

Officials in Israel fear possible ICC warrants

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli officials appeared increasingly concerned that the International Criminal Court may issue arrest warrants against the country's leaders, as international pressure mounts over the war in Gaza. Airstrikes overnight into Monday killed 25 people in a southern city, according to hospital records.

The deaths in Rafah included nine women and five children, one of whom was just 5 days old, according to the records and an Associated Press reporter. Israel is planning an invasion of the city—though its closest ally, the United States, and others have repeatedly warned against it, saying an offensive would spell catastrophe for more than a million Palestinians shelter-

ing there.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials have referred in recent days to an ICC probe launched three years ago into possible war crimes committed by Israel and Palestinian militants going back to the 2014 Israel-Hamas war. The probe is also looking at Israel's construction of settlements in occupied territory the Palestinians want for a future state.

There was no comment from the court on Monday, and it has given no indication warrants in the case are imminent.

But Israel's Foreign Ministry said late Sunday that it had informed Israeli missions of "rumors" that warrants might be issued against senior political and military officials. Foreign Minister Israel Katz said any such

warrants would "provide a morale boost" to Hamas and other militant groups.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday that Israel "will never accept any attempt by the ICC to undermine its inherent right of self-defense."

"The threat to seize the soldiers and officials of the Middle East's only democracy and the world's only Jewish state is outrageous. We will not bow to it," he posted on the social media platform X.

It was not clear what sparked the Israeli concerns. A series of Israeli announcements in recent days about allowing more humanitarian aid into Gaza appears to be aimed in part at heading off possible ICC action.

ICC prosecutor Karim Khan said during a visit to the region in

December that the investigation is "moving forward at pace, with rigor, with determination and with an insistence that we act not on emotion but on solid evidence."

Neither Israel nor the United States accept the ICC's jurisdiction, but any warrants could put Israeli officials at risk of arrest in other countries. They would also serve as a major rebuke of Israel's actions at a time when pro-Palestinian protests have spread across U.S. college campuses.

The International Court of Justice, a separate body, is investigating whether Israel has committed acts of genocide in the ongoing war in Gaza, with any ruling expected to take years. Israel has rejected allegations of wrongdoing and accused both international courts of bias.

Protests over war in Gaza taking over campuses

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Colleges around the country implored pro-Palestinian student protesters to clear out tent encampments with rising levels of urgency Monday, including an ultimatum from Columbia University for students to sign a form and leave the encampment by the afternoon or face suspension.

College classes nationwide are wrapping up for the semester, and campuses are preparing for graduation ceremonies.

The notice sent by Columbia to protesters in the encampment Monday said that if they leave by the designated time and sign a form committing to abide by university policies through June 2025 or an earlier graduation, they can finish the semester in good standing. If not, the letter said, they will be suspended, pending further investigation.

"We urge you to remove the encampment so that we do not deprive your fellow students, their families and friends of this

momentous occasion," the letter said, noting that exams are beginning and graduation is upcoming at the Ivy League university in New York City.

A spokesperson for Columbia confirmed the letter had gone out to students but declined to comment further.

Mahmoud Khalil, the lead negotiator on behalf of protesters, said university representatives began passing out the notices at the encampment shortly after 10 a.m. Monday. He said discussions were ongoing about how to proceed.

Early protests at Columbia, where demonstrators set up tents in the center of the campus, sparked pro-Palestinian demonstrations across the country. Students and others have been sparring over the Israel-Hamas war and its mounting death toll. Many students are demanding their universities cut financial ties with Israel.

About 275 people were arrested Saturday at various campuses including Indiana University at Bloomington, Arizona State

University and Washington University in St. Louis. The number of arrests nationwide has surpassed 900 since New York police removed a pro-Palestinian protest encampment at Columbia and arrested more than 100 demonstrators on April 18.

Protests were still active at a number of campuses. Near George Washington University in Washington, protesters at an encampment breached and dismantled the barriers Monday morning used to secure University Yard, the university said in a statement. The yard had been closed since last week.

Protesters at Yale University set up a new encampment with dozens of tents Sunday afternoon, nearly a week after police arrested nearly 50 demonstrators and cleared a similar camp.

At least one school, the University of Southern California, canceled its main graduation ceremony this spring. Others are asking the protests to resolve peacefully so they can hold their ceremonies.

Houthis suspected in blast near ship

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A suspected missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels damaged a ship in the Red Sea on Monday, authorities said, the latest assault in their campaign against international shipping in the crucial maritime route.

The attack happened off the coast of Mokha, Yemen, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. The ship sustained damage in the attack, the UKMTO said, though its crew was safe and heading to its next port of call. The agency urged vessels to exercise caution in the area.

There was "an explosion in close proximity to a merchant vessel," the UKMTO said. "Vessel and crew are reported safe."

The private security firm Ambrey said a salvo of three missiles targeted a Malta-flagged container ship traveling from Djibouti onward to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

"The vessel was targeted due to its listed operator's ongoing trade with Israel," Ambrey said.

CMA CGM, a Marseille, France-based shipper, had its Malta-flagged CMA CGM Manta Ray due to sail to Jeddah from Djibouti on Monday. However, the shipper said the vessel

remained at harbor in Djibouti and could not have been targeted in the incident.

The Houthis did not immediately acknowledge any attack, though suspicion fell on the group. It typically takes the rebels several hours to claim their assaults.

The Houthis say their attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are aimed at pressuring Israel to end its war against Hamas in Gaza.

The Houthis have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping, seized one vessel and sunk another since November, according to the U.S. Maritime Administration.

Houthi attacks have dropped in recent weeks as the rebels have been targeted by a U.S.-led airstrike campaign in Yemen. Shipping through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden has declined because of the threat.

American officials have speculated that the rebels may be running out of weapons as a result of the U.S.-led campaign against them and after firing drones and missiles steadily for months. However, the rebels have renewed their attacks in the past week. Early Sunday morning, the U.S. military shot down five drones in the air over the Red Sea, Central Command said.

Vets with misconduct or special court-martial now able to receive VA benefits

BY LINDA F. HERSEY

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Veterans who left military service with an other-than-honorable discharge or after a special court-martial for misdemeanor offenses will be eligible for the first time for veterans' health care and benefits following a rule change announced Thursday by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The veterans will be considered for VA care and services under a "compelling circumstances exception," if they can show that mental health problems, cognitive impairment, combat-related hardship, military sexual trauma or other identified factors contributed to their dismissal, the VA said.

Veterans' length of service and overall performance during military duty also will be considered.

Basic eligibility for VA benefits previously was granted only to veterans who left the military service under honorable conditions after successful completion of their military contract or were discharged early due to illness, injury or other factors beyond their control.

About 200,000 service members exit the military each year. Slightly more than 2% leave with other-than-honorable discharges. Bad conduct discharges through a special court-martial account for less than 1% of discharges.

Veterans with other-than-honorable discharges previously were considered on a case-by-case basis. From 2012-23, the VA awarded benefits to more than 8,000 former service members who previously were deemed ineligible because of other-than-honorable and bad-conduct discharges.

Ex-Army captain graduates from US Marine boot camp

BY BRADLEY LATHAM

Stars and Stripes

A former U.S. Army captain has completed a milestone in his career transition to become an enlisted Marine.

Pfc. Nicholas Brooklier graduated from boot camp Friday at Marine Corps Recruiting Depot San Diego in California.

Brooklier declined an interview, opting to spend time with his family and prepare for the next steps of his career, MCRD San Diego spokesman Capt. Austin Gallegos said.

Brooklier will spend the next several months training to become an infantryman at Camp Pendleton, Calif. His life in the Army didn't feel fulfilling, he said in a Marine Corps statement in January.

"So it was either get out and go to the civilian world, and to be honest, I did not want to do that," Brooklier said. "I felt like my time in the service wasn't over. I just felt like I needed a

change in my environment."

He intends to pursue a commission as a Marine Corps infantry officer, the statement said.

If he did end up retiring at an enlisted rank, Brooklier's career path poses unusual circumstances. Most service members reach their highest rank upon retirement unless adverse action lowers their pay grade.

Under the DOD's blended retirement system, military pension pay is calculated using an average of the top-earning 36 months of service, also known as the "high-3."

Neither the Defense Finance and Accounting Service nor the Marine Corps provided an answer by Monday as to how this might apply in Brooklier's case.

A former DFAS employee, who spoke on background because they were unauthorized to speak publicly, said it's possible for Brooklier's time as a captain to count toward his potential retirement pay.

Oklahoma towns clean up after storms

Associated Press

SULPHUR, Okla. — Small towns in Oklahoma began a long cleanup Monday after tornadoes flattened homes and buildings and killed four people, including an infant, widening a destructive outbreak of severe weather across the middle of the U.S.

Punishing storms that began late Saturday in Oklahoma injured at least 100 people, damaged a rural hospital, washed out roads and knocked out power to more than 40,000 customers at one point, state officials said. Tornadoes on Friday in Iowa and Nebraska also caused wide

destruction and were blamed for one death.

The destruction was extensive in Sulphur, a town of about 5,000 people south of Oklahoma City, where a tornado crumpled many downtown buildings, tossed cars and buses and sheared the roofs off houses across a 15-block radius.

“You just can’t believe the destruction,” Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt said during a visit to the hard-hit town. “It seems like every business downtown has been destroyed.”

Stitt said about 30 people were injured in Sulphur, including

some who were in a bar as the tornado struck. Hospitals across the state reported about 100 injuries, including people apparently cut or struck by debris, according to the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. An infant was among those killed, Hughes County Emergency Management Director Mike Dockrey told Oklahoma television station KOCO.

White House officials said President Joe Biden spoke to Stitt on Sunday and offered the full support of the federal government.

The deadly weather in Okla-

homa added to the dozens of reported tornadoes that have wreaked havoc in the nation’s midsection since Friday. Another death was reported Sunday in Iowa, where officials in Pottawattamie County said a man critically injured during a tornado Friday had died.

In Oklahoma, authorities said the tornado in Sulphur began in a city park before barreling through the downtown, flipping cars and ripping the roofs and walls off of brick buildings. Windows and doors were blown out of structures that remained standing.

Weinstein in hospital after return to NYC from prison

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Harvey Weinstein’s lawyer said Saturday that the onetime movie mogul has been hospitalized for a battery of tests after his return to New York City following an appeals court ruling nullifying his 2020 rape conviction.

Attorney Arthur Aidala said Weinstein was moved to Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan after his arrival on Friday to city jails.

“They examined him and sent him to Bellevue. It seems like he needs a lot of help, physically. He’s got a lot of problems. He’s getting all kinds of tests. He’s somewhat of a train wreck

health wise,” Aidala said.

A message left with the hospital was not immediately returned Saturday.

Frank Dwyer, a spokesperson with the New York City Department of Correction, said only that Weinstein, 72, remains in custody at Bellevue. Thomas Mailey, a spokesperson for the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, said Weinstein was turned over to the city’s Department of Correction pursuant to the appeals ruling. Weinstein had been housed at the Mohawk Correctional Facility, about 100 miles northwest of Albany.

On Thursday, the New York Court of Appeals vacated his conviction after concluding that a trial judge permitted jurors to see and hear too much evidence not directly related to the charges he faced. It also erased his 23-year prison sentence and ordered a retrial.

Prosecutors said they intend to retry him on charges that he forcibly performed oral sex on a TV and film production assistant in 2006 and raped an aspiring actor in 2013.

Weinstein remained in custody after the appeals ruling because he was convicted in Los Angeles in 2022 of another rape

and was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

For some time, Weinstein has been ailing with a variety of afflictions, including cardiac issues, diabetes, sleep apnea and eye problems.

Aidala said he spoke to Weinstein on Friday afternoon after he was in transit to New York City from an upstate jail less than 24 hours after the appeals ruling, which was released Thursday morning.

He said his client’s ailments are physical, adding that mentally he is “sharp as a tack. Feet are firmly planted on the ground.”

US official: Putin likely didn’t order Navalny’s death

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. intelligence officials have determined that Russian President Vladimir Putin likely didn’t order the death of imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny in February, according to an official familiar with the determination.

While U.S. officials believe Putin was ultimately responsible for the death of Navalny,

who endured brutal conditions during his confinement, the intelligence community has found “no smoking gun” that Putin was aware of the timing of Navalny’s death — which came soon before the Russian president’s reelection — or directly ordered it, according to the official.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter.

Soon after Navalny’s death, President Joe Biden said Putin was ultimately responsible but did not accuse the Russian president of directly ordering it.

At the time, Biden said the U.S. did not know exactly what had happened to Navalny but that “there is no doubt” that his death “was the consequence of something that Putin and his thugs did.”

Navalny, 47, Russia’s best-

known opposition politician and Putin’s most persistent foe, died Feb. 16 in a remote penal colony above the Arctic Circle while serving a 19-year sentence on extremism charges that he rejected as politically motivated.

He had been behind bars since January 2021 after returning to Russia from Germany, where he had been recovering from nerve-agent poisoning that he blamed on the Kremlin.

Ukraine-born Spartz rejected aid bill with eye on re-election

Associated Press

SHERIDAN, Ind. — U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz, the first and only Ukrainian-born member of Congress, emerged early on as a natural advocate for supporting her native country in its war with Russia. But when \$61 billion in additional support for the war effort came up for a vote in the House recently, she voted against it.

Instead she has called for better oversight of U.S. funds and opposed giving “blank checks” to the Ukrainian cause. She says U.S. border security should be a bigger priority.

That puts her more in line with conservative House Republicans and more notably with voters in her deeply conservative central Indiana congressional district. She’s locked in a tough reelection fight in the May 7 GOP primary, made all the more complicated by her public announcement more than a year ago that she wouldn’t seek another term, a decision she later reversed.

The aid package, part of a larger bill that also included assistance for Israel, Taiwan and other global hot spots, was signed into law by President Joe Biden on Wednesday.

Spartz said she is “kind of appalled” at the notion that her heritage should dictate support for the Ukrainian cause if she feels the money would be wasted.

“My responsibility is the protection of American people,” she said during a recent interview. Spartz spoke at an event hosted

by the Hamilton County GOP in Sheridan, Ind., a town of a few thousand people.

Border security has been hammered in the campaign by state Rep. Chuck Goodrich, the most well-funded of Spartz’s eight challengers. He has attacked Spartz on her original support to Ukraine, saying she puts “Ukraine first.”

Spartz beat a crowded 2020 primary field with Donald Trump’s endorsement, winning nearly 40% of the vote. She ran unopposed in the 2022 primary. With Trump’s Republican nomination secured this year, turnout is expected to be low.

Spartz, 45, immigrated to the U.S. in 2000 after meeting her husband from Indiana on a train in Europe. She started as a bank teller, later taught as an adjunct faculty member at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business and owns farm property.

After a long-time state senator retired before the end of his term, Hamilton County GOP officials selected Spartz, who was involved with the county party, to fill his term in 2017. She served three sessions in the statehouse before her election to Congress.

During her speech to voters in Sheridan, Spartz made no mention of the war in Ukraine.

Drawing on her experience growing up in the Soviet Union, as she has often done throughout her political career, she warned of a socialist future in the U.S.

“I’m going to fight the righteous fight,” she declared.

Menthol cigarette ban delayed in US

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden’s administration is indefinitely delaying a long-awaited menthol cigarette ban, a decision that infuriated anti-smoking advocates but could avoid a political backlash from Black voters in November.

In a statement Friday, Biden’s top health official gave no timeline for issuing the rule, saying only that the administration would take more time to consider feedback, including from civil rights groups.

“It’s clear that there are still more conversations to have, and that will take significantly more time,” Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a statement.

The White House has held dozens of meetings in recent months with groups opposing the ban, including civil rights organizers, law enforcement officials and small-business owners. Most of groups have financial ties to tobacco companies.

The announcement is another setback for Food and Drug Administration officials, who drafted the ban and predicted it would prevent hundreds of thousands of smoking-related deaths over 40 years. The agency has worked toward banning menthol across multiple administrations without ever finalizing a rule.

“This decision prioritizes politics over lives, especially Black lives,” said Yolonda Richardson of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, in an emailed statement. “It is especially disturbing to see the administration parrot the false claims of the tobacco industry about support from the civil rights community.”

Previous FDA efforts on menthol have been derailed by tobacco industry pushback or competing political priorities. With both Biden and former President Donald Trump vying for the support of Black voters, the ban’s potential impact has been scrutinized by Republicans and Democrats heading into the fall election.

Anti-smoking advocates have been pushing the FDA to eliminate the flavor since the agency gained authority to regulate certain tobacco ingredients in 2009. Menthol is the only cigarette flavor that wasn’t banned under that law, a carveout negotiated by industry allies in Congress. But the law instructed the FDA to continue studying the issue.

More than 11% of U.S. adults smoke, with rates roughly even between white and Black people. But about 80% of Black smokers smoke menthol.

An FDA spokesperson said Friday the agency is still committed to banning menthol cigarettes.

Trump meets DeSantis with interest in donor connections

Bloomberg News

Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis met on Sunday to discuss the possibility of tapping DeSantis’ donor network, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The Miami meeting is a sign of rapprochement between the former president and his one-time

opponent after a period of rocky relations, heightened by Trump’s attacks on DeSantis during the Republican primaries. DeSantis, once considered a potent candidate, dropped out in January.

Reaching into DeSantis’ donor pipeline could shore up funds for the presumptive Republican nominee as Trump faces a cash

drain from the legal costs of his array of court cases. At the same time, President Joe Biden’s campaign widened its fundraising lead over Trump in March, raising more than \$90 million. As of April 21, Trump had just \$6.8 million in the accounts he’s been using to fund his lawyers. That could drive him to tap funds from other

sources to cover upcoming bills and bankroll his campaign.

Trump and his campaign are expected to hold a retreat this week with about 400 donors and several vice presidential hopefuls.

The Trump-DeSantis meeting was first reported by The Washington Post.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police bust burglary ring that stole \$4M in jewels

MA BOSTON — A burglary ring that allegedly stole more than \$4 million worth of jewelry mostly from the homes of South Asians in over two dozen communities has been broken up, the Massachusetts State Police said.

Four people, including two brothers, were indicted after a nine-month investigation on 95 counts of unarmed burglary and breaking and entering a dwelling house in the daytime with intent to commit a felony.

Police said the Providence, R.I.-based theft crew broke into homes in 25 Massachusetts communities between July 21, 2018, and March 30. Police said the gang targeted South Asian homes because they thought they would have more jewelry.

Among the stolen jewels, police said, were diamonds and other gems worth \$75,000 each as well as gold bracelets, necklaces, earrings and cash. On several occasions, the gang stole locked safes weighing hundreds of pounds with the jewelry inside.

Selling dietary pills to minors now illegal

NY ALBANY — It's now illegal to sell weight-loss and muscle-building supplements to minors in New York, under a first-in-the-nation law that went into effect.

Experts said loose federal regulation of dietary supplements has resulted in these products sometimes including unapproved ingredients, like steroids and heavy metals, put-

ting kids at risk.

New York's law allows the state to fine businesses who sell kids diet pills or supplements that promote themselves as helping build muscle or burn fat. Protein supplements and shakes are exempt, unless they contain another weight-loss or muscle-building ingredient.

While specific products aren't banned, the law states judges enforcing the measure could consider the inclusion of ingredients including creatine, green tea extract and raspberry ketone.

Governor signs bills to allow armed teachers

TN NASHVILLE — Tennessee teachers and staff will be allowed to carry concealed handguns on public school grounds under legislation signed into law by Gov. Bill Lee on Friday.

Lee, a Republican, had announced his support for the proposal just the day before while flanked by top Republican legislative leaders who had helped shepherd the bill through the GOP-dominant General Assembly.

"What's important is that we give districts tools and the option to use a tool that will keep their children safe," Lee told reporters.

According to the statute, which becomes effective immediately, parents and other teachers will be barred from knowing who is armed at their schools.

A principal, school district and law enforcement agency would have to agree to let staff carry guns, and then workers

who want to carry a handgun would need to have a handgun carry permit and written authorization from the school's principal and local law enforcement.

Fed agency plans to restore grizzlies to state

WA SEATTLE — The federal government plans to restore grizzly bears to an area of northwest and north-central Washington, where they were largely wiped out.

Plans announced by the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service call for releasing three to seven bears a year for five to 10 years to achieve an initial population of 25. The aim is to eventually restore the population in the region to 200 bears within 60 to 100 years.

Grizzlies are considered threatened in the Lower 48 and currently occupy four of six established recovery areas in parts of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and northeast Washington. The bears for the restoration project would come from areas with healthy populations.

Smokers in state to pay some of highest prices

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Smokers in Minneapolis will pay some of the highest cigarette prices in the country after the City Council voted unanimously to impose a minimum retail price of \$15 per pack to promote public health.

The ordinance not only sets a floor price. It prevents smokers and retailers from getting around it by prohibiting price discounts and coupons, which

several tobacco companies circulate online to lure customers and reinforce brand loyalty. The minimum price also applies to four-packs of cigars. Distribution of free samples is prohibited.

Consumer prices are expected to run even higher after taxes are figured in. While retailers will get to keep the extra money paid by smokers, the higher prices are expected to snuff out at least some of their sales. E-cigarettes, which have grown in popularity, were left out because their prices vary too widely.

Lawmaker: Wild horses to remain in national park

ND BISMARCK — Wild horses will stay in North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park amid fears from advocates that park officials would remove the beloved animals from the rugged Badlands landscape, a key lawmaker said.

Republican U.S. Sen. John Hoeven said he has secured a commitment from the National Park Service to maintain the park's roughly 200 horses. His office said the Park Service will abandon its proposed removal of the horses under an environmental review process begun in 2022.

"This will allow for a healthy herd of wild horses to be maintained at the park, managed in a way to support genetic diversity among the herd and preserve the park's natural resources," Hoeven's office said in a statement.

— From wire reports

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Timberwolves complete sweep of Suns

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Minnesota Timberwolves are off to the second round of the NBA playoffs for the first time in 20 years.

Their first-round sweep of the Phoenix Suns served notice they might be ready to go even deeper.

Anthony Edwards scored 40 points, Karl-Anthony Towns added 28 and the Timberwolves pulled away late to beat the Suns 122-116 on Sunday night and sweep the first-round playoff series.

The victory came after coach Chris Finch left the game late in the fourth after an inadvertent collision with Wolves guard Mike Conley. The team said he had a ruptured patellar tendon in his right knee.

The success for Minnesota has been a long time coming, particularly for Towns, who was selected with the No. 1 overall pick in 2015 and waited nearly a decade to get his first playoff series win. Edwards is in his fourth season after being the No. 1 overall selection in 2020.

The Suns swept the three-game, regular-

season series from the Wolves, but Minnesota flipped that script in the postseason by wearing down a Phoenix team that had championship aspirations with its All-Star trio of Kevin Durant, Devin Booker and Bradley Beal.

The Wolves will play either the Denver Nuggets or Los Angeles Lakers in the second round.

Knicks 97, 76ers 92: Jalen Brunson scored a career playoff-high 47 points, added 10 assists and visiting New York beat Philadelphia to take a 3-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

OG Anunoby added 16 points and 14 rebounds, and took on some of the defensive assignment against Joel Embiid in the fourth quarter as the Knicks moved within a victory of getting to the Eastern Conference semifinals for the second straight year.

Embiid finished with 27 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. Tyrese Maxey added 23 points for the 76ers.

Clippers 116, Mavericks 111: Paul George and James Harden each scored 33

points while playing key fourth-quarter roles to help visiting Los Angeles hold on after blowing a 31-point lead and beat Dallas, evening the first-round series at 2-2.

Kyrie Irving scored 40 points for Dallas, including an acrobatic layup with 2:15 remaining for a 104-103 lead that was the first for the Mavericks since the middle of the first quarter.

Luka Doncic had 29 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in his fourth career playoff triple-double — all against the Clippers.

Pacers 126, Bucks 113: Myles Turner scored 29 points, Tyrese Haliburton added 24 and host Indiana made a franchise playoff record 22 3-pointers as it pulled away late for a victory over Milwaukee.

The win gave the Pacers a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series. Indiana has won three straight since losing the opener and can reach the Eastern Conference semifinals for the first time since 2014.

Indiana is 7-2 this season against the Bucks, who are trying to avoid a second straight first-round exit.

Nichushkin, Georgiev lead Avalanche to 3-1 series lead

Associated Press

DENVER — In his postgame on-ice interview, Valeri Nichushkin described his day in as many words as he had goals: "I feel amazing."

Nichushkin recorded his first career hat trick, Alexandar Georgiev turned in another strong showing and the Avalanche beat the Winnipeg Jets 5-1 in Game 4 on Sunday to move a win away from advancing.

It's been a roller-coaster season for the 29-year-old Nichushkin, who missed nearly two months earlier this year to receive care from the NHL/NHLPA Player Assistance Program. The 6-foot-4, 210-pound fast-moving Nichushkin is getting up to full speed.

"It's hard to stop the big man," said Artturi Lehkonen, who scored the game's first goal.

Cale Makar also scored for the Avalanche, who grabbed a 3-1 lead in the first-round series. Game 5 is Tuesday night in Winnipeg.

Nichushkin added an empty-netter with 13 seconds left to give him his third goal and his first hat trick in game No. 580 of his NHL career, including regular season and postseason.

Canucks 4, Predators 3 (OT): Elias Lind-

holm scored 1:02 into overtime as visiting Vancouver stunned Nashville and grabbed a 3-1 lead in their best-of-seven, first-round series.

Lindholm beat goalie Juuse Saros over his stick with a wrist from just in front of the crease off a pass from Conor Garland.

Brock Boeser had his first hat trick in the playoffs and seventh of his career. He scored on the Canucks' first shot and got Vancouver into overtime scoring twice in the final 2:49. His third came with 8 seconds left in regulation to quiet a Nashville crowd that celebrated much of the third period.

Filip Forsberg, Gustav Nyquist and Mark Jankowski all scored for the Predators, who also blew a 2-1 lead losing Game 1 giving up three goals in the third period.

Oilers 1, Kings 0: Stuart Skinner stopped 33 shots for his first postseason shutout, Evan Bouchard scored on the power play midway through the second period and visiting Edmonton beat Los Angeles in Game 4 to move a win away from advancing.

Skinner is the eighth goalie in franchise history to record a postseason shutout and the first since Mike Smith had two in the first round against the Kings two years ago. The most recent was in Game 7 of the 2022

first-round series when Smith made 29 saves in a 2-0 victory.

It was Skinner's 16th postseason start. It is the fifth shutout of his career after he had two during the regular season.

Rangers 4, Capitals 2: Artemi Panarin scored the go-ahead goal on the power play early in the third period, Igor Shesterkin made 23 saves and visiting New York advanced to the second round of the playoffs by finishing off a sweep of Washington with a victory in Game 4.

Trade deadline pickup Jack Roslovic sealed it with an empty-netter with 51 seconds left, and the Rangers will next face either the Carolina Hurricanes or crosstown-rival New York Islanders with a spot in the Eastern Conference final at stake. Carolina leads that series 3-1.

They'll get the benefit of some extra rest thanks to Panarin's goal with 16:39 left in regulation, 11 seconds after T.J. Oshie was penalized for high-sticking Vincent Trocheck, which helped them avoid overtime or this series returning to Madison Square Garden for a Game 5 on Wednesday. The Presidents' Trophy winners for having the best regular season in the NHL needed just four to vanquish the Capitals.

Riley, Braves walk off Guardians to win series

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Austin Riley knocked in Ronald Acuña Jr. with a 10th inning single Sunday and the Atlanta Braves rallied late to beat the Cleveland Guardians 4-3 and win a three-game series between the top two teams in the majors.

A.J. Minter (4-1) picked up the win by throwing a scoreless 10th inning.

Emmanuel Clase (1-0) took the loss.

The win was the 11th in the last 13 games by the Braves. The Guardians had won their four previous road series before coming to Truist Park for the first time ever.

The Guardians ran themselves out of the 10th inning. Stephen Kwan was picked off trying to steal third with one out just before José Ramírez singled, and then Ramírez ended the ending when he overran second trying to steal a base.

“(Orlando) Arcia and Ozzie (Albies) were telling me to peek the runner,” said Minter, who stepped off and threw to Riley at third to get the pickoff. “They saw something, so I moved over and luckily I guessed right. That was the difference in the game. Arcia and Ozzie, the pitch before that, they whistled at me to keep an eye out.”

Tigers 4, Royals 1: Wenceel Pérez hit a two-run drive for his first major league homer, and host Detroit beat Kansas City.

Jake Rogers also homered for the Tigers, who have won five of seven. It was Detroit's 10th come-from-behind win of the season.

Detroit left-hander Tarik Skubal (4-0) pitched seven innings of one-run ball. He struck out six while improving to 2-7 with a 4.65 ERA in 12 career games against the Royals.

White Sox 4, Rays 2: Erick Fedde pitched seven-hit ball into the ninth inning, and host Chicago beat Tampa Bay for a sweep of its three-game series.

Chicago improved to 6-22. It

outscored Tampa Bay 21-13 this weekend.

Gavin Sheets and Eloy Jiménez each had three hits for the White Sox in the finale. Andrew Benintendi, who homered twice and had six RBIs during Saturday night's 8-7 victory, had two hits and drove in two runs.

Mets 4, Cardinals 2 (11): Mark Vientos hit a two-run homer in the 11th inning on his second day in the majors this season to give host New York a comeback victory over St. Louis that prevented a three-game sweep.

New York was 0-for-15 with runners in scoring position and down to its last strike when Harrison Bader singled home automatic runner DJ Stewart from third base with the tying run.

Vientos, who singled as a pinch hitter in the ninth, then drove a 1-2 pitch from Matthew Liberatore (0-1) just beyond the glove of a leaping Michael Siani at the right-center fence.

Yankees 15, Brewers 5: Aaron Judge homered in the first inning and played a central role as a baserunner during a seven-run rally in the sixth as visiting New York defeated Milwaukee.

Anthony Rizzo went 4-for-4 and hit his 300th career homer. Anthony Volpe added a three-run shot on his 23rd birthday. Judge went 3 for 4 with three RBIs, including a 441-foot solo shot.

The game was tied at 4 before the Yankees' sixth-inning outburst. All seven of their runs scored with two outs after the Brewers failed to turn a double play earlier in the inning because shortstop Willy Adames' attempted throw to first hit Judge's padded left hand.

Astros 8, Rockies 2: Kyle Tucker, Jose Altuve and Jeremy Peña each hit a solo homer, helping Framber Valdez and Houston beat Colorado in Mexico City.

Tucker and Yainer Diaz each drove in two runs as Houston swept the two-game series at

Alfredo Harp Helú Stadium.

Valdez (1-0) pitched five innings of two-run ball in his first big league start since April 2, having been sidelined by elbow inflammation. The left-hander allowed five hits, struck out six and walked none.

Blue Jays 3, Dodgers 1: Kevin Gausman pitched seven solid innings for his first victory of the season, and host Toronto stopped Los Angeles' six-game win streak.

Alejandro Kirk went 3-for-3 for Toronto, hitting his first homer of the season in the second. He was mired in an 0-for-11 slide coming into the day.

Athletics 7, Orioles 6: Closer Craig Kimbrel blew his second save in as many opportunities and departed with a possible injury as visiting Oakland rallied to a series-deciding victory over Baltimore.

With the A's down by a run in the ninth, Kyle McCann drove a 3-2 offering from Kimbrel into the seats next to the out-of-town scoreboard in right center for a two-run shot that gave Oakland the lead.

Nationals 12, Marlins 9: Nick Senzel homered twice and drove in five runs as visiting Washington erased an early seven-run deficit to beat reeling Miami.

Trey Lipscomb had three hits while Alex Call reached base five times on two singles, two walks and a hit by pitch for the Nationals.

Rangers 4, Reds 3: Wyatt Langford and Adolis García homered during Texas' four-run first inning, helping Dane Dunning and host Texas beat Cincinnati.

Dunning (3-2) struck out a season-high 10 in 5½ innings. He allowed two runs, one earned, and three hits.

Giants 3, Pirates 2: Thairo Estrada and Mike Yastrzemski hit back-to-back home runs in the third inning, and rookie right-hander Keaton Winn had another strong start to lead host

San Francisco to a victory over Pittsburgh.

Rookie shortstop Tyler Fitzgerald added three hits for the Giants, who took two of three from the Pirates and finished their longest homestand of the season 6-4. Pittsburgh lost for the 10th time in its past 13 games.

Diamondbacks 3, Mariners 2: Brandon Pfaadt had a career-high 11 strikeouts, Ketel Marte broke a tie with an RBI double in the eighth inning, Christian Walker homered and visiting Arizona beat Seattle.

Marte doubled off reliever Trent Thornton (0-1), scoring Kevin Newman from second to help end Arizona's three-game losing streak.

Red Sox 5, Cubs 4: Tyler O'Neill hit a game-ending bloop single, and host Boston topped Chicago.

Jarren Duran hit a two-run triple and Connor Wong drove in two runs with a pair of two-out singles, helping the Red Sox to the win in the rubber game of weekend set.

Twins 11, Angels 5: Austin Martin and Alex Kiriloff drove in two runs apiece, and visiting Minnesota stretched its winning streak to seven games while completing a weekend sweep of struggling Los Angeles.

Martin had a two-run single during a four-run fifth inning for the Twins, and Kiriloff had a pinch-hit two-run double in Minnesota's four-run seventh. Ryan Jeffers, Jose Miranda, Christian Vázquez and Willi Castro had three hits apiece as Minnesota pounded out 17 hits while scoring at least five runs in its seventh consecutive game and moving back above .500 for the season at 14-13.

Phillies 8, Padres 6: Bryson Stott hit two two-run homers, J.T. Realmuto also connected and Taijuan Walker made a slick behind-the-back catch in his season debut to help visiting Philadelphia beat San Diego for its first road sweep of the season.

McLaughlin wins, giving Penske relief

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Scott McLaughlin and Team Penske proved they're a force on the track, no matter what's going on elsewhere.

McLaughlin won his second straight race at Barber Motorsports Park, giving Team Penske a much-needed triumph on Sunday just days after IndyCar erased Josef Newgarden's victory and also disqualified McLaughlin from the season opener.

The team went from damage control to celebration, at least temporarily.

"It was a little emotional for sure," McLaughlin said. "It's just nice. It was just a nice cap after obviously it was a pretty tough week."

McLaughlin and Penske's fuel strategy worked to perfection, with teammate Will Power finishing second — the same order they started in.

McLaughlin's fifth IndyCar win provided temporary solace after a troubling week for Team Penske, led by series owner Roger Penske. On Wednesday, Newgarden had his opening win at St. Petersburg, Fla., stripped for manipulating the push-to-pass system on his car. McLaughlin was also disqualified after finishing third.

Power was docked points — but surged to within one point of leader Colton Herta — and fined but not disqualified. They bounced back to give Team Penske its eighth win in 14 races at the permanent road course.

"We just had to keep rolling," McLaughlin said. "We know our job. We know what we need to do. I'm just super proud of our execution."

Reigning Indy 500 winner and two-time series champion Newgarden finished 16th at a race where he had won three times before. He had tearfully acknowledged two days earlier having

used the push-to-pass when it wasn't allowed at St. Petersburg, while saying he didn't knowingly break the rules.

Most of the drama for his teammates McLaughlin and Power was left behind once hitting the track, with McLaughlin holding onto his lead coming out of a third and final pit stop with 16 laps to go. He led 58 of the 90 laps and raced to the win coming out of a caution with two laps to go with Power his only threat.

"I would say after this week, I think Roger would be pretty happy," Power said. A day earlier, the team and IndyCar boss was apologizing to his fellow team owners for what happened, three owners told The Associated Press.

The Australian held off rookie Linus Lundqvist of Chip Ganassi Racing to finish second and earn his 100th podium finish, tying Michael Andretti for fourth in series history.

"He got a run on me and you

don't want two Penske cars out of the race with everything that was going on," Power said of McLaughlin. "So I was kind of easy on him going into Turn 1 there. We were certainly fast, but a lot of strategy played into that."

Felix Rosenqvist was fourth and Alex Palou fifth.

"It was amazing," he said. "I think for the first time ever I was not on the save-the-fuel strategy, so I was not the one being passed, which was nice."

Pole-sitter McLaughlin and Power, who started with him on the front row, maintained their spots after their third and final pit stop. They emerged ahead of the 2021 winner Palou, who opted for a two-stop strategy that left him without enough fuel to push the pace. A restart with 30 laps to go left Palou nursing his fuel for the rest of the way, while McLaughlin worked to build enough of a cushion to stay up front with one more stop.

Hamlin holds off Larson late for Cup win at Dover

Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Denny Hamlin called his shot ahead of Dover, guaranteeing a win on his podcast, then followed through on his bold boast that would have made the Bambino proud and held off Kyle Larson down the stretch to park his Toyota in victory lane.

Hamlin wiggled past lapped traffic and never let Larson squeak by him over the final laps in a showdown between two of NASCAR's elite drivers and won the Cup race by about a quarter of a second Sunday at Dover Motor Speedway.

"You better win if you're going to open your mouth, that's for sure," Hamlin said.

Hamlin has the victory lane celebration down pat this season. He celebrated last week at Talladega Superspeedway in his role as co-owner of 23XI

Racing when Tyler Reddick took the checkered flag. Hamlin's contribution was a bit overshadowed by his fellow team owner — Michael Jordan. For the first time since he became a NASCAR Cup team owner, Jordan was at the track to savor in person a victory by one of his drivers.

Hamlin took his turn in the spotlight this week with the Monster trophy as a driver for Joe Gibbs Racing at Dover.

"It is a little bit different when you win it yourself versus as a car owner," Hamlin said.

Hamlin knew the win was coming. Or at least, publicly he was willing to say he did, going so far as to call his shot — he even referenced Babe Ruth on the podcast — that he would master the Monster Mile.

"I'm going to call it now. We're going to win Dover,"

Hamlin said last week on "Actions Detrimental." "Got it?"

Got it.

"Hopefully some listeners of 'Actions Detrimental' maybe cashed in today," Hamlin said.

Hamlin led 136 of the 400 laps and won at Dover for the second time in his career.

Perhaps fittingly, the Babe wore No. 3 for the New York Yankees — and there was Hamlin and the rest of his No. 11 team flashing three fingers in tribute to the team's third win of the season.

Hamlin's three wins tie him with William Byron for most this season in the series. Hamlin also picked up his 54th career Cup win, all with Joe Gibbs Racing. He's tied with Lee Petty for 12th on the career Cup list.

"I couldn't hold Lee Petty's helmet," Hamlin said.

The tone for the season was set from the opener when Hamlin also won the Clash at the Coliseum exhibition race.

Larson finished second and nipped at Hamlin's bumper for most of the final 25 laps and seemed on the brink of passing the Toyota. Larson's No. 5 Chevrolet just couldn't close the deal on the mile concrete track. Hamlin took the lead off a restart with 81 laps left and never let it go, repeatedly choking off Larson's Chevy at the top of the track.

"I just couldn't really do anything," Larson said. "Nothing could generate enough speed to get close enough to do anything."

Hamlin was soundly booed as he grabbed the checkered flag.

Martin Truex Jr., Kyle Busch and Chase Elliott completed the top five.