in celebration.

Protasiewicz tried to downplay the importance of abortion as an issue in her victory, even though she and her allies, including an array of abortion rights groups including Planned Parenthood, made it the focus of much of her advertising and messaging to voters.

"It was really about saving our democracy, getting away from extremism and having a fair and impartial court where everybody gets a fair shot in the courtroom," Protasiewicz told The Associated Press after her win. "That's what it was all about."

The new court controlled 4-3 by liberals is expected to decide a pending lawsuit challenging the state's 1849 law banning abortion enacted a year after statehood.

Protasiewicz said during the campaign that she supports abortion rights, but stopped short of saying how she would rule on the lawsuit.

## Party switch gives Republicans veto-proof control in NC

*Associated Press*

RALEIGH, N.C. — A Democrat in the North Carolina state House switched to the Republican Party on Wednesday, giving the GOP veto-proof control in both chambers of the legislature and handing Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper a setback in trying to block hardline conservative policies in his final two years in office.

The party switch announced by Rep. Tri-cia Cotham, of Mecklenburg County, means Republicans now hold the 72 seats required in the 120-seat House to hold a veto-proof majority. Republicans had already held 30 of the 50 seats in the Senate needed

to override vetoes if party members are present and voting, but until Wednesday, they were one seat shy of a similar advantage in the House following the November elections.

Recently improving margins for Republicans in the General Assembly, capped off by Cotham's switch, have emboldened the North Carolina party to try again on topics such as gun rights, immigration and voting. Republicans are also interested in further restricting abortion following last year's U.S. Supreme Court decision overruling *Roe v. Wade*.

Cotham, a former teacher and assistant

principal who had served in the House for nearly 10 years through 2016 before returning in January, announced her decision at a news conference at North Carolina Republican Party headquarters.

"I will not be controlled by anyone," Cotham said as she announced she would switch her party registration to the GOP. She said the Democratic Party is no longer a big tent party and tries to bully its members. She said she was considered a "spy" and a "traitor" and that the turning point was when she was criticized for using the American flag and praying-hands emoji on social media and on her vehicles.

# Kansas passes trans bathroom bill; Arkansas OKs own version

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — A Kansas bill to impose some of the nation's broadest bathroom restrictions and ban transgender people from changing the name or gender on their driver's licenses cleared the Legislature by margins Tuesday that suggest backers could override the Democratic governor's expected veto.

Kansas Senate voted 28-12 with one vote more than a two-thirds majority needed to overturn any veto, giving final passage to an earlier House-passed version and sending it to Gov. Laura Kelly. Both chambers have Republican supermajorities.

The measure deals with bathrooms, locker rooms and other facilities, and defines "sex" as "either male or female, at birth," a move LGBTQ+-rights advocates said would legally erase transgender people and deny recognition to non-binary and gender non-conforming people.

The final vote came less than two hours after Arkansas lawmakers sent Republican Gov. Sarah

Huckabee Sanders a bathroom bill after scaling it back following complaints it would have criminalized transgender people for simply using a public restroom. The Arkansas bill would allow transgender people to be charged with a misdemeanor for using bathrooms or changing rooms associated with their identities if cisgendered minors are present, but only if they enter it "for the purpose of arousing or gratifying a sexual desire."

Both state's measures are among several hundred aimed at rolling back LGBTQ rights pursued by Republicans this year across the United States. The wave of legislation has angered and vexed LGBTQ-rights activists, transgender people and parents of transgender children.

"I am what they are scared of," Ian Benalcazar, a 13-year-old northeastern Kansas transgender boy said during a recent LGBTQ-rights rally outside the Statehouse. "I am a human being and I deserve to be treated as such, and I deserve to be happy."

# Wash. buys abortion pills leading up to court ruling

Associated Press

BELLINGHAM, Wash. — Washington state has purchased a three-year supply of a leading abortion medication in anticipation of a court ruling that could limit its availability, Gov. Jay Inslee said Tuesday.

The Democratic governor said he ordered the Department of Corrections, which has a pharmacy license, to buy 30,000 doses of the generic version of mifepristone at a cost of about \$1.28 million, or \$42.50 per pill. The shipment arrived in late March.

A two-pill combination of mifepristone and misoprostol is the most common form of abortion in the U.S. Research shows that medication-induced abortions are safe and effective.

They were approved by the Food and Drug Administration over 20 years ago.

The awaited ruling in a Texas lawsuit brought by a Christian group — in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision last year to strip away the constitutional right to end a pregnancy — would affect states where abortion is legal as well as those that outlaw it.

Former President Donald Trump-appointed Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk heard debate in March over the Alliance Defending Freedom's request to revoke or suspend the FDA's approval of mifepristone. The conservative group has claimed it was improperly approved.

# Robotaxis take city on ride to the future

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Two trailblazing ride-hailing services are heading toward uncharted territory as they seek regulatory approval to transport passengers around the clock throughout one of the most densely populated U.S. cities in vehicles that will have no one sitting in the driver's seat.

If Cruise, a subsidiary of General Motors, and Waymo, a spinoff from Google, reach their goal before year's end, San Francisco would become the first U.S. city with two totally driverless services competing against Uber, Lyft and traditional taxis — all of which depend on people to control the automobiles.

But Cruise and Waymo must still navigate around potential roadblocks, including complaints about their vehicles making unexpected, traffic-clogging stops that threaten to inconvenience other travelers and imperil public safety.

Cruise has already been charging people for driverless rides in less congested parts of San Francisco during night-time hours since last June. Waymo has been giving free driverless rides in a broader swath of the city while awaiting clearance to begin charging passengers in robotic vehicles that Google secretly began working on 14 years ago.

The effort to unleash dueling driverless services throughout San Francisco is shaping up to be just the first step in a far more ambitious expansion centered in California — a state where more than 35 million vehicles driven by humans are currently registered.

Cruise recently applied for permission to begin testing its robotic vehicles throughout California at speeds of up to 55 miles per hour — 25 miles per hour above the maximum speed for its robotaxis in San Francisco. Waymo is already testing its driverless cars in Los Angeles.

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# Scheffler primed to join elite golf group

*Associated Press*

There are plenty of perks that come from being the reigning Masters champion.

You have a year to don that cherished green jacket wherever you want. You can nab a tee time at Augusta National without any hassles. You get to select the menu for the champions dinner.

And getting to do it all over again?

Well, that's a truly exclusive club.

Every year, the previous winner is sure to be reminded that only three players have ever won two straight Masters.

What a group it is.

Jack Nicklaus. Nick Faldo. Tiger Woods.

It was no different Tuesday for Scottie Scheffler, the latest player with a chance to join that illustrious trio.

The second question — and several others that followed — focused on what it would mean to go back to back.

"Any time you can get mentioned in the same breath as a

Tiger and a Jack and a Nick Faldo is really special," Scheffler said.

But, he was quick to add, "It's not a motivating factor for me."

Scheffler knows it's tough enough to put together two straight shots that go where you want, so the odds of syncing up four stellar rounds at Augusta National — then four more a year later — are steep indeed.

That said, the 26-year-old Texan is the betting favorite — along with Rory McIlroy, according to FanDuel Sportsbook — as he sets his sights on another green jacket.

With good reason.

Scheffler is ranked No. 1 in the world. He's already got a pair of victories this year. He's finished inside the top 12 of his last nine events.

Not since Jordan Spieth in 2016 has a player arrived at the Masters with such heightened expectations of a repeat.

Doing his best to make it feel like any other week — or at

least a week before he won the Masters — Scheffler came out early Sunday and got a round in with his sister, Callie, carrying his bag.

"I tried to get a little bit of the memories and stuff from last year out of the way as early as I could," he said.

But those memories — and reminders — linger at every turn.

"It's a bit different, when you see the list of guys when they get in the tournament and how they qualify," Scheffler said, "and you see 'Lifetime Exemption' by your name I think is really cool. Hopefully I'll have the opportunity to be coming back to this place for many years."

Woods, who went back to back in 2001-02, was asked what it takes to accomplish such a rare feat.

Familiarity with the course, and all its idiosyncrasies, was at the top of his list.

"What has allowed some of us to defend the title is understanding how to play it," Woods said. "Scottie knows how to

play this golf course."

It helps to have a guy like Ted Scott on the bag. He was the caddie for Bubba Watson during his two Masters victories, and he was at Scheffler's side a year ago.

"I think the teamwork of player and caddie is so important here because there's so many variables that go on," Woods said. "The lies, the wind, the gusts, and knowledge of the golf course. There's so many things that can happen, and talking through each and every shot. We just don't go out there and say, 'Yeah, you know, I have 152 yards, just go ahead and hit it.'"

A year ago, Scheffler took command with a second-round 67 that sent him to the weekend with a five-shot lead.

He wavered a bit on a windy Saturday, but bounced back for a 71 that kept his lead at three strokes. The final round was largely a victory lap as Scheffler wasn't seriously threatened after the first couple of holes.

He won by three shots.

## Mickelson returns after a year away from Augusta

*Associated Press*

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Phil Mickelson was back at Augusta National on Tuesday and there were times when it felt as if nothing had changed.

He strode purposefully through the back nine during a practice round with LIV Golf buddies Dustin Johnson, Talor Gooch and Harold Varner III. He split the fairway on the 18th with his tee shot, while Gooch and Varner played from the trees, and stuck his approach to about 10 feet. Polite applause greeted him at every turn.

Things aren't the same for the three-time Masters champion, though.

Ever since making some controversial remarks about LIV Golf, where Mickelson is now a

star attraction, he has been the fulcrum in a golf civil war pitting the PGA Tour against the Saudi-backed breakaway league. And the furor surrounding him was so great at this time a year ago that Mickelson made the difficult decision to skip what he called "my favorite week."

It was the first time since he was recovering from a broken leg in 1994 that Mickelson missed the Masters.

"Being here and being a part of it, and being able to experience this great place and what it means is so fun," he said, "because as a kid you grow up dreaming about being a part of this. You dream about winning it, being in contention, and then when you actually are a pro and you're playing here, you're like,

'Wow, I want to be a part of this every year.'

"That's the coolest thing about having won here," Mickelson added, "is that you're a part of this event and part of the history."

Mickelson spent Tuesday fondly recalling his amateur days, when he spent nights in the Crow's Nest, a quaint-if-somewhat spartan accommodation on the second floor of the Augusta National clubhouse. And he was looking forward to Tuesday night's champions dinner, when reigning winner Scottie Scheffler joins one of the most exclusive clubs in sports.

On the menu: cheeseburger sliders and firecracker shrimp, tortilla soup, Texas ribeye and blackened redfish, a variety of

side dishes and, to top it off, chocolate chip cookies served on a warm skillet with milk-and-cookies ice cream.

"I always fight the weight demons and that cookie, that's going to be tough for me to pass," Mickelson said, "but I got to do it."

Also on the menu: the potential for some uncomfortable moments.

Six former champions are now members of the Saudi circuit, and plenty of words have been exchanged between the two factions. The latest barbs came from 1992 champion Fred Couples, who is decidedly pro-PGA Tour and said during a PGA Tour Champions breakfast last month that Mickelson was a "nutbag" and Sergio Garcia was "a clown."



# Machado tossed over clock violation

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Manny Machado thought he had called time as the pitch clock wound down to eight seconds. Plate umpire Ron Kulpa thought otherwise and called an automatic strike three to end the first inning.

The San Diego Padres' star slugger argued, said something that Kulpa didn't like and was ejected.

That was merely the biggest drama of the day for the Padres, who blew a four-run lead and lost 8-6 to the Arizona Diamondbacks after the bullpen melted down while trying to preserve Yu Darvish's decent season debut. José Herrera singled in the go-ahead run in the four-run eighth, when the Diamondbacks stole four bases and were aided by two errors. Josh Rojas scored the final run when he stole home as part of a double steal. Rojas had three hits and two RBIs.

Machado's ejection was the first related to the pitch clock.

Machado was adjusting his batting gloves and called time just before the clock ticked from 8 seconds to 7 seconds.

"I called it. As you can see, my hand was up at eight seconds," Machado said. "I guess it wasn't good enough to get awarded for it."

Asked what he said before getting ejected, Machado said: "That's between me and him."

**Phillies 4, Yankees 1:** Kyle Schwarber hit his 200th career homer on the game's second pitch from Domingo Germán (0-1) and added an RBI single as visiting Philadelphia became the last team in the major leagues to get a win this season.

The NL champions had been outscored 37-12 during an 0-4 start and were on the verge on their worst beginning to a season since dropping their first seven games in 1934.

**Rays 10, Nationals 6:** Luke Raley, Josh Lowe and Yandy Díaz homered in the ninth inning as visiting Tampa Bay rallied past Washington.

At 5-0, the Rays are off to the best start since the 2016 Baltimore Orioles won their first seven games.

**Marlins 1, Twins 0:** Sandy Alcántara (1-0) pitched the major leagues' first complete game this season, a three-hitter for his fourth career shutout as host Miami handed Minnesota its first loss of the season.

The 2022 NL Cy Young Award winner struck out five and walked one in a game that took 1 hour, 57 minutes, the fastest this season.

Avisaíl García homered in the second off Kenta Maeda (0-1).

**Brewers 9, Mets 0:** Rowdy Tellez, Brian Anderson and Garrett Mitchell hit consecutive home runs off Max Scherzer (1-1) in the sixth, and Wade Mi-

ley earned his 100th win for host Milwaukee.

Anderson and Mitchell also connected for back-to-back homers in the seventh. Anderson had a two-run double in the first against Scherzer and finished with six RBIs.

**Braves 4, Cardinals 1:** Dylan Dodd (1-0) won his major league debut for visiting Atlanta, allowing one run and six hits in five innings with three strikeouts and no walks.

Austin Riley hit a two-run homer off Steven Matz (0-1) in the first inning.

**Cubs 12, Reds 5:** Patrick Wisdom doubled twice and had three hits and three RBIs as visiting Chicago beat Cincinnati.

Wisdom's two-run single highlighted a six-run seventh inning that overcame a 3-2 deficit.

**Pirates 4, Red Sox 1:** Ji Hwan Bae hit his first big league homer and Bryan Reynolds went deep for the third time in two games, a drive off Nick Pivetta (0-1) that put visiting Pittsburgh ahead 3-1 in the third.

Roansy Contreras (1-0) held the Red Sox to three hits in 5½ innings. He retired 13 straight after giving up a run in the first.

**Blue Jays 4, Royals 1:** Yusei Kikuchi (1-0) allowed one run and three hits in five innings, combining with four relievers on a four-hitter as visiting Toronto stopped a three-game skid.

Whit Merrifield doubled and scored the go-ahead run.

**Orioles 7, Rangers 2:** Ryan Mountcastle hit a three-run homer to cap a five-run second inning for visiting Baltimore, and Jorge Mateo hit a two-run drive in the third that chased Andrew Heaney (0-1) from his Texas debut.

**Tigers 6, Astros 3:** Spencer Torkelson tied a career high with three hits, highlighted by a two-run homer in the eighth for visiting Detroit.

Matt Manning (1-0) yielded six hits with two walks and two runs in 5½ innings.

**Dodgers 5, Rockies 2:** Will Smith hit a two-run homer and Julio Urías (2-0) tossed six scoreless innings as host Los Angeles defeated Colorado.

Jason Heyward homered for the second consecutive game and Max Muncy added a solo shot for the Dodgers, who lead the majors with 13 homers.

**Athletics 4, Guardians 3:** Tony Kemp hit a game-ending single in the bottom of the ninth inning to give host Oakland a win over Cleveland.

**Mariners 11, Angels 2:** Teoscar Hernández and AJ Pollock each hit two homers, combining to drive in nine runs as host Seattle routed Los Angeles.

Luis Castillo (1-0) turned in a second consecutive strong outing, allowing two hits and striking out six in 5½ shutout innings.

## Celebration, vandalism greets UConn upon return

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — UConn coach Dan Hurley let the moment envelop him Tuesday on the 40-mile ride from the airport back to campus watching the fans who hung signs from highway overpasses and lined the streets leading into Storrs.

More than 7,000 people gathered inside Gampel Pavilion, Connecticut's home arena, to greet the team Tuesday afternoon with raucous cheers and standing ovations in a celebration of Monday's win over San Diego State. It was the program's fifth

NCAA title in the last 24 years — the most of any program in college basketball.

"This is a big deal," Hurley said. "The NCAA Tournament is a big deal. Playing in the Final Four is a big deal. And obviously basketball is a big deal to the people of Connecticut. Men's and women's basketball, it's the pro sports team of the state and you just see the incredible pride that people have in their Huskies."

Junior guard Andre Jackson said he got emotional just looking at the spot in the rafters where his team's banner will hang

alongside those commemorating the school's four other men's championships and 11 women's titles.

But not all of the celebrating was joyous. Following the game Monday, some UConn fans pulled down signs and light poles, smashed windows and caused other damage on campus.

Fifteen people had been arrested Tuesday and 16 were taken to the hospital during the celebrations. None of the injuries were thought to be serious, UConn spokeswoman Stephanie Reitz said.

# Oilers top Kings, take over 2nd place

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Leon Draisaitl broke a tie with 7:20 left and the Edmonton Oilers vaulted into second place in the Pacific Division with a 3-1 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday night in a pivotal game for playoff seeding.

The win not only put the Oilers one point ahead of the Kings, it gave them 100 points for the second straight season. The last time Edmonton reached the century mark in back-to-back seasons was 1987 under a different points structure.

The Oilers beat the Kings for the second time in six days after Los Angeles won the first two meetings this season. The teams are on course to possibly meet in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs for the second straight year. Edmonton had home ice in last year's series and won in seven games.

**Avalanche 5, Sharks 3 (OT):**

Nathan MacKinnon scored his second goal of the game 3:13 into overtime and visiting Colorado beat San Jose to clinch a playoff spot.

Jack Johnson and Evan Rodrigues also scored for Colorado. Alexandar Georgiev made 28 saves for his 36th win of the season.

**Panthers 2, Sabres 1:** Matthew Tkachuk snapped a tie in the opening minute of the third period with his 39th goal and host Florida held off Buffalo for its fourth consecutive victory.

Aaron Ekblad also scored for Florida, and Alex Lyon made 39 saves. The Panthers (40-31-7) moved into a tie with the New York Islanders for the top spot in the Eastern Conference wild-card standings.

**Devils 5, Penguins 1:** Dawson Mercer scored his first career hat trick and host New Jersey beat Pittsburgh, putting the fading Penguins' bid for a 17th

straight Stanley Cup playoff berth in serious jeopardy.

Coupled with Florida's win over Buffalo, the Panthers moved a point ahead of the Penguins in the race for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Both teams have four games left, but they don't play each other.

**Blackhawks 4, Flames 3:** Andreas Athanasiou scored twice and visiting Chicago stopped an eight-game slide by topping desperate Calgary.

With four games left, Calgary remains two points back of Winnipeg for the second wild card in the Western Conference.

**Hurricanes 3, Senators 2 (OT):** Martin Necas scored with 40.1 seconds left in overtime to lift host Carolina to its 50th victory of the season.

Jesper Kotkaniemi and Brady Skjei both had a goal and an assist for the Hurricanes, who maintained a three-point lead

over New Jersey atop the Metropolitan Division.

**Predators 3, Golden Knights 2 (OT):** Cody Glass scored a power-play goal 3:30 into overtime, and host Nashville beat Vegas to keep its slim playoff hopes alive.

**Maple Leafs 4, Blue Jackets 2:** Zach Aston-Reese scored twice, Joseph Woll made 24 saves and host Toronto beat Columbus.

**Red Wings 5, Canadiens 0:** David Perron had two goals and an assist, Ville Husso returned from a lower-body injury to make 24 saves and visiting Detroit beat Montreal.

**Blues 4, Flyers 2:** Jordan Kyrou scored his 37th goal of the season to help host St. Louis beat Philadelphia.

**Kraken 5, Canucks 2:** Jordan Eberle had a goal and an assist, and visiting Seattle rallied from two goals down to beat Vancouver.

# Embiid's 52 points lead 76ers in win over Celtics

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid earned the highest stamp of approval from coach Doc Rivers after the All-Star center blistered Boston for his third 50-point game of the season and carried the 76ers on his beat-up, 7-foot frame to victory.

"The MVP race is over," Rivers said.

Embiid strengthened his bid for the award with 52 points and 13 rebounds, and the NBA scoring leader carried Philadelphia to a 103-101 win over the Celtics on Tuesday night.

Embiid made 20 of 25 shots from the floor and 12 of 13 free throws en route to his ninth game of the season with at least 40 points and 10 rebounds. Embiid joined Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Wilt Chamberlain as the only NBA centers with three 50-point games in a season.

**Cavaliers 117, Magic 113:** Donovan Mitchell scored 43 points, his fourth straight 40-point game, to help visiting Cleveland beat Orlando and secure the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference.

**Kings 121, Pelicans 103:** De'Aaron

Fox scored 23 points, rookie Keegan Murray added 21 and visiting Sacramento beat New Orleans to clinch the Pacific Division title.

**Timberwolves 107, Nets 102:** Anthony Edwards scored 23 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points, 14 rebounds and five assists, and visiting Minnesota held off Brooklyn.

**Hawks 123, Bulls 105:** Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 26 points and visiting Atlanta overcame the absence of top scorer Trae Young to beat Chicago.

**Lakers 135, Jazz 133 (OT):** LeBron James scored 37 points — including the game-winning basket — to lead visiting Los Angeles over Utah.

**Suns 115, Spurs 94:** Devin Booker scored 27 points and host Phoenix never trailed, beating depleted San Antonio to clinch a playoff spot.

**Warriors 136, Thunder 125:** Stephen Curry scored 34 points, Jordan Poole dazzled down the stretch to score 30 and visiting Golden State beat Oklahoma City to move into fifth place in the Western Con-

ference standings.

**Heat 118, Pistons 105:** Jimmy Butler scored 18 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter and visiting Miami avoided an embarrassing loss by rallying to beat hapless Detroit.

**Rockets 124, Nuggets 103:** Jalen Green scored 32 points, six others scored in double figures and last-place Houston prevented visiting Denver from clinching the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference.

**Bucks 140, Wizards 128:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, and Jrue Holiday nearly added a triple-double of his own and visiting Milwaukee took another step toward wrapping up the NBA's best record with a victory over Washington.

**Grizzlies 119, Trail Blazers 109:** Desmond Bane scored 30 points and keyed a fourth-quarter rally, Ja Morant added 23 points and nine assists and host Memphis defeated short-handed Portland.

**Raptors 120, Hornets 100:** Pascal Siakam had 22 points and 14 rebounds, and visiting Toronto rolled past Charlotte.