

Trump says Hormuz is key to ceasefire

Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he'll only consider a halt to attacks on Iran when the Strait of Hormuz is reopened, sowing further confusion about how long he's prepared to continue the war.

Iran's "New Regime President" has asked the U.S. for a ceasefire, Trump said in a social-media post on Wednesday, possibly referring to comments Masoud Pezeshkian made Tuesday that the Islamic Republic has "the necessary will" to end this war — with certain guarantees.

"We will consider when Hormuz Strait is open, free, and clear," Trump said. "Until then, we are blasting Iran into oblivion."

Trump's comments came a day after he suggested he's keen to exit the conflict sooner rather than later — regardless of a ceasefire with Iran or a deal to open Hormuz, a vital shipping lane for global energy supplies.

"We'll be leaving very soon,"

the president said, speaking from the Oval Office. "I would say that within two weeks, maybe two weeks, maybe three. We're hitting them very hard."

The U.S. leader has vacillated throughout the month-long conflict between threatening a military escalation and saying a deal is imminent. Also on Wednesday, Reuters reported him as saying the U.S. will be out of Iran "pretty quickly."

Iran ensured Hormuz was closed off to most ships not long after the U.S. and Israel began airstrikes on Feb. 28, and hasn't offered any terms or timeline for a reopening. The future of the strait will be decided by Iran and Oman, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Wednesday, according to the state-run Press TV.

Araghchi said previously his country has been in direct contact with U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff, but told Al Jazeera that "does not mean that we are in negotiations."

Hormuz won't be opened

based on the "absurd displays of the American president," state-run IRIB added, citing a statement by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

In his comments Tuesday, Trump said the U.S. had successfully undercut Iran's nuclear capabilities.

"I had one goal: they will have no nuclear weapons. And that goal has been attained. They will not have nuclear weapons. But we're finishing the job," he said.

American forces have struck more than 12,000 targets inside Iran since launching the operation on Feb. 28, decimating much of its missile stockpile, production facilities and largest naval vessels. Early in the conflict, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed. His son, Mojtaba Khamenei, is now Iran's supreme leader.

At the start of the conflict, U.S. officials said striking Iran was necessary to undercut the imminent threat of a nuclear attack on Europe or the U.S. In recent days, however, officials have al-

so said the operation aims to take out Iran's ability to defend its nuclear facilities.

Iran's Isfahan, Natanz and Fordow nuclear facilities sustained major damage during a joint U.S.-Israeli bombing campaign last summer, but not everything was destroyed, according to Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Grossi, the top official at the international nuclear watchdog, told CBS last month that the recent wave of attacks has included some strikes on nuclear facilities, but they appeared to be "relatively marginal" compared to the entirety of the campaign.

"My impression is, once the military effort comes to an end, we will still inherit a number of major issues that have been at the center of all of this," he said.

Meanwhile, Iran fired missiles across the Middle East and Israel and the U.S. kept up their bombardment of the Islamic Republic for a fifth week.

USS Ford deployment may last for nearly a year

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

The aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford could be deployed for nearly a year, the Navy's top commanding officer said this week.

Ford likely will go into a "record-breaking" 11th month of operations, said Adm. Daryl Caudle, chief of naval operations, Tuesday at the Washington D.C.-based think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies.

He added that the carrier had received a much-needed reset, including time at U.S. Naval Sup-

port Activity Souda Bay in Greece for repairs following a laundry room fire last month and a port call in Split, Croatia.

Ford and her crew would be "back on station again here soon," said Caudle. He did not indicate if Ford would remain in the Mediterranean Sea or go back into the Red Sea in support of the U.S.-Israel campaign against Iran, which is now in its fifth week.

Its destroyer escorts — USS Bainbridge, USS Winston S. Churchill and USS Mahan — also have left the Middle East, having

made the northbound transit through the Suez Canal, USNI News reported Monday.

The aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush, anticipated to relieve the Ford, left its homeport in Norfolk, Va., on Tuesday to begin operations for its deployment, the Navy said in a statement.

The Pentagon has not specifically said where the Bush will go, but it reportedly will head to the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations, which includes the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Ford, which left Norfolk in late June, is on its 281st day of operations, nearing carrier deployment records set by USS Abraham Lincoln and USS Nimitz.

In those cases, Lincoln was deployed for 295 days, returning to Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego on Jan. 20, 2020; Nimitz completed an 11-month deployment ending in March 2021 that included a 27-day pre-deployment quarantine due to COVID-19.

On Monday, Ford remained in Croatia, according to USNI News.

Trump says he's mulling exit from NATO

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — President Donald Trump said this week that he is considering an American withdrawal from the NATO alliance, citing frustration with allies over their refusal to join the U.S. military campaign against Iran.

“Oh yes, I would say [it’s] beyond reconsideration,” Trump said when asked Tuesday if he wanted to pull the U.S. out of the military bloc.

Trump, in an interview with *The Telegraph*, said he was “never swayed by NATO,” founded in the aftermath of World War II as a bulwark against the Soviet Union.

“I always knew they were a paper tiger, and (Russian President Vladimir) Putin knows that too, by the way,” Trump said.

The comments from Trump, who has long criticized NATO,

came one day after Secretary of State Marco Rubio blasted allies over disagreements about the conflict with Iran. Rubio said the U.S. needs to reconsider its relations with NATO countries such as Spain, which has denied U.S. access to its bases for Iran operations and refused military overflights.

Under NATO rules, members are required to give one year’s formal notice ahead of pulling out of the alliance. U.S. legislation also makes it harder for a president to unilaterally withdraw.

Rubio, when he was a Florida Republican senator, sponsored a 2023 bill — now law — that requires two-thirds approval in the Senate or an act of Congress to withdraw from NATO. T

he bipartisan bill also blocks funding for a withdrawal attempt if it is done without that approval.

Trump, however, has recent-

ly said that he doesn’t believe congressional support would be necessary if he chose to withdraw.

The legislation could face legal challenges over whether it infringes on executive powers.

In February, the Congressional Budget Office said that whether a president has the authority to withdraw from NATO without congressional approval “implicates a long-standing and still-unresolved debate over the Constitution’s allocation of the power to withdraw from treaties.”

Besides legal questions, a NATO withdrawal would upend virtually all of the U.S. force presence in Europe and the basing infrastructure that enables operations stretching across the Continent and into Africa and the Middle East.

American troops are governed in part by a NATO Status of Forces Agreement, which

sets the legal foundation for stationing forces in Europe. If NATO SOFA arrangements were voided, the U.S. would likely need to renegotiate those arrangements on a country-by-country basis.

The *Telegraph* reported last week that the American president also was considering a NATO shake-up that would block members from having a say on alliance decision-making if they don’t meet defense spending requirements.

The “pay-to-play” concept would center on meeting Trump’s demand that all members dedicate 5% of gross domestic product to their armed forces.

The *Telegraph*, citing sources “close to the president,” also reported that Trump was considering pulling troops out of Germany, where the U.S. has around 37,000 service members stationed.

DOD report says military suicides dropped in 2024

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

The suicide rate among active-duty troops decreased in 2024 from the previous year, according to an annual report released Tuesday by the Pentagon.

However, the active component rate has increased since 2011.

“It remains to be seen whether the short-term decreases observed in 2024 in the active component will signal a change in long-term trends,” the 78-page report says.

For years, the Pentagon has struggled to bring down the number of suicides in the ranks. The Defense Department began collecting and re-

porting quarterly surveillance data on service member suicides in 2018 to help guide prevention efforts.

Overall, there were 471 reported suicides across the total force in 2024, the most recent year the statistics have been recorded, compared with 531 in 2023.

The Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and reserves all saw decreases, but the National Guard rate increased by about 13%, according to the report.

The Defense Department in recent years has aimed to improve mental health care access for troops, amid increases in suicide rates and an outcry from Congress and others.

3 ships arrive in Hawaii, likely heading to Mideast

By GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

Up to 2,500 Marines and three Navy ships that deployed from San Diego last week have arrived in Hawaii, en route to a possible mission in the Middle East.

The Boxer leads the USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group. This Wasp-class amphibious assault ship can carry F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters, MV-22B Osprey tiltrotors and various helicopters.

USNI News reported the Boxer arrived Sunday at Pearl Harbor, accompanied by the amphibious transport dock ship USS Portland and the dock landing ship USS Comstock.

They are carrying up to 2,500

Marines of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Pendleton.

The Boxer was shown passing the retired USS Missouri late Sunday afternoon at Pearl Harbor in an X post from @warshipcam.

Navy photographs released this week show the Marines training in the Pacific Ocean. The Marine Corps posted photos on X of rapid-reload infantry firearms training by Marines below deck aboard the Boxer.

The Boxer group was deployed a week after the USS Tripoli Amphibious Ready Group was ordered from the western Pacific near Japan to the Central Command area of responsibility, which includes Iran.

Judge blocks Trump's \$400M ballroom

New York Daily News

President Donald Trump's plan for a glitzy new \$400 million White House ballroom was blocked Tuesday by a federal judge who ruled that only Congress can approve such a dramatic change in the presidential compound.

After presiding over months of litigation, District Court Judge Richard Leon ordered Trump to immediately stop construction of the opulent ballroom on the onetime site of the East Wing, which the president unilaterally ordered razed last year.

"No statute comes close to giving the President the author-

ity he claims to have," Leon wrote in a sharply worded 35-page order. "The President of the United States is the steward of the White House for future generations of First Families. He is not, however, the owner."

The judge ruled that Trump must win the approval of Congress to continue with the construction project.

"Unless and until Congress blesses this project through statutory authorization, construction has to stop!" Leon wrote. "But here is the good news. It is not too late for Congress to authorize the continued construction of the ballroom project."

Leon, who was appointed by President George W. Bush, put his ruling on hold for two weeks to allow the White House time to file a likely appeal.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Leon's ruling would mean Congress will have to agree to fund the project.

Trump has said private donors would foot the bill for the project, the price of which has ballooned from the original \$200 million estimate.

A list of donors has been released but the amounts they have pledged are shrouded in secrecy.

The lawsuit was filed by the National Trust for Historic

Preservation, a non-profit chartered by Congress.

The White House announced the ballroom project last summer. After first suggesting it would involve modest renovations, Trump in October ordered the the East Wing completely demolished to make room for the 90,000-square-foot ballroom that could accommodate 1,000 people.

Trump now says the project will also include an underground military bunker of undisclosed size and scope.

The administration has said construction on the ballroom would begin in April, forcing Leon to rule quickly.

Trump targets mail-in ballots

Los Angeles Times

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday purporting to place new federal controls on voting by mail in states, repeating his long-held but unsubstantiated claim that mail-in ballots are a source of widespread fraud in U.S. elections.

California leaders immediately responded with promises to fight the order in court.

They said that mail ballots are a safe and secure method for voting relied on by millions of Californians, that Trump's order infringes on the state's constitutional right to administer elections as it sees fit, and that it amounts to an "illegal power grab" ahead of midterm elections in which his party is poised to suffer substantial losses.

The order directs the United States Postal Service to take control of mail balloting by designing new envelopes with special bar codes that will allow the federal government to ensure that such ballots go out only to eligible voters and that only eligible voters return mail-in ballots.

It requires states to submit to

the USPS process if they plan to use the federal mail system for sending or receiving ballots, and to submit to the USPS lists of eligible voters in advance of such ballots passing through the mail system.

It also requires the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the Social Security Administration to "compile and transmit to the chief election official of each State a list of individuals confirmed to be United States citizens who will be above the age of 18 at the time of an upcoming Federal election and who maintain a residence in the subject State."

Those lists will be drawn from federal citizenship and naturalization records, Social Security records and "other relevant Federal databases," and the USPS will be barred from transmitting ballots that do not match those lists, the order says.

Trump — who recently voted by mail himself in Florida — framed the order as a solution to "massive cheating" in U.S. elections currently, which he did not back up with evidence.

NPR, PBS win fight over order to end funds

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — National Public Radio Inc., Public Broadcasting Service, and others demonstrated that President Donald Trump's anti-media funding executive order is unlawful, a Washington, D.C., federal court said Tuesday.

The executive order is unconstitutional because the president can't use governmental power to direct federal agencies to bar grants in "retaliation for saying things that he does not like," Judge Randolph D. Moss of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia said. His order grants the plaintiffs a permanent injunction from the government implementing or enforcing the executive order's instruction to cease funding NPR and PBS.

NPR and others sued in May 2025 challenging the order, which directs agencies to stop NPR from receiving federal funds.

NPR said the order is unlawful because it violates congressional statutes and violates sep-

aration of powers and the spending clause by "unilaterally imposing restrictions and conditions on funds in contravention of Congress."

PBS separately alleged in a May 2025 suit that the executive order violated constitutional protections for freedom of speech and freedom of the press. PBS said Trump is retaliating against them due to "perceived political slights in news coverage." The court consolidated the cases on Feb. 20.

The government may consider content of work it subsidizes, the U.S. Department of Justice argued in a July 2025 court filing. The executive order chooses not to fund the plaintiffs, as opposed to discriminating against them based on their viewpoint, it said.

But the government goes too far in suggesting the president may single out private speakers for disfavored treatment or that terminating funding for private speech can't be a cognizable retaliatory action under the First Amendment, the court said.

Court skeptical of US birthright citizenship case

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — With President Donald Trump watching in the gallery, the Supreme Court justices gave a mostly skeptical hearing on Wednesday to his claim that he may revise the Constitution to end birthright citizenship for babies born in this country to parents who were here unlawfully or temporarily.

Trump Solicitor Gen. D. John Sauer said birthright citizenship “rewards illegal immigration,” and he urged the court to rule that the children of temporary visitors and unlawful immigrants should not be deemed as citizens at birth.

But most of the justices said the Constitution had been understood for more than a century to promise citizenship to “all persons born” here, regardless of the status of their parents.

Justices Neil M. Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett said the 19th Century debates over citizenship focused on newborns, not the legal status of their parents.

“In none of the debates are parents discussed,” Gorsuch said.

Barrett said the framers of the 14th Amendment declared a “new type of American citizenship. ... They don’t focus on the parents. They focus on the child.”

Gorsuch and Barrett were appointed by Trump but voted in February to strike down his sweeping tariffs.

Liberal Justice Elena Kagan told Sauer he was seeking a major revision in long-standing American law.

“Birthright citizenship has

been the rule for a very long time,” she said. Given this long history, why “accept this revisionist history?” she said.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Ceceilla Wang pointed out that even during World War II, when Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps, that did not affect their newborns.

When those supposed “enemy aliens had babies, everyone agreed those babies were U.S. citizens,” she said.

In response, Sauer argued that this understanding of birthright citizenship had been wrong from the start.

He said the citizenship rule did not extend to the children of immigrants and visitors who were “subject to a foreign power.” He said those persons did not have “allegiance” to the United States and therefore, were not citizens.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. also voiced skepticism.

“It’s a new world but it is the same Constitution,” he told Sauer.

Only Justices Samuel A. Alito and Clarence Thomas appeared to agree with that argument.

Trump proposed his potentially far-reaching change last year in an executive order.

It has been blocked by judges across the country and has never been able to actually take effect or directly impact any children born in the U.S.

His lawyers contend they seek to correct a 160-year misunderstanding about the Constitution’s promise that “all persons born” in this country are deemed to be citizens.

Hegseth halts probe into flyby at Kid Rock’s home

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Tuesday directed the Army to cancel an investigation into an Apache helicopter crew involved in a flyby around the Tennessee home of musician Kid Rock, whose video of the incident went viral this week.

“Pilots suspension LIFTED. No punishment. No investigation. Carry on patriots,” Hegseth wrote in a statement on X.

Kid Rock, a prominent supporter and friend of President Donald Trump, posted a pair of videos Saturday in which he was saluting two Apache helicopters hovering near his pool at a mansion he calls the Southern White House.

The incident prompted an Army investigation into why the Apache crew from the 101st Airborne Division headquartered at Fort Campbell, Ky., was flying around the

pop star’s mansion.

Maj. Montrell Russell, an Army spokesman, said Tuesday that the soldiers involved were suspended from flight duty while the Army carried out an investigation into the circumstances of the mission.

The Army confirmed that two Apache helicopters from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade conducted a flight in the Nashville area on Saturday.

Russell said the Army takes “allegations of unauthorized or unsafe flight operations very seriously and is committed to enforcing standards and holding personnel accountable.”

Some media have reported that the Apache helicopters also flew over a “No Kings” protest against Trump in downtown Nashville on Saturday, though some Army officials have characterized their appearance near the rally as coincidental.

Woods failed sobriety test and had pills in his pocket

Los Angeles Times

Tiger Woods failed field sobriety tests after crashing into another vehicle last week, and had bloodshot eyes and two hydrocodone pills in his pants pocket, according to a probable cause arrest affidavit released Tuesday.

Woods, 50, told investigators he did not notice the vehicle in front of him had slowed because he was looking at his cellphone and changing the radio station, the affidavit said. His Land Rover rolled onto its side after hitting a Ford-F150 pickup truck pulling a small trailer.

The prescription opioid pills were found during a search after his arrest on suspicion of driving under the influence,

causing property damage and refusal to submit to a lawful test. Woods told deputies he had taken prescription medications earlier that day.

The accident and arrest occurred Friday afternoon near Woods’ home on Jupiter Island, Fla. Although Woods appeared impaired, he told deputies he had not consumed alcohol, which Martin County Sheriff John M. Budensiek said was confirmed by a breathalyzer test.

Asked if he had any medical conditions, the 82-time PGA Tour winner replied that he has had seven back surgeries and at least 20 leg operations. He was wearing a compression sleeve over his right knee.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman accused of burning ex's clothes

NC RALEIGH — The arrest of a North Carolina woman for allegedly burning her ex-boyfriend's clothes in the yard has apparently touched a nerve on social media.

It happened around 9:30 p.m. Saturday in Halifax, and the ex-boyfriend is the one who called 911, the Halifax County Sheriff's Office reported in a March 29 Facebook post.

"The couple had been in a relationship, but she decided to burn his clothes in a burn pit on the back of the property," the sheriff's office reported.

The 35-year-old woman has been charged with burning personal property, which is a felony, officials said.

However, she appears to be grinning in her mugshot.

A Facebook post announcing the arrest has racked up hundreds of comments and reactions, many from people who said they understood what happened, even without knowing all the facts.

Chocolate recalled for containing Viagra

CA LOS ANGELES — Chocolate products from a Californian company have been recalled after they were found to have been spiked with the potentially dangerous ingredients used in Viagra and Cialis.

The San Francisco Bay Area's Gear Isle recalled the products after they were found to contain undeclared prescription drug ingredients used to treat erectile dysfunction, the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration announced last week.

The products, sold online across the U.S., were found to have sildenafil and tadalafil. The ingredients could cause a "life-threatening" drop in blood pressure when mixed with nitrates found in prescription drugs.

The two recalled products are Gold Lion Aphrodisiac Chocolate Male Enhancement Sachet and illum Sex Chocolate Male Sexual Enhancement Booster.

The FDA initially issued a warning in February advising consumers not to purchase the second item after confirming the product contained tadalafil.

Men who use nitrates to treat cardiac conditions are most at risk when using the products, according to the announcement, which urged customers who purchased the products to stop using them immediately.

State campground for off-roaders opens soon

MN MINNEAPOLIS — The first campground in the state park system catering to the off-road vehicle crowd will open this summer in northern Minnesota.

Years in development, Pyrite Campground opens June 12 in Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, the Department of Natural Resources announced March 26.

While Pyrite will be open to all campers, the campground has 24 electrical sites designed for visitors pulling trailers loaded with all-terrain and related vehicles, said Jim DeVries, a project manager and park assistant manager.

The sites are wider and long-

er than traditional sites.

The campground also will have showers and an ATV wash station to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

New law limits student restraint, isolation

WA SEATTLE — School district employees can't use pepper spray, mace or sedatives to restrain students, under a new law Gov. Bob Ferguson signed last week. They can't restrict students' movements with handcuffs, zip-ties or belts.

They're also barred from pinning down students or putting them up against a wall in a way that restricts their breathing or blood flow.

The law, passed after three previous attempts to get a version through the state Legislature, aims to curb restraint and isolation in schools and other agencies that serve public school students, except in cases where there's imminent likelihood the student or others would be seriously harmed.

Free child care for city workers launches soon

NY NEW YORK — New York City is inviting some municipal workers to apply for free on-site child care for infants and toddlers, Mayor Zohran Mamdani announced Monday.

The 4,000-square-foot facility at the David N. Dinkins Municipal Building in Lower Manhattan is expected to serve 40 children, ages 6 weeks to 3 years old — with extended days and hours through the summer until 6 p.m.

The announcement marks a

first step toward Mamdani's promise to expand free child care to younger children.

While the mayor campaigned on kids as young as 6 weeks, his plans so far have started with 2-year-old children, who are typically less complicated — and costly — to supervise than infants.

The pilot was first set in motion under former Mayor Adams as an option for the children of Department of City-wide Administrative Services employees. Mamdani plans to expand access to all municipal workers in the building and DCAS employees across all work sites, according to a news release.

Lawmakers pass bill to ban 3D-printed guns

CO DENVER — Colorado lawmakers are poised to pass legislation prohibiting people from using 3D printers to make firearms and gun components — but only after stripping out a key provision in the face of a veto threat from Gov. Jared Polis.

As it stands, House Bill 1144 would expand on the state's existing ban on unserialized "ghost guns" by prohibiting anyone from using a 3D printer to manufacture guns or components like large-capacity magazines and rapid-fire trigger activators.

The Democratic measure passed the Senate on a party-line 23-12 vote Monday morning.

The bill now needs a procedural vote in the House before it moves to Polis for signature into law.

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Pistons claim first division title in 18 years

Associated Press

DETROIT — After nearly two decades, and stretches of futility, the Detroit Pistons have won the Central Division again.

The Pistons defeated the Toronto Raptors 127-116 on Tuesday to finish a long climb back up the NBA ladder and clinch their first division title since the 2007-08 season.

“You take pride in understanding how hard it is to do these things in this league,” Pistons coach J.B. Bickerstaff said after the game. “You take pride in the fact that you have a group of young men who have grown and achieved certain milestones.

“It’s a part of the process, and we expect more.”

Two years after going 14-68

and losing a league-record tying 28 straight games, the Pistons are 55-21 with two All-Stars in Cade Cunningham and Jalen Duren. With Cunningham sidelined by a lung injury, Duren had 31 points on 12-for-13 shooting and added nine rebounds against the Raptors.

“He’s a different kind of big that you see in the NBA. You have space-up bigs and post-up bigs, but when you have somebody who can do both, he’s a problem for people,” Bickerstaff said.

Daniss Jenkins, who started the season on a two-way contract, had 21 points and five assists. He’s averaging 18.6 points and 6.9 assists since replacing Cunningham as the starting point guard.

“We knew we were trying to do something special this year,” he said. “It’s great to accomplish something like this, but we have our eyes on the playoffs and doing some damage there. We’ll celebrate this tonight and get back to work tomorrow.”

They’ve helped end one of the worst periods in franchise history.

In 2007-08, the Pistons were still running out most of the same players that had led them to the 2004 championship and a seven-game Finals loss to San Antonio a year later. They went 59-23 under coach Flip Saunders, then knocked out Philadelphia and Orlando on their way to the last of their six straight Eastern Conference Finals appearances.

They would soon go off a cliff.

The following offseason, team president Joe Dumars traded Chauncey Billups to Denver for Allen Iverson and replaced Saunders with Michael Curry.

The Pistons went 39-43 and spent the next 10 seasons cycling through eight coaches and resulting in zero postseason victories.

That was followed by one of the worst five-year stretches in NBA history as the Pistons went 94-290 (.245) and hit rock bottom in 2023-24, when they lost a franchise-record 68 games.

Last season, Cunningham and Duren led the Pistons to a 30-win improvement before the fell in six games to the New York Knicks in the first round of the playoffs.

Banchero, Bane help Magic hold on to top Suns

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Desmond Bane scored 21 points, Jalen Suggs added 20 points, eight rebounds and seven assists and the Orlando Magic held off the Phoenix Suns 115-111 Tuesday night.

Devin Booker’s 34 points for Phoenix included a 3-pointer that brought the Suns to within two points with 3.1 seconds left. But Tristan da Silva’s two free throws clinched Orlando’s second win in nine games.

Suns forward Dillon Brooks, playing for the first time since breaking his hand in a game against Orlando on Feb. 21, had nine points and five rebounds in 22 foul-plagued minutes. Brooks was called for a technical foul just 89 seconds into the game and was one of 10 players to finish the game with four or more personal fouls.

Paolo Banchero had 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the Magic, who survived 25 turnovers after committing 28 in Sunday’s 139-87 loss at Toronto. Wendell Carter Jr. added

15 points and 12 rebounds.

Orlando led 70-56 after a first half that included 26 turnovers, 47 free throws and 41 fouls, including technical fouls on Brooks, Booker, Bane, Banchero and the injured Franz Wagner, who wasn’t in uniform.

Booker’s big third quarter of 14 points, including nine from the free throw line, got the Suns back in it. And, when Royce O’Neal closed the period with his third 3-pointer in two minutes, the game was tied at 94.

A long jumper by Brooks gave the Suns their final lead at 107-105 before Banchero and Bane scored to put Orlando back on top.

Lakers 127, Cavaliers 113: Luka Doncic scored 42 points with 12 assists, Deandre Ayton added 18 points with nine rebounds, and Los Angeles extended their winning streak to four games with a home victory over Cleveland.

Austin Reaves scored 19 points, while LeBron James, Jake LaRavia and Rui Hachimura each had 14 as the Lakers

won shortly after they clinched the Pacific Division title and a top-six spot in the Western Conference playoffs when the Phoenix Suns lost at Orlando earlier Tuesday.

Doncic was 13-for-26 from the floor and had his 16th game of at least 40 points this season after he missed Monday’s victory over the Washington Wizards because of technical foul accumulation.

Jarrett Allen scored 18 points and James Harden added 17 in his first game in his hometown since he was traded by the Los Angeles Clippers on Feb. 4.

Hornets 117, Nets 86: Brandon Miller scored 25 points, Miles Bridges had 19, and visiting Charlotte routed Brooklyn.

Moussa Diabaté finished with 10 points and 12 rebounds while LaMelo Ball had 14 points, nine assists and seven rebounds to help the Hornets (40-36) stop a two-game losing streak.

Charlotte (40-36) is tied with the Miami Heat for ninth in the Eastern Conference, a half-game behind Orlando.

Bucks 123, Mavericks 99:

Ryan Rollins had 24 points, seven rebounds and nine assists, Kyle Kuzma added 20 points, and host Milwaukee beat Dallas to snap a four-game losing streak.

Milwaukee (30-45), which had lost 14 of its last 17 games overall, won its eighth straight meeting with the Mavericks.

Rockets 111, Knicks 94: Kevin Durant had 27 points and host Houston took a huge lead early and rolled over New York.

It’s a third straight win for the Rockets after they’d dropped two in a row. The victory comes after New York got a 108-106 win at home in the first meeting this season in February.

Trail Blazers 114, Clippers 104: Deni Avdija had 28 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, Jrue Holiday hit seven 3s and finished with 30 points, and visiting Portland snapped Los Angeles’ five-game win streak.

The Clippers (39-37) are eighth in the Western Conference, a half-game in front of the ninth-place Blazers (39-38).

D-backs' Fernandez homers twice in debut

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Jose Fernandez hit two home runs, including the go-ahead three-run homer in the eighth inning, in his MLB debut and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Detroit Tigers 7-5 on Tuesday night.

Fernandez finished 3-for-4 with an infield single for the first of his career in the second and a solo home run in the fourth. The Venezuelan became just the seventh player since 1900 to hit two homers in his debut.

"I returned to my days as a kid — just a dream come true," a smiling Fernandez said through an interpreter.

A six-run eighth started with James McCann hitting a double along the third baseline, and Jordan Lawlar singled before Detroit swapped out relief pitcher Drew Anderson for Will Vest (0-1). Vest walked Ketel Marte to load the bases and Corbin Carroll hit a double to the wall in center field, sending two home.

Vest walked the next batter and Marte scored on a groundout before Kenley Jensen replaced Vest with runners at the corners. Fernandez hit a 409-foot shot that capped the scoring.

The Tigers had all of their six hits in a five-run third. Riley Greene hit a two-run double, and Kevin McGonigle, Kerry Carpenter and Jake Rogers each added an RBI.

Athletics 5, Braves 2: Shea Langeliers hit his fourth home run of the season and the visiting Athletics picked up their first win with a victory over Atlanta.

No. 5 starter Aaron Civale (1-0) allowed four hits and a walk and struck out three over five innings in his first start of the season.

Justin Wilson and Andy Ibanez each went 2-for-4 with two RBIs for the A's, who had scored just 11 runs during their four-game losing streak to open

the season. Max Muncy had a double with an exit velocity of 111 mph, plus a walk and he scored twice.

Rangers 8, Orioles 5: Danny Jansen had three hits, including a three-run homer in the seventh inning that lifted visiting Texas over Baltimore.

Jacob deGrom allowed three runs in 4⅓ innings in his first start of the season. The Texas right-hander was scratched Saturday because of neck stiffness. He struck out seven without a walk.

The Orioles had to go to their bullpen even earlier when Zach Eflin left in the fourth because of elbow discomfort.

Phillies 3, Nationals 2: Andrew Painter struck out eight in 5⅓ innings in a fantastic major league debut, and Kyle Schwarber and Adolis Garcia homered to lead host Philadelphia over Washington.

Painter, a 6-foot-7 right-hander, gave up four hits, one run and walked one while throwing 84 pitches.

Jhoan Duran struck out two in a scoreless ninth for his second save. Brandon Marsh made a nice running grab of James Wood's deep drive to left field to end the game with the tying run on second base.

Marlins 9, White Sox 2: Griffin Conine hit a two-run home run in the eighth inning, and host Miami scored four runs in the fourth in a win over Chicago.

The Marlins, who were hitless in the first three innings, got their first hit in the fourth when Xavier Edwards singled off starter Erick Fedde (0-1). Agustín Ramírez doubled, then Liam Hicks sent them both home with a hit deep down the first baseline. Hicks leads MLB with eight RBIs this season.

Center fielder Luisangel Acuña committed two errors moments apart on throws to home. The first came on Owen Caissie's single that drove in Hicks, and then on Heriberto Hernández's

single that sent Caissie home and gave Miami a 4-2 lead.

Pirates 8, Reds 3: Oneil Cruz homered twice and Ryan O'Hearn hit a three-run shot as visiting Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati.

O'Hearn and Bryan Reynolds went back-to-back in the second inning. Cruz finished with three hits and three RBIs. He also scored three times.

Blue Jays 5, Rockies 1: Max Scherzer gave up four hits in six solid innings to win his first start of the season, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. reached base four times and host Toronto beat Colorado.

Scherzer (1-0) allowed one run, walked one and struck out four. The three-time Cy Young Award winner upped his career strikeout total to 3,493.

Cardinals 3, Mets 0: Ramón Urías launched his first home run with St. Louis and Andre Pallante (1-0) combined with four relievers on a three-hitter as the host Cardinals defeated New York.

Iván Herrera had a two-run double in the third inning, and Urías drove Richard Lovelady's second pitch over the left-center wall in the seventh. JJ Wetherholt had two hits and scored a run. The rookie has reached safely in each of his first five major league games.

Brewers 6, Rays 2: Gary Sánchez and Jake Bauers homered, Brice Turang drove in two runs and host Milwaukee rallied to beat Tampa Bay after Shane Bieber held the Brewers hitless for 4⅓ innings in his first appearance since 2023.

McClanahan underwent his second Tommy John surgery in August 2023 and then missed the entire 2025 season due to an inflamed nerve in his left triceps. In his return, McClanahan (0-1) allowed one walk and no hits through the first four innings before Milwaukee and Turang got to him in the fifth.

Angels 2, Cubs 0: José Soriano pitched two-hit ball over six scoreless innings for the second time in two starts, and visiting Los Angeles beat Chicago.

Logan O'Hoppe hit a two-run single with two outs in the sixth against reliever Phil Maton (0-1), and that was all Soriano (2-0) needed on a cold and windy night at Wrigley Field.

Astros 9, Red Sox 2: Hunter Brown (1-0) pitched six one-run innings, Yordan Alvarez homered and drove in two runs, and host Houston routed Boston for its fourth straight win.

Cam Smith also went deep for the Astros, who handed the Red Sox their fourth loss in a row following a victory on opening day.

Yankees 5, Mariners 0: Max Fried permitted only three singles in seven sparkling innings, Giancarlo Stanton drove in two runs and visiting New York beat Seattle.

Stanton became the fourth player in Yankees history with multiple hits in each of the team's first five games of a season, joining Alfonso Soriano (2003), Bill Skowron (1956) and Bob Meusel (1928).

Giants 9, Padres 3: Willy Adams had four hits, including a leadoff homer, and San Francisco ace Logan Webb finished strong in the visiting Giants' victory over San Diego.

Webb (1-1) allowed three hits and walked four before retiring his final 10 batters. He threw 104 pitches in six innings.

Dodgers 4, Guardians 1: A dominant Shohei Ohtani pitched shutout ball for six innings in his first start on the mound this season, and host Los Angeles beat Cleveland in drizzly conditions.

Ohtani (1-0) allowed only a two-out double to Rhys Hoskins in the fourth. The two-way superstar struck out six and walked three on 87 pitches, 54 for strikes, in his first outing in 150 days since starting Game 7 of the World Series.

Bruins rally past Stars in playoff push

Associated Press

BOSTON — Viktor Arvidsson had three goals including two empty-netters, Elias Lindholm scored a tiebreaking, power-play goal 13 seconds into the third period and the Boston Bruins helped their playoff push with a 6-3 win over the Dallas Stars on Tuesday night.

Marat Khusnutdinov and Henri Jokiharju also scored for Boston, which won its fourth straight game and holds the Eastern Conference's top wild-card spot. David Pastrnak collected three assists, and Joonas Korpisalo made 13 saves.

Jamie Benn, Matt Duchene and Wyatt Johnston each had a goal for Dallas, and Jake Oettinger stopped 17 shots. Johnston's was his 41st.

Heading to the playoffs for the fifth straight year after clinching a little over a week ago, the Stars have lost seven of nine as they attempt to get straightened out before pursuing their fourth consecutive trip to the Western Conference final.

At the very end of a power play, Lindholm fired a wrister from the right circle that beat Oettinger inside the far post, making it 3-2.

Jokiharju then scored his first goal as a Bruin, firing a wrister in from the slot at 5:51 to give Boston a two-goal edge.

Arvidsson sealed it with his first empty-netter, sending the Bruins to their 28th home win this season.

Coming off a three-goal, third-period comeback in Columbus on Sunday that capped a solid weekend, Boston jumped ahead when Khusnutdinov scored off a rebound midway into the opening period.

Arvidsson knocked in Pastrnak's pass from the crease, making it 2-0 with 1:09 left in the first, before Benn's score sliced it to 2-1 4:49 into the second.

Duchene stole the puck at the side of the net and shoved it from the edge of the crease, ty-

ing it at 16:53 of the second.

Penguins 5, Red Wings 1: Egor Chinakov had a goal and an assist, Evgeni Malkin added an assist in his return to the lineup and host Pittsburgh raced past sagging Detroit.

A night after blowing out the New York Islanders on the road, the Penguins followed it up with another impressive performance against one of the teams they are trying to fend off for a playoff spot.

Pittsburgh remains in second place in the Metropolitan Division with seven games left in the regular season despite missing veteran forward Bryan Rust, who was a late scratch with a lower-body injury.

The Red Wings, who were in first place in the Atlantic Division at the season's midway point, have dropped four of five and remain on the outside of the chase for one of the two Eastern Conference wild-card spots.

Sabres 4, Islanders 3: Bowen Byram flipped a long shot into an empty net with 1:43 remaining to lead host Buffalo over New York.

The Sabres became the NHL's 11th franchise to reach 2,000 wins — and the first team not added in the league's first expansion in 1967 when the NHL went from six teams to 12. Buffalo joined in the second wave of expansion joining the NHL with Vancouver in 1970.

Jack Quinn and Tage Thompson had a goal and an assist, and Peyton Krebs also scored for the Sabres, who reached 100 points for the 10th time in franchise history and first since finishing with 100 in 2009-10. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen made 25 saves for the Sabres.

Brayden Schenn, Calum Ritchie and Anders Lee scored, and Bo Horvat added three assists for the Islanders. Ilya Sorokin made 29 saves.

Canadiens 4, Lightning 1: Jakub Dobes stopped 36 shots and visiting Montreal won its sixth

straight game, beating Tampa Bay.

Juraj Slavkovsky, Mike Matheson and Cole Caufield each had a goal and an assist. Nick Suzuki added an empty-net goal as the Canadiens moved to within two points of the Lightning for second place in the Atlantic Division.

Jake Guentzel scored for Tampa Bay, which lost in regulation for the first time in nine games. Andrei Vasilevskiy finished with 19 saves.

Rangers 4, Devils 1: Conor Sheary and J.T. Miller scored first-period goals and Igor Shesterkin made 22 saves as host New York defeated New Jersey

Rookie Jaroslav Chmelar and Mika Zibanejad also scored for the Rangers, who won their third straight on home ice in regulation. They only had four wins in 60 minutes in their first 34 home games this season. Adam Fox added two assists.

The game also included a rare goalie fight between Shesterkin and Devils goalie Jacob Markstrom midway through the third period.

Panthers 6, Senators 3: Noah Gregor scored eight seconds into the game to open an early five-goal barrage by host Florida, Matthew Tkachuk had his first four-point game since December 2024 and the Panthers defeated Ottawa.

Gregor's goal was the fastest to open a game in franchise history — two seconds ahead of Johan Garpenlov's goal at the 10-second mark of a game against Colorado in October 1996 — and the fastest to start a game in the NHL this season.

A.J. Greer and Mackie Samoskevich also scored for Florida, while Sam Bennett added two assists and Daniil Tarasov stopped 22 shots for the Panthers.

Capitals 6, Flyers 4: Alex Ovechkin scored twice and hit the 30-goal mark for the 20th time in his NHL career, and host

Washington beat Philadelphia.

Tom Wilson also had two goals, Jakob Chychrun had a goal and two assists, and Ryan Leonard added a goal and an assist. Pierre-Luc Dubois had four assists for the Capitals, who have won three straight as they try to climb back into playoff position.

Travis Sanheim, Carl Grundstrom, Christian Dvorak and Denver Barkey scored and Porter Martone made his NHL debut for the Flyers, whose three-game winning streak came to an end.

Oilers 3, Kraken 0: Connor Ingram celebrated his 29th birthday by making 27 saves for his second shutout of the season, and host Edmonton extended its winning streak to four games by beating Seattle

Max Jones, Kasperii Kapanen and Connor McDavid scored for the Oilers, who have won six of their last eight.

Edmonton moved two points back of Pacific Division-leading Anaheim and three points up on third place Vegas. The Oilers are now 28-5-5 when scoring first this season.

The Kraken have lost six of their last seven and remain two points out of a wild-card playoff position.

Hurricanes 5, Blue Jackets 2: Nikolaj Ehlers scored the go-ahead goal with 7:18 remaining and visiting Carolina reached the 100-point mark for the fifth time in franchise history, defeating reeling Columbus.

Ehlers added two assists as the Hurricanes remained tied with Buffalo for the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

Jets 4, Blackhawks 3 (OT): Kyle Connor scored 33 seconds into overtime to lead visiting Winnipeg over Chicago.

Josh Morrissey, Isak Rosen and Cole Perfetti also scored, and Mark Scheifele added three assists for the Jets, who were coming off a 4-2 win over NHL-leading Colorado.