

# Israeli strike kills aid workers in Gaza

*Associated Press*

DEIRAL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — An Israeli airstrike killed seven aid workers from World Central Kitchen, leading the charity to suspend delivery Tuesday of vital food aid to Gaza, where Israel's offensive has pushed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to the brink of starvation.

Ships still laden with some 240 tons of aid from the charity that arrived just a day earlier turned back from Gaza, according to Cyprus, which has played a key role in trying to establish a sea route to bring food to territory. Israel has allowed only a trickle of aid into devastated northern Gaza, where experts say famine is imminent.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acknowledged that the country's forces had carried out the "unintended strike ... on innocent people." He said officials were looking into the strike and would work to ensure it did not happen again.

World Central Kitchen said it had coordinated with the Israeli military over the movement of the cars carrying the workers as they left northern Gaza late Monday. Footage of the aftermath showed a vehicle with the charity's logo printed across its roof to make it identifiable from the air. The projectile punched a large hole through the roof. Two other vehicles in the convoy were incinerated and mangled, indicating multiple hits.

Other footage showed the bodies, several wearing protective gear with the charity's logo, at a hospital in the central Gaza town of Deir al-Balah. Those killed include three British nationals, an Australian, a Polish national, an American-Canadian dual citizen and a Palestinian, according to hospital records.

The killings threatened to have repercussions on multiple levels. The dead were citizens of some of Israel's closest allies, antagonizing them at a time

when the country has few friends amid mounting international criticism of its nearly 6-month-old offensive in Gaza.

The strike could also set back efforts by the U.S. and other countries to open a maritime corridor for aid from Cyprus that would help ease the growing humanitarian disaster in Gaza's north. World Central Kitchen, a food charity founded by celebrity chef José Andrés, was key to the new route.

Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides said Tuesday that ship deliveries would continue.

Israel has barred UNRWA, the main U.N. agency in Gaza, from making deliveries to the north, and other aid groups say sending truck convoys north has been extremely difficult because of the military's failure to either grant permission or ensure safe passage.

The strike also underscored what critics have called the Is-

raeli military's disregard for civilian casualties in its Gaza campaign, which it says is aimed at destroying Hamas after its Oct. 7 attacks on Israel.

Throughout the war, Israeli forces have shown readiness to inflict widespread destruction when they believe a suspected militant is present or when ground troops see a tactical need to strike.

The U.S., Britain, Poland and Australia called for an investigation or an explanation from Israel over the aid workers' deaths. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant ordered the forming of a "profession team" to investigate the strike and the opening of a joint situation room enabling coordination between the military and aid groups.

Andrés — whose World Central Kitchen charity operates in several countries wracked by wars or natural disasters — said he was "heartbroken" by the deaths of the staffers.

# N. Korea launches intermediate-range ballistic missile

BY DAVID CHOI  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — North Korea launched an intermediate-range ballistic missile into waters east of the Korean Peninsula early Tuesday, according to the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The missile was fired from the Pyongyang area at approximately 6:53 a.m. and flew roughly 370 miles before splashing down in the Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea, the Joint Chiefs said in a text message to reporters.

South Korea "strongly con-

demns" the launch, considered a "clear provocation" that threatens peace on the Korean Peninsula, the message said.

The missile was tracked immediately after its launch and its trajectory and other information was shared with the United States and Japan for analysis, according to the Joint Chiefs. To better track North Korea's launches, the three countries brought a real-time, data-sharing system online in December.

Japan's Ministry of Defense detected the missile at approximately 6:52 a.m. and said it may have flown about 400 miles at a

maximum altitude of 62 miles.

At 7:04 a.m., Japan's coast guard advised commercial vessels to avoid the area outside the country's exclusive economic zone where the missile dropped and to report any debris, according to the service's Maritime Information and Communication System.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida ordered government ministries to gather information for a fast analysis to provide "accurate information to the Japanese citizens, to thoroughly secure the safety of aircraft and ships, and to be fully prepared for any unexpected

situation," according to his office's website.

Kishida told reporters there were no damage reports, according to video footage of his comments posted on the Nippon TV website.

"This is absolutely unacceptable, as it concerns not only the security of our country but also the security of the region and the international community," he said. "It also violates related Security Council resolutions."

North Korea has fired several ballistic missiles this year, including a solid-fueled intermediate-range missile from its eastern coast on Jan. 14.

# Last survivor of USS Arizona sinking dies

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

Lou Conter, the last living survivor of the USS Arizona, which sank during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor and has become the site of a memorial visited by millions each year, died Monday morning at his home in Grass Valley, Calif. He was 102.

His death was announced in a news release by Historic Pacific Parks, a not-for-profit organization that supports preservation of and education about significant sites in the region.

Conter was the last of 335 sailors and Marines who survived the destruction of the Arizona, which claimed the lives of 1,177 crew members after Japanese planes dropped armor-piercing bombs on the battleship.

The remains of more than 900 sailors and Marines remain entombed in the ship. The sunken hulk is now part of the USS Arizona Memorial.

Conter's death leaves fewer than two dozen veterans of the Pearl Harbor attack known to

be living.

For years, Conter, donned in Navy whites, had been a fixture at the annual Dec. 7 commemorations held at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Hawaii. He remained vigorous until recent years and often served as a spokesman for the dwindling coterie of survivors.

He did not attend the ceremony the past three years due to health issues, but he was present via recorded messages played for the audience.

"For those of us who survived that terrible day, we all shared something in common," Conter said in the 2021 recording. "Dec. 7, 1941, changed our lives — not just for those of us who were on the USS Arizona or at Pearl Harbor but throughout the United States. It affected those of us who served as well as our families, our friends and our neighbors."

The second-to-last living Arizona survivor, Howard "Ken" Potts, died about a year ago at age 102.

Conter epitomized what it

meant to be a member of the Greatest Generation, which fared the Great Depression and spent nearly four years at war against Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany, said Aileen Utterdyke, president and CEO of Pacific Historic Parks.

"He had an exemplary career in the Navy and was steadfast in imploring the schools, parents and everyday Americans to always remember Pearl Harbor," she said.

Conter was born Sept. 13, 1921, in Ojibwa, Wis.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1939 and reported to the USS Arizona in Hawaii in 1940 with the rank of quartermaster third class. On the Sunday morning of the surprise Japanese attack, Conter was on watch on the quarterdeck station between the ship's third turret and main deck when sirens began wailing to announce the first wave, he said in an audio interview in 2015 for the National World War II Museum.

When the first bomb hit the Arizona, Conter was knocked

forward onto the deck, while many of his fellow crew members were blown entirely off the ship.

"Within a few minutes, an armor-piercing bomb hit on the starboard side forward by number two turret, went through six decks into the lower handling room and blew up a million pounds of powder in the forward magazine," he said. "That's what blew up."

Conter said an officer who witnessed the explosion from afar later told him that he saw the front of the Arizona rise out of the water about 30 feet before plunging back down.

Within 15 minutes, the ship rested at the bottom of Pearl Harbor.

Conter escaped on a lifeboat. In the following days, he worked at the grim task of recovering bodies from the harbor and containing fires, he said. After the war, he became an intelligence officer and flew combat missions during the Korean War while he was assigned to the USS Bon Homme Richard.

## Pot still banned for US forces after legalization

By **ALEXANDER RIEDEL**  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. service members, Defense Department workers and family members stationed in Germany remain barred from using marijuana despite Germany's new law legalizing the drug, the U.S. Army in Europe said in a statement.

Marijuana enthusiasts across the nation Monday celebrated the new law, which legalizes cultivation, possession and consumption.

Strict regulations remain in place under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for service members, however, while DOD

and Europe-based military regulations forbid its use for contractors, Defense Department civilians and others in Germany under the Status of Forces Agreement.

The regulations forbid "using, buying, selling, possessing, delivering, advertising, having custody of, manufacturing, storing, packaging, testing or concealing any controlled substance," U.S. Army Europe and Africa said Friday in response to a query.

Even with Germany's doors to marijuana consumption opening, military housing and private off-base residences of

U.S. service members stand as islands of prohibition.

It remains unclear how regulations barring marijuana possession and use would be enforced off-base. But the consequences of running afoul of drug regulations are potentially severe, even for family members. They include the loss of command sponsorship and early repatriation to the United States without their sponsor, USAREUR-AF said.

The Army in Europe's regulation also explicitly prohibits personnel from knowingly introducing drugs or related paraphernalia into a military area

or facility.

The finer points regarding marijuana use by local employees in Germany and additional guidance for U.S. personnel are "still being negotiated and will be addressed in the future," the Army statement said.

The Drug-free Workplace Act of 1988 directs that any organization that receives a federal contract of \$100,000 or more or receives a federal grant of any size must establish a drug-free workplace policy, the U.S. Army in Europe said.

For German service members, similar limitations continue to apply.

# Google to purge billions of files in deal

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Google has agreed to purge billions of records containing personal information collected from more than 136 million people in the U.S. surfing the internet through its Chrome web browser.

The massive housecleaning comes as part of a settlement in a lawsuit accusing the search giant of illegal surveillance.

The details of the deal emerged in a court filing Monday, more than three months after Google and the attorneys handling the class-action case

disclosed they had resolved a June 2020 lawsuit targeting Chrome's privacy controls.

Among other allegations, the lawsuit accused Google of tracking Chrome users' internet activity even when they had switched the browser to the "Incognito" setting that is supposed to shield them from being shadowed by the Mountain View, Calif., company.

Google vigorously fought the lawsuit until U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers rejected a request to dismiss the case last August, setting up a po-

tential trial. The settlement was negotiated during the next four months, culminating in Monday's disclosure of the terms, which Rogers still must approve during a hearing scheduled for July 30 in Oakland, Calif., federal court.

The settlement requires Google to expunge billions of personal records stored in its data centers and make more prominent privacy disclosures about Chrome's Incognito option when it is activated. It also imposes other controls designed to limit Google's collection of per-

sonal information.

Consumers represented in the class-action lawsuit won't receive any damages or any other payments in the settlement, a point that Google emphasized in a Monday statement about the deal.

"We are pleased to settle this lawsuit, which we always believed was meritless," Google said. The company asserted it is only being required to "delete old personal technical data that was never associated with an individual and was never used for any form of personalization."

## How to protect against scams this tax season

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tax season can come with several headaches, from gathering documents to finding the time to sit down and file. But one pain that you want to avoid is falling for a tax scam.

Year-round, scammers look for ways to trick people into giving them money or personal information. There are several common types of scams during tax season, so people should be on the lookout for red flags, said Amy Nofziger, director of victim support at the AARP Fraud Watch Network.

One of the most common types of scams is related to identity theft. Taxpayers usually know their identity has been stolen when they try to file their tax returns and the IRS says they've already done so. This usually means someone else filed in their name in order to receive a refund. In 2023, the IRS received 294,138 identity theft complaints.

Three common tactics used by scammers are based on fear, urgency and money, said security expert Petros Efstathopoulos.

■ **Fear:** When a scammer contacts you via phone or email, they use language that makes it seem like there is a problem that you need to solve.

■ **Urgency:** Because scammers are good at creating a sense of urgency, people tend to rush, which makes them vulnerable.

■ **Money:** Scammers use money as bait, Efstathopoulos said. They might impersonate tax professionals or the IRS saying you will get a bigger refund than you expect if you pay them for their services or share your personal information.

It's very important to know that the IRS never reaches out via unconventional means, said Dr. Zulfikar Ramzan, chief scientist at Aura, a digital security company. The IRS usually contacts taxpayers via physical mail through the U.S. Postal Service.

If you need help from a tax professional, research them to make sure they are not imposters, Nofziger said.

Even when you've already filed your taxes, there are other scams that you should keep an eye out for.

## Trump posts \$175M bond to prevent asset seizure

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump posted a \$175 million bond on Monday in his New York civil fraud case, halting collection of the more than \$454 million he owes and preventing the state from seizing his assets to satisfy the debt while he appeals, according to a court filing.

A New York appellate court had given the former president 10 days to put up the money after a panel of judges agreed last month to slash the amount needed to stop the clock on enforcement.

The bond Trump is posting with the court now is essentially a placeholder, meant to guarantee payment if the judgment is upheld. If that happens, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee will have to pay the state the whole sum, which grows with daily interest.

If Trump wins, he won't have to pay the state anything and will get back the money he has put up now.

"As promised, President Trump has posted bond. He looks forward to vindicating his rights on appeal and overturning this unjust verdict," said one

of Trump's lawyers, Alina Habba.

Until the appeals court intervened to lower the required bond, New York Attorney General Letitia James had been poised to initiate efforts to collect the judgment, possibly by seizing some of Trump's marquee properties. James, a Democrat, brought the lawsuit on the state's behalf. Her office declined to comment Monday.

The court ruled after Trump's lawyers complained it was "a practical impossibility" to get an underwriter to sign off on a bond for the \$454 million, plus interest, that he owes.

The company that underwrote the bond is Knight Specialty Insurance, which is part of the Knight Insurance Group. The chairman of that company, billionaire Don Hankey, told The Associated Press that both cash and bond were used as collateral for Trump's appellate bond.

Trump is fighting to overturn a judge's Feb. 16 finding that he lied about his wealth as he fostered the real estate empire that launched him to stardom and the presidency.



# Student, 12, opens fire at Finland school

Associated Press

HELSINKI — A 12-year-old student opened fire at a secondary school in southern Finland on Tuesday morning, killing one and seriously wounding two other students, police said. The suspect was later apprehended.

Heavily armed police cordoned off the Viertola school — a large educational institution including lower and upper secondary schools with a total of about 800 students — in the city of Vantaa, just outside the capital, Helsinki, after receiving a call about a shooting incident at 9:08 a.m.

Police said both the suspect and the victims were 12 years old.

One student died instantly after being shot, Chief of Police Ilkka Koskimäki from the Eastern Uusimaa Police Department told a news conference. The other two were seriously wounded, he said.

The weapon used in the shooting was a registered handgun that was licensed to the suspect's relative, Detective Inspector Kimmo Hyvärinen said.

The suspect was detained in the Helsinki area less than one hour after the shooting with a handgun in his possession, police said. He admitted to the shooting in an initial police hearing but there is no immediate word of the motive, police said, adding that the case is

being investigated as a murder and two attempted murders.

Finnish President Alexander Stubb and Prime Minister Petteri Orpo offered condolences to the families of the victims in postings on X.

"What makes it particularly shocking is the age of the victim and the suspect," Orpo said during a news conference Tuesday. "I can assure you that this (shooting) will be carefully reviewed and conclusions will be drawn that this will not happen again."

The minimum age of criminal liability in Finland is 15 years, which means the suspect cannot be formally arrested. A suspect

younger than 15 can only be heard by the police after which they will be handed over to Finland's child welfare authorities.

In the past decades, Finland has witnessed two major deadly school shootings. In November 2007, a 18-year-old student armed with a semi-automatic pistol opened fire at Jokela high school in Tuusula, southern Finland, killing nine people. He was found dead with self-inflicted wounds. In September 2008, a 22-year-old student shot and killed 10 people with a semi-automatic pistol at a vocational college in Kauhajoki, southwestern Finland, before fatally shooting himself.

## Ukrainian drone attack possibly deepest in Russia yet

Associated Press

Ukrainian drones attacked industrial facilities in the province of Tatarstan, Russian authorities said Tuesday, in what would be Kyiv's deepest strike inside Russian territory since the war began more than two years ago.

Seven people were injured in the attack on facilities near the cities of Yelabuga and Nizhnekamsk, located some 745 miles east of Ukraine, Russian regional authorities said.

The strike damaged a hostel for students and workers in a free economic zone where a factory manufacturing Iranian-designed drones is reportedly located, other media reports said. Tatarstan is known for its high level of industrialization.

Tatarstan officials said the attack didn't

disrupt industrial production, while Nizhnekamsk's mayor said the attempt to strike a refinery was thwarted by air defenses.

Kyiv officials normally neither claim nor deny responsibility for attacks on Russian soil, though they sometimes refer obliquely to them. The Associated Press could not independently verify the reports.

Ukrainian drone developers have for months been extending the weapons' range, part of Kyiv's effort to compensate for its battlefield disadvantage in weapons and troops. The unmanned aerial vehicles are also an affordable option while Ukraine awaits more U.S. military aid.

Neither side is currently able to make much of a dent on the around 620-mile front

line.

Ukraine previously has launched drone attacks in and around St. Petersburg, which lies about 620 miles north of the border. But the facilities in Tatarstan, a province on the Volga River, appear to be the most distant target Ukraine has tried to hit.

In recent weeks, Russian refineries and oil terminals have been targets of Ukrainian drone attacks, part of stepped-up assaults on Russian territory, including long-range drone attacks.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last year his country had developed a weapon that hit a target 400 miles away, in an apparent reference to a drone attack on Russian soil.

## Gunbattle between police, gangs paralyzes Haitian capital

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Heavy gunfire erupted Monday in the downtown area of Haiti's capital as police battled gang members near the National Palace for several hours.

Local media reported that at least one policeman was shot after he and other officers were forced to flee an armored car that was later set on fire.

Scores of people were trapped by the gunfire in down-

town Port-au-Prince while dozens of others managed to flee. One man who declined to provide his name out of fear for his life told The Associated Press that he was stuck for five hours until police rescued him.

"It's the armored car that covered us (so we could) leave the area," he said.

A spokesman for Haiti's National Police did not return messages for comment.

The latest gunbattle comes

more than a month after powerful gangs began attacking key government infrastructure. They have torched police stations, opened fire on the main international airport that remains closed and stormed the country's two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates.

The violence has somewhat subsided in certain areas since the attacks began on Feb. 29, but gunfire still echoes daily.

At least 1,554 people have been reported killed up to March 22 and another 826 injured, according to the U.N.

The situation forced Prime Minister Ariel Henry to announce last month that he would resign as soon as a transitional council is created. Henry, who was on an official trip to Kenya to push for the U.N.-backed deployment of a police force from the East African country, remains locked out of Haiti.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Dozens arrested after protest blocks interstate

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Dozens of people were arrested during a protest that briefly blocked traffic on a Philadelphia interstate over the weekend, authorities said.

Philadelphia officers were called shortly before 4 p.m. Saturday to the westbound lanes of I-676 where officials said about 350 members of the “Party for Socialism and Liberation” had rushed onto the highway, disrupting traffic, city police said.

Police said at some point about 320 protesters left and began to march through Center City, but some people chose to remain on the highway. State police said traffic was temporarily detoured in both eastbound and westbound directions.

## Senator wants to know what makes cattle burp

**CO** DENVER — Cattle’s soundless belches are sending millions of pounds of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado hopes changing their diet will limit those expulsions.

Bennet introduced a bill to study cattle emissions more closely, research new solutions and help ranchers integrate methane-reducing practices into their production.

Cattle, goats and sheep digest their food by fermenting it in their stomachs, which breaks down the food over time. A by-product of the process is methane — a potent greenhouse gas that becomes trapped in the atmosphere and contributes to

climate change.

Contrary to popular belief, cattle spew nearly all of the methane into the atmosphere via burps — not farts.

Agriculture accounts for 10% of all greenhouse emissions in the U.S. and cattle account for more than a quarter of those emissions, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## UPS to be primary air cargo provider for USPS

**GA** ATLANTA — UPS will become the primary air cargo provider for the United States Postal Service.

The Atlanta shipping company said Monday that it had received an air cargo contract from the U.S. Postal Service that significantly expands an existing partnership between the two.

UPS will move the majority of air cargo in the U.S. for the postal service following a transition period, according to UPS.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

USPS’s current air cargo contract with FedEx Corp. is set to expire in late September.

## Facial hair ban for prison guards is challenged

**CA** SACRAMENTO — The federal government is asking a court to halt California’s enforcement of a rule requiring prison guards to be clean-shaven, saying it amounts to religious discrimination for Sikhs, Muslims and others who wear beards as an expression of their faith.

The civil rights complaint filed Monday by the U.S. Justice

Department says the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s prohibition on facial hair denies on-the-job accommodations for officers of various religions.

It seeks a temporary court order “allowing these officers to wear beards while CDCR fully assesses options for providing them with religious accommodations while complying with California safety regulations,” the Justice Department said in a statement.

## Data for retraining of cops missing from report

**NY** NEW YORK — An NYPD year-end report detailing how it works with at-risk officers is missing a key detail: How many of those struggling cops had to repeat the program?

But the omitted data on the Early Intervention Program can be found in separate quarterly reports and suggests the NYPD has its own recidivist problem, with 28% of the at-risk cops investigated last year by its early-warning system later subjected to another review.

EIP is designed to correct performance issues and not viewed as disciplinary in nature.

“That’s a clear sign the early warning system is seriously flawed,” said Christopher Dunn, who as legal director for the New York Civil Liberties Union monitors NYPD reports for signs of misconduct. “Numbers like this suggest the NYPD is not really committed to this system.”

In 2023, according to a compilation of the data in the quarterly reports, the NYPD reviewed

the work of 768 officers who met the threshold for an internal review — such as making three arrests in the prior 12 months that the district attorney would not prosecute or being accused more than once of using excessive force.

Of that 768, 211 officers — 28% — were flagged again later in the year. It was not clear how many of those were then subjected to another EIP review.

## Shooting in restaurant kills 1 man and injures 5

**TN** NASHVILLE — A man was killed and five other people were injured during a shooting inside a Nashville, Tenn., restaurant, police said.

The shooting around 3 p.m. Sunday in Nashville’s Salemtown neighborhood began within minutes of the male suspect’s arrival at the restaurant with a woman, police said.

The suspect and the man who died got into an argument that “significantly escalated within moments,” Metropolitan Nashville Police Department spokesman Don Aaron said during a news conference at the scene.

Police later identified the deceased man as Allen Beachem, 33. The conditions of the other victims were not immediately released.

Police identified a 46-year-old suspect and the car used to flee the scene with images from security video provided by the restaurant. As a search continued Sunday for the suspect, police posted photos of the shooting scene on social media, including an image of a man pointing a handgun.

— From wire reports

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# Astros' Blanco throws 1st no-hitter of season

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Ronel Blanco put a bow on a remarkable week.

In a span of seven days, the Houston right-hander welcomed a new daughter, made his first opening day roster — and then threw the first no-hitter in the major leagues this season.

Blanco struck out seven and walked two in the Astros' 10-0 win over the Toronto Blue Jays on Monday night. The 30-year-old, who didn't play in the majors until he was 28, was making just his eighth career start. He

wouldn't even be in Houston's rotation if not for injuries to Justin Verlander and José Urquidy.

"It's been a very long road traveled for me," he said in Spanish through a translator. "A lot of ups, a lot of downs, a lot of falls, a lot of me getting back up. But I think all of that has been worth it for me to be able to get to this moment."

He walked George Springer to start the game and again with two outs in the ninth. When Vladimir Guerrero Jr. grounded out to end it, Blanco smiled

broadly before raising his arms above his head just before being mobbed by teammates.

"I see it as a great blessing, a great blessing for me and my family," he said. "With the arrival of my daughter, I see it as a life-changing experience and I dedicate this to my family and my daughter."

It was the 17th no-hitter in Astros history and the first in the majors since Philadelphia's Michael Lorenzen threw one against the Washington Nationals on Aug. 9 of last year.

Houston's previous no-hitter came about a week before that one when Framber Valdez did it in a 2-0 win over Cleveland on Aug. 1.

Kyle Tucker and Yainer Diaz each homered twice as the Astros won their first game of the season after losing four to the Yankees. Houston's Joe Espada became the first manager in major league history to get his first win in a no-hitter.

"I couldn't be any happier for the way today turned out," Espada said.

## Pirates top Nationals, off to first 5-0 start since 1983

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pittsburgh Pirates improved to 5-0 for the first time since 1983, beating the Washington Nationals 8-4 on Monday with two run-scoring hits from Connor Joe, including a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth inning.

Michael A. Taylor, a former member of the Nationals, had three hits, and Bryan Reynolds, Andrew McCutchen, Arika Williams and Henry Davis delivered two apiece. Reynolds stretched his on-base streak to 33 consecutive games dating to last season with a first-inning single and added a two-run double in the ninth.

"If we keep doing what we do, keep having competitive at-bats, we're going to wear down some bullpens," Joe said, "and it's going to lead to some wins, for sure."

Pittsburgh remained unbeaten in 2024, all on the road, following a four-game sweep of the Miami Marlins to begin the season. The Pirates were 76-86 last year.

They have scored at least six runs in each of the first five games of a season for the first time since at least 1900.

**Cubs 5, Rockies 0:** Shota Imanaga pitched six sparkling innings in his major league debut, and host Chicago used a defensive mistake by Nolan Jones to beat Colorado.

Working in short sleeves on a cold, gray afternoon, Imanaga struck out nine in Chicago's home opener. The Japanese left-hander, who signed a \$53 million, four-year contract with the Cubs in January, allowed two singles and walked none.

With one out and runners on first and second in a scoreless game, Christopher Morel lined a single into left field. The ball went un-

der the glove of the charging Jones and rolled to the wall. Jones' throw from the warning track got away from second baseman Brendan Rodgers, and Morel scored on a headfirst slide.

**Braves 9, White Sox 0 (8):** Austin Riley hit a three-run homer, Charlie Morton threw 5½ scoreless innings and visiting Atlanta beat Chicago in a game shortened to eight innings because of rain.

The 40-year-old Morton (1-0) — the oldest starter in the majors this season — allowed three hits, walked two and struck out six in his season debut to hand Chicago its fourth loss in as many games.

**Orioles 6, Royals 4:** Jordan Westburg hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to carry host Baltimore past Kansas City.

Westburg's opposite-field drive to right came on an 0-2 pitch from Nick Anderson (0-1) after the Royals rallied to tie the game in the top of the inning.

**Rangers 9, Rays 3:** Dane Dunning took a one-hitter into the seventh inning and Josh Jung homered and drove in four runs to lead the defending World Series champion Texas to a victory over host Tampa Bay.

In a rematch of clubs that met during the Rangers' postseason run last fall, Dunning limited the Rays to Jose Siri's third-inning double until Richie Palacios homered with one out in the seventh.

**Angels 7, Marlins 4:** Mike Trout hit two solo homers as visiting Los Angeles rallied from an early four-run deficit.

Trout's second shot — a 473-foot blast in the sixth — landed in the walkway high above the wall in left-center field. It was Trout's 26th

multihomer game, and he is at 371 in his career, surpassing Gil Hodges for 81st on the all-time list.

**Reds 6, Phillies 3 (10):** Spencer Steer hit a grand slam in the 10th inning to lift visiting Cincinnati to a victory over Philadelphia.

Steer clubbed a 2-1, 91 mph fastball off Connor Brogdon (0-1).

**Tigers 5, Mets 0 (10):** Carson Kelly hit a three-run homer to cap a five-run 10th inning, and visiting Detroit extended its best start in almost a decade with a victory over New York, which fell to 0-4 for the first time since 2005.

The teams combined to get just two runners — one apiece — into scoring position in the first nine innings before the Tigers broke the tie in the 10th.

**Red Sox 9, Athletics 0:** Tanner Houck struck out 10 batters in six scoreless innings as visiting Boston capitalized on five early errors by Oakland.

**Mariners 5, Guardians 4:** Dominic Canzone hit a three-run homer and Julio Rodríguez thrilled the crowd with a pair of high-light-reel catches as host Seattle beat Cleveland.

**Cardinals 6, Padres 2:** Willson Contreras and Brendan Donovan each hit a two-run home run, Kyle Gibson was dominant and visiting St. Louis beat San Diego.

**Yankees 5, Diamondbacks 2:** Luis Gil had a successful outing in his return from Tommy John surgery and visiting New York started the season on a five-game winning streak for the first time in 32 years, beating Arizona.

**Dodgers 8, Giants 3:** Freddie Freeman had three hits, Teoscar Hernández homered for the second straight game and host Los Angeles beat San Francisco.



# Clark leads Iowa past defending champ LSU

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Caitlin Clark put up another sensational performance to carry Iowa to its second straight Final Four.

The Hawkeyes' superstar guard, whose record-breaking exploits have brought unprecedented attention to women's basketball, made nine 3-pointers and finished with 41 points and 12 assists as Iowa knocked defending national champion LSU out of the NCAA Tournament with a 94-87 victory on Monday night.

"It's amazing to be back in the Final Four. It's so hard to get back there," Clark said. "This region was really hard, but we told ourselves we are the one seed for a reason."

Top-seeded Iowa (33-4) will play Paige Bueckers and UConn in the national semifinals Friday night in Cleveland.

Monday's highly anticipated matchup was a rematch of last year's national championship

game won by LSU, which drew a record 9.9 million viewers.

Both teams wished that this meeting had come later in the tournament instead of with a Final Four berth at stake, but that was out of their control.

Clark, who also scored 41 points in the regional final last year, and Angel Reese of LSU put on a memorable show for the sold-out crowd and the millions watching.

"I think it's just great for the sport, just being able to be a part of history. Like I said, no matter which way it went tonight, I know this was going to be a night for the ages," said Reese, who had 17 points and 20 rebounds before fouling out with 1:45 left. "And just being able to be a part of history is great. Playing against another great player, of course, is always amazing."

Clark has already declared for this year's WNBA Draft. Reese, too, will have a decision

to make about whether to turn pro or come back for one more season.

With the game tied at 45 after an entertaining first half, Clark took over in the third quarter. The NCAA Division I all-time scoring leader hit four 3-pointers, each deeper than the previous one. Her fourth of the quarter, from her signature logo range, made it 61-52. It was also the 538th of her career, which made her the all-time leader in that category among NCAA Division I players, passing Oklahoma's Taylor Robertson.

"There's not a lot of strategy. You've got to guard her. Nobody else seems to be able to guard her," LSU coach Kim Mulkey said. "We didn't even guard her last year when we beat them. She's just a generational player, and she just makes everybody around her better."

Flau'jae Johnson scored 23 points for No. 3 seed LSU (31-6), which fell short of becoming the

first repeat champion since UConn in 2016.

Kate Martin scored 21 points for Iowa and Sydney Affolter added 16.

Iowa's lead ballooned to 65-52 before LSU scored six straight points. The Tigers trailed 69-58 heading into the fourth quarter before scoring the first five points to get within 69-63.

But they got no closer as Clark wouldn't let the Hawkeyes lose. Her ninth 3-pointer, which tied the March Madness single-game record, made it 80-69 with 5:05 left. She pumped her chest as she ran back down the court and yelled to the adoring crowd.

"I got hyped for a second," Clark said. "When you are playing a team like LSU, they are never out of the game. No matter what the time or score is. Do not start celebrating or get too emotional. They are going to fight until the end."

## Bueckers lifts UConn over USC, back into Final Four

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — After being a spectator a year ago, Paige Bueckers is headed back to the Final Four after scoring 28 points and lifting UConn to a 80-73 win over Southern California in the women's NCAA Tournament on Monday night.

Bueckers outdueled fabulous USC freshman All-American JuJu Watkins, sparking a decisive run over the final five minutes that sent third-seeded UConn (33-5) to its 23rd national semifinal, the most of any school. Leading 65-64, the Huskies scored 11 straight points, including seven from Bueckers and a three-point play from Aaliyah Edwards to finally put away the top-seeded Trojans (29-6).

UConn will face Caitlin Clark and Iowa on Friday in Cleveland.

Edwards finished with 24 points, and this Final Four trip will rank as one of the most unlikely in coach Geno Auriemma's 39-year tenure. Beset by injuries that left them with only eight healthy players — including the loss of two starters — the Huskies managed minutes, fouls and ex-

haustion to win their regional final a year after seeing a string of 14 straight Final Four appearances snapped.

Bueckers was sidelined by a major knee injury last year when that streak ended. She was determined to get the Huskies back to that stage, and did it by hitting 11 of 23 shots and finishing with 10 rebounds and six assists.

A day after the NCAA belatedly realized the 3-point line at one end of the court at Moda Center was 9 inches shorter than the other, the Trojans and Huskies played on a corrected floor — albeit with the incorrect line still visible — with the final spot in Cleveland at stake.

And it was the Huskies celebrating at the end, although it was a shaky finish. UConn missed six free throws in the final minute and let a 12-point lead dwindle down to five.

"For the most part, this was a really good basketball game and they beat us," USC coach Lindsay Gottlieb said. "They did a little bit better of what they do than we do."

Watkins concluded her freshman year by scoring 29 points, but UConn made it difficult for her to get clean looks at the rim with regular double-teams and constant switching of defenders. Watkins took about 15 minutes to score the eight points needed to move past former San Diego State star Tina Hutchinson for the most by a freshman in NCAA history. Watkins' 3-pointer at the top of the key midway through the second quarter gave her the record.

Watkins missed eight of her next nine shots and UConn built a 12-point lead midway through the third quarter. USC rallied to pull even at 59-59 with 7:21 left after five quick points from Watkins and McKenzie Forbes' fourth 3-pointer of the game, but the Huskies pulled away late.

"(UConn) played great defense. Every time I got past the first line, someone was there," Watkins said.

Forbes finished with 24 points and Rayah Marshall had 11 for the Trojans, who were seeking their first Final Four appearance since 1986.

# Nylander, Jackets put away Avalanche

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Alex Nylander scored twice and the Columbus Blue Jackets used a three-goal second period to beat the Colorado Avalanche 4-1 Monday night for their second straight home win.

Kirill Marchenko had a goal and an assist, Cole Sillinger also scored and Eric Gudbranson had two assists for last-place Columbus, which won consecutive games for just the fourth time this season. Daniil Tarasov stopped 46 shots in his first game against the Avalanche.

Chris Wagner scored and Justus Annunen had 21 saves for the Avalanche, who remain tied at 100 points with the Vancouver Canucks, three points behind the Dallas Stars for the Western Conference lead.

Marchenko broke a scoreless tie at 9:35 of the second period, sliding the puck between Annunen's pads on the rush for his second goal in two games and his 20th of the season. Johnny Gaudreau's secondary assist was his team-leading 56th point and 45th assist.

Nylander gave Columbus a two-goal lead with a wrister from the right circle with 5:48 remaining in the second, and notched his second of the game with 1:57 to go in the period. His 10 goals in 17 games since joining the Blue Jackets is a team record.

Sillinger had an empty-netter with 1:33 remaining.

**Islanders 4, Flyers 3 (OT):** Brock Nelson

scored 1:25 into overtime and visiting New York preserved its playoff hopes with an overtime victory over Philadelphia.

Anders Lee, Bo Horvat and Matt Martin also scored for the Islanders, who moved within four points of Philadelphia for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. New York has two more games remaining on its schedule than the Flyers.

**Penguins 5, Rangers 2:** Sidney Crosby had two goals and an assist and Alex Nedeljkovic made 28 saves as visiting Pittsburgh snapped New York's five-game winning streak.

Bryan Rust also scored twice and Emil Bemstrom added a goal for Pittsburgh, which ended a four-game losing streak in New York and improved to 14-9-3 in its past 26 games against the Rangers.

**Red Wings 4, Lightning 2:** David Perron scored the go-ahead goal with 2:40 remaining and visiting Detroit ended a four-game winless streak by beating Tampa Bay.

Perron shoveled a rebound past Andrei Vasilevskiy to break a 2-2 tie as the Red Wings won the finale of a five-game road trip. Patrick Kane, Robby Fabbri and Lucas Raymond also scored and Alex Lyon made 34 saves to end a personal 0-8-2 streak and help the Red Wings move within one point of the Philadelphia Flyers for the second wild card in the Eastern Conference.

**Maple Leafs 6, Panthers 4:** Auston Matthews scored his NHL-leading 61st and

62nd goals of the season to go along with an assist as host Toronto built a four-goal lead before hanging on late to down Florida.

Nicholas Robertson and Matthew Knies also had a goal and an assist each for Toronto, while Tyler Bertuzzi and David Kampf provided the rest of the offense.

**Blues 3, Oilers 2 (OT):** Brandon Saad scored 2:09 into overtime, and host St. Louis beat Edmonton.

Brayden Schenn scored twice and Jordan Binnington stopped 35 shots to help St. Louis improve to 8-2-1 in its past 11 games. The Blues are three points behind Los Angeles for the second wild card in the Western Conference.

**Jets 4, Kings 3:** Cole Perfetti scored twice and Kyle Connor contributed a trio of assists as host Winnipeg snapped a six-game losing skid with a victory over Los Angeles.

Josh Morrissey had a goal and assist and Sean Monahan also scored for the Jets. Perfetti registered a helper on Morrissey's second-period tally. Laurent Brossoit made 25 saves for Winnipeg.

**Kraken 4, Sharks 2:** Oliver Bjorkstrand scored his 20th goal of the season and added an assist as visiting Seattle beat San Jose.

Jared McCann, Matty Beniers and Shane Wright also scored for Seattle, and Jordan Eberle had an assist for his 700th NHL point. Philipp Grubauer made 24 saves to earn the win.

# Tatum, Hauser help Boston cruise past Charlotte

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jayson Tatum had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Sam Hauser poured in 25 points on seven 3s and the Boston Celtics avenged an early season loss to the Charlotte Hornets with a 118-104 victory on Monday night.

Kristaps Porzingis added 20 points and Derrick White had 19 points and nine rebounds for the Celtics, who have won 11 of their last 13 games.

Hauser finished 7-for-11 from beyond the arc and the Celtics made 19 3s against the Hornets to avenge a 121-118 overtime loss on Nov. 20 in Charlotte when Miles Bridges hit a game-winning 3 with 6.6 seconds left.

Boston (59-16), which has already clinched the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs, is now 27-0 this season when it makes at least 18 3s in a game.

**Hawks 113, Bulls 101:** Vit Krejci set career highs with 18 points and six 3-pointers, Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 20 and visiting Atlanta beat Chicago in a matchup between potential play-in tournament opponents.

Dejounte Murray scored 17 points and Clint Capela added 15 points and 11 rebounds as the 10th-place Hawks moved within a half-game of the ninth-place Bulls in the Eastern Conference.

**Grizzlies 110, Pistons 108:** Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 40 points and visiting Memphis held on for a victory over Detroit.

Cade Cunningham, who finished with 36 points, missed a tying 12-footer as time expired.

**Magic 104, Trail Blazers 103:** Franz Wagner scored 20 points and host Orlando escaped with a win over struggling Portland.

Wendell Carter Jr. had 17 points and 13 rebounds and Jalen Suggs and Paolo Banchero each scored 15 points for the Magic.

**Pacers 133, Nets 111:** Tyrese Haliburton scored 27 points and had 13 assists to lead host Indiana to a rout of Brooklyn.

Despite being ejected for a flagrant foul midway through the third quarter, Pacers forward Jalen Smith had 17 points and 10 rebounds.

**Suns 124, Pelicans 111:** Devin Booker scored 52 points, the fifth-highest scoring game of his career, to power visiting Phoenix to a victory over New Orleans.

Kevin Durant scored 20 points and Jusuf Nurkic added 19 for the Suns, who led by as many as 25 points in the third quarter. New Orleans cut the deficit with a 20-8 run to trail 103-90 entering the fourth quarter.