

## Massive winter storm barrels across US

*Associated Press*

MISSION, Kan. — Tens of millions of Americans endured bone-chilling temperatures, blizzard conditions, power outages and canceled holiday gatherings Friday from a winter storm that forecasters said was nearly unprecedented in its scope, exposing about 60% of the U.S. population to some sort of winter weather advisory or warning.

More than 200 million people were under an advisory or warning on Friday, the National Weather Service said. The weather service's map "depicts one of the greatest extents of winter weather warnings and advisories ever," forecasters said.

Power outages have left more than 1.4 million homes and businesses in the dark, according to the website PowerOutage, which tracks utility reports.

And nearly 3,900 flights within, into or out of the U.S. were canceled Friday, according to the tracking site FlightAware, causing more mayhem as trav-

elers try to make it home for the holidays. Some airports, including Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, closed runways.

Forecasters said a bomb cyclone — when atmospheric pressure drops very quickly in a strong storm — had developed near the Great Lakes, stirring up blizzard conditions, including heavy winds and snow.

Even though fleets of snow plows and salt trucks have been deployed, driving was hazardous and sometimes deadly. Kansas City police spokeswoman Donna Drake says a minivan driver died Thursday after losing control on icy streets and overturning into a creek.

Activists also were rushing to get the homeless out of the cold. In Chicago, Andy Robledo planned to spend the day organizing efforts to check on unhoused people who have received tents, propane heaters and other supplies through his nonprofit, Feeding People Through Plants.

Robledo and volunteers build the tents modeled on ice-fishing

tents, including a plywood sub-floor, and offer them to people living on the streets in Chicago.

"It's not a house, it's not an apartment, it's not a hotel room. But it's a huge step up from what they had before," Robledo said.

Nearly 170 people were keeping warm early Friday at a shelter and a warming center both run in Detroit by Cass Community Social Services. Together, the facilities are designed to hold a total of 100 people.

The plummeting temperatures closed the city's zoo and an art museum. To the north of Detroit, a rescue team used a Hovercraft to reach an injured swan Thursday that became frozen to ice on a lake. And on the other side of Michigan, at least 6 inches of snow fell overnight in the Grand Rapids area, with another 2 to 4 inches possible every 12 hours "probably through Christmas morning," said Jerry Byrne of the Kent County Road Commission.

In Portland, Ore., officials opened four emergency shel-

ters. It was so cold in the city that Taylor Bailey lost all sensation in her hands as she cycled to her job at at iconic bike rental, repair and touring store Cycle Portland in the frigid temperatures.

Bus service was suspended in the Seattle area Friday morning due to an ice storm that made travel treacherous.

The weather service is predicting the coldest Christmas in more than two decades in Philadelphia, where school officials shifted classes online Friday. Some surrounding districts canceled classes altogether.

In South Dakota, Gov. Kristi Noem late Thursday activated the state's National Guard to haul firewood from the Black Hills Forest Service to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe as some members were stranded in their homes with dwindling fuel.

Buffalo, N.Y., Mayor Byron Brown urged people to stay home as meteorologists warned that the city could see 2 to 4 feet of snow through the weekend.

## New law ends COVID-19 vaccine mandate for troops

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — U.S. military forces around the world will no longer be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine, after the mandate was lifted under an \$858 billion defense spending bill passed by Congress and signed into law Friday by President Joe Biden.

### Note to readers

Because of the federal holiday for Christmas, Stripes Lite will not be published Monday.

The Pentagon is now likely to strongly encourage troops to get the shot, but has 30 days to work out the details for rescinding the vaccine mandate.

Biden had opposed the Republican-backed provision, agreeing with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin that lifting the mandate was not in the best interests of the military, according to White House officials. But he ultimately accepted GOP demands in order to win passage of the legislation.

The contentious political is-

sue, which has divided America, forced more than 8,400 troops out of the military for refusing to obey a lawful order when they declined to get the vaccine. Thousands of others have sought religious and medical exemptions.

The new law effectively ends those exemption requests, but questions remain about whether any limited restrictions may continue for troops on specific missions or assigned to areas of the world where vaccination is still required.

Austin, who instituted the mandate last August after the Pfizer vaccine was approved by the Food and Drug Administration and as the coronavirus pandemic raged, was staunch in his desire to maintain it, insisting the vaccine was necessary to protect the health of the force. And he and other defense leaders argued that for decades troops, particularly those deployed overseas, have been required to get as many as 17 different vaccines.

# Russia attacks as Zelenskyy returns to Kyiv

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sounded another defiant note on his return to his nation's capital Friday following his wartime visit to the United States, saying his forces are "working toward victory" even as Russia warned that there would be no end to the war until it achieved its military aims.

Zelenskyy posted on his Telegram account that he's in his Kyiv office following his U.S. trip that secured a new \$1.8 billion military aid package, and pledged that "we'll overcome everything." The Ukrainian president also thanked the Netherlands for pledging up to \$2.65 billion for 2023, to help pay for military equipment and rebuild critical infrastructure.

Zelenskyy's return comes amid relentless Russian artillery, rocket and mortar fire as well as airstrikes on the eastern and southern fronts and elsewhere in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the war would end

at the negotiating table once the "special military operation" achieves "the goals that the Russian Federation has set," adding that "a significant headway has been made on demilitarization of Ukraine."

The Kremlin spokesman said no reported Ukrainian peace plan can succeed without taking into account "the realities of today that can't be ignored" — a reference to Moscow's demand that Ukraine recognize Russia's sovereignty over the Crimean Peninsula, which was annexed in 2014, as well as other territorial gains.

At least six civilians were killed and 18 others were wounded in Russian attacks on eight regions in Ukraine's south and east in the past 24 hours, according to Ukrainian officials.

In a regular Telegram update, the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office Kyrylo Tymoshenko said Russian missiles destroyed a boarding school in the the eastern city of Kramatorsk, home of the Ukrainian army's local headquarters.

The Ukrainian military said Russian forces fired multiple rocket launchers "more than 70 times" across Ukrainian territory overnight, while fierce battles raged around the city of Bakhmut in the eastern Donetsk region.

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said Bakhmut and Lyman in the neighboring Luhansk region as well as the front line between the Luhansk and Kharkiv regions bore the brunt of the Russian strikes, but didn't specify to what degree.

As many as 61 Russian rocket, artillery and mortar fire attacks were launched in the Kherson region over the past 24 hours. Kherson regional Gov. Yaroslav Yanushevych posted on Telegram that Russian forces attacked from dug-in positions on the right bank of the Dnieper river, hitting educational institutions, apartment blocks and private homes. Tymoshenko said renewed Russian shelling on Kherson city Friday killed another person.

In the eastern Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions, Ukraine's military said Russia launched six missile strikes and as many air attacks on civilian targets, while Ukrainian forces repelled Russian ground attacks on or near 19 settlements in the north and east.

Russian shelling overnight also struck a district hospital in the northeastern city of Volchansk, Kharkiv region, wounding five people, according to local Gov. Oleh Syniehubov.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian military said several blasts tore through factory buildings housing Russian troops in the occupied city of Tokmak in the southern Zaporizhzhia region late on Thursday, sparking a fire. The Center for Strategic Communications of the Armed Forces of Ukraine didn't immediately report on casualties or who was behind the blasts.

Earlier Friday, the Ukrainian mayor of the southern city of Melitopol said that a car used by Russian occupation forces exploded.

## US: Russia's Wagner Group getting arms from N. Korea

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House said Thursday that the Wagner Group, a private Russian military company, has taken delivery of an arms shipment from North Korea to help bolster its forces as it fights side by side with Russian troops in Ukraine.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said U.S. intelligence officials determined that North Korea completed an initial arms shipment that

included rockets and missiles last month.

"We assess that the amount of material delivered to Wagner will not change battlefield dynamics in Ukraine," Kirby said. "But we're certainly concerned that North Korea is planning to deliver more military equipment."

On Friday, North Korea again flatly denied it has shipped munitions to Russia, calling the U.S. accusation of arms transfers to Russia "the groundless theory" cooked up by "some dishonest forces."

## N. Korea launches missiles after US, S. Korean drills

DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — North Korea fired a pair of short-range ballistic missiles Friday afternoon into the East Sea, or Sea of Japan, according to a message from South Korea's military to news reporters.

The two missiles were launched at 4:32 p.m. from the Sunan area of Pyongyang, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

South Korea "maintains a full readiness posture" and is close-

ly working with its counterparts in the United States, the Joint Chiefs said.

Friday's launch comes three days after a joint airpower drill between U.S. and South Korean military aircraft.

On Tuesday, Air Force F-22 Raptors and B-52 Stratofortress bombers flew with South Korean F-35 Lightning IIs and F-15K Slam Eagles in and around the Korean Peninsula.

The aircraft were scheduled to fly again on Thursday; however, cold weather conditions in the region cut the drill short.

# Report: Trump 'lit that fire' of insurrection

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House Jan. 6 committee's final report asserts that Donald Trump criminally engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 presidential election and failed to act to stop his supporters from attacking the Capitol, concluding an 18-month investigation into the former president and the violent insurrection two years ago.

Trump "lit that fire," the committee's chairman, Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, writes.

The 814-page report released late Thursday comes after the panel interviewed more than 1,000 witnesses, held 10 hearings and obtained more than a million pages of documents. The witnesses — ranging from many of Trump's closest aides to law enforcement to some of the rioters themselves — detailed Trump's "premeditated" actions in the weeks ahead of the attack and how his wide-ranging efforts to overturn his defeat directly influenced those who brutally pushed past the police and smashed through the windows and doors of the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

The central cause was "one man," the report says: Trump.

The riot gravely threatened democracy and "put the lives of American lawmakers at risk," the bipartisan nine-member panel concluded, offering so far

the most definitive account of a dark chapter in modern American history. It functions not only as a compendium of the most dramatic moments of testimony from the hearings, but also as a document meant to be preserved for future generations.

In a foreword to the report, outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says the findings should be a "clarion call to all Americans: to vigilantly guard our Democracy and to give our vote only to those dutiful in their defense of our Constitution."

The report's eight chapters tell the story largely as the panel's hearings did this summer — describing the many facets of the remarkable plan that Trump and his advisers devised to try and void President Joe Biden's victory. The lawmakers describe the former president's pressure on states, federal officials, lawmakers and Vice President Mike Pence to game the system or break the law.

In the two months between the election and the riot, the report says, "President Trump or his inner circle engaged in at least 200 apparent acts of public or private outreach, pressure, or condemnation, targeting either State legislators or State or local election administrators, to overturn State election results."

Trump's repeated, false claims of widespread voter fraud resonated with his supporters, the committee said, and

were amplified on social media, building on the distrust of government he had fostered for his four years in office. And he did little to stop them when they resorted to violence and stormed the Capitol, interrupting the certification of Biden's victory.

The massive, damning report comes as Trump is running again for the presidency and also facing multiple federal investigations, including probes of his role in the riot and the presence of classified documents at his Florida estate. This week is particularly fraught for him, as a House committee said it will release his tax returns after he has fought for years to keep them private. And Trump has been blamed by Republicans for a worse-than-expected showing in the midterm elections, leaving him in his most politically vulnerable state since he was elected in 2016.

In a series of policy recommendations, the seven Democrats and two Republicans on the committee suggest that Trump should be barred from future office, noting that the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution holds that anyone who has taken an oath to uphold the Constitution can be prevented from holding office for engaging in insurrection or rebellion.

"He is unfit for any office," writes the committee's vice chairwoman, Republican Rep.

Liz Cheney of Wyoming.

Posting on his social media site, Trump called the report "highly partisan" and falsely claimed it didn't include his statement on Jan. 6 that his supporters should protest "peacefully and patriotically." The committee did include that statement, though, and noted that he followed that comment with election falsehoods and charged language exhorting the crowd to "fight like hell."

The report details a multitude of failings by law enforcement and intelligence agencies, noting that many of the rioters came with weapons and had openly planned for violence online. "The failure to sufficiently share and act upon that intelligence jeopardized the lives of the police officers defending the Capitol and everyone in it," the report says.

At the same time, the committee makes an emphatic point that security failures are not the primary cause for the riot.

"The President of the United States inciting a mob to march on the Capitol and impede the work of Congress is not a scenario our intelligence and law enforcement communities envisioned for this country," Thompson wrote.

"Donald Trump lit that fire," Thompson writes. "But in the weeks beforehand, the kindling he ultimately ignited was amassed in plain sight."

## Lawyers: Kari Lake election-loss lawsuit lacks merit

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Republican Kari Lake didn't offer evidence to back her claims of widespread, intentional misconduct on Election Day at her two-day trial challenging her loss to Democrat Katie Hobbs in Arizona governor's race, lawyers for the state said Thursday.

Lake also never established her claim that printer problems

at Maricopa County polling places were intentional acts that would have changed the race's outcome had they not occurred, said Abha Khanna, a lawyer representing Hobbs, who ultimately won the race by just over 17,000 votes. At the trial's closing arguments Thursday, Khanna said Lake's claims were based on hearsay, speculation and theatrics.

"What we got instead was just loose threads and gaping plot holes. We know now that her story was a work of fiction," Khanna said.

Kurt Olsen, one of Lake's attorneys, said officials tried to downplay the effects of the printer problems in Maricopa County. "This is about trust, your honor," Olsen said. "It's about restoring people's trust.

There is not a person that's watching this thing that isn't shaking their head now."

Superior Court Judge Peter Thompson didn't say when he would issue a ruling.

Lake faces extremely long odds in her challenge, needing to prove not only that misconduct occurred, but also that it was intended to deny her victory.



# Migrants face cold wait for asylum ruling

Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — Hairdresser Grisel Garcés survived a harrowing, four-month journey from her native Venezuela through tropical jungles, migrant detention centers in southern Mexico and then jolting rail-car rides north toward the U.S. border.

Now on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande across from El Paso, Texas, she's anxiously awaiting a pending U.S. Supreme Court decision on asylum restrictions expected to affect her and thousands of other migrants at crossings along some 1,900 miles of border from Texas to California. And she's doing so while living outside as winter temperatures plunge over much of the U.S. and across the border.

She told of fleeing economic hardship only to find more hardship, such as having to shiver through temperatures colder than any she has ever experienced.

"Riding the train was bad. Here the situation is even

worse. You just turn yourself over to God's mercy," Garcés said.

Their savings exhausted, some days they don't eat. And on Thursday, Garcés waited and watched as hundreds of migrants formed a line to gradually pass through a gate in the border fence for processing by U.S. immigration officials. She fears deportation under current asylum restrictions and doesn't dare cross the shallow waters of the Rio Grande within view.

Dozens of migrants have been spending nights on the river's concrete banks, awaiting word of possible changes to the asylum restrictions put in place in March 2020. In El Paso, sidewalks are serving as living quarters outside a bus station and a church for some migrants who can't find space immediately at an expanding network of shelters underwritten by the city and religious groups.

In Ciudad Juárez, a group of Venezuelan migrants sought refuge from the cold under blankets beside a bonfire in a

dirt alleyway beside a crumbling cinderblock wall.

Nearby, migrants from Venezuela and Central America sought refuge from the cold in a three-room shelter without beds, lying shoulder-to-shoulder among blankets on a concrete floor.

The shelter has been forged gradually with repairs to an abandoned building in recent weeks. The project is the work of pastor Elias Rodriguez of the Casa Nueva Voz ministry, who grew concerned about the emergence of a small "tent city" along the Rio Grande without even a water faucet.

"Outside there are people making fires, people waiting by the door because we only have 135 spaces," Rodriguez said.

That Trump administration-era ban on asylum — Title 42 — was granted a brief extension by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts this week.

It's not clear when the Supreme Court's definitive decision will come. The Biden administration asked the court to

lift the restrictions, but not before Christmas.

Under Title 42, authorities have expelled asylum-seekers inside the United States 2.5 million times, and turned away most people who requested asylum at the border, on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Title 42 applies to all nationalities but has most affected people from countries such as Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and, more recently, Venezuela.

Immigration advocates have sued to end the use of Title 42. They say the policy goes against American and international obligations to people fleeing persecution and is outdated now that coronavirus treatments have improved.

Conservative-leaning states appealed to the Supreme Court, warning an increase in migration would take a toll on public services and cause an "unprecedented calamity" with which they fear the federal government has no plan to deal.

## Inflation measure watched by the Fed eases to 5.5%

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A measure of inflation closely watched by the Federal Reserve slowed last month, another sign that a long surge in consumer prices seems to be easing.

Friday's report from the Commerce Department showed that prices rose 5.5% in November from those of a year earlier, down from a revised 6.1% increase in October and the smallest gain since October 2021. Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core inflation was up 4.7% over the previous year. That was also the smallest increase since October 2021.

On a month-to-month basis, prices rose 0.1% from October to

November after rising 0.4% the previous month. Core prices rose 0.2%.

Inflation, which began surging a year and a half ago as the economy bounced back from 2020's coronavirus recession, still remains well above the 2% year-over-year growth the Fed wants to see.

The central bank has raised its benchmark interest rate seven times since March in an attempt to bring consumer prices under control.

Higher prices and borrowing costs may be taking a toll. Consumer spending rose just 0.1% from October to November and didn't rise at all after adjusting for higher prices.

## Microsoft will fight US over bid for Activision Blizzard

Associated Press

Microsoft is headed for a battle with the Federal Trade Commission over whether the U.S. will block the tech giant's planned takeover of video game company Activision Blizzard.

Microsoft on Thursday filed a formal response to the FTC's claims that the \$68.7 billion deal is an illegal acquisition that should be stopped.

The FTC claims the merger could violate antitrust laws by suppressing competitors to Microsoft's Xbox game console and its growing Xbox Game Pass subscription business.

At the center of the dispute is Microsoft's rivalry with PlayStation-maker Sony to secure

popular Activision Blizzard franchises like the military shooter game Call of Duty.

Microsoft's response to the FTC tries to downplay Xbox's role in the industry, describing itself as the "third-place manufacturer of gaming consoles" behind Sony and Nintendo, and one of just many publishers of popular video games with "next to no presence in mobile gaming," where it is trying to make gains.

Activision Blizzard filed its own rebuttal to the FTC complaint on Thursday citing the FTC's "unfounded assumption" that Microsoft would want to withhold Call of Duty from platforms that compete with Xbox.

# China virus death definition differs

Associated Press

ZHUOZHOU, China — China only counts deaths from pneumonia or respiratory failure in its official COVID-19 death toll, a Chinese health official said, a narrow definition that limits the number of deaths being reported as the virus surges following the easing of pandemic-related restrictions.

Deaths that occur in patients with pre-existing illnesses are not counted as COVID-19 deaths, said Wang Guiqiang, the head of infectious disease at Peking University's No. 1 Hospital.

Experts have forecast between a million and 2 million deaths next year.

China has always been conservative in how it counts illnesses, whether the flu or COVID-19. In most countries, including the United States, guidelines

stipulate that any death in which COVID-19 is a factor or contributor is counted as a COVID-19-related death.

In effect, Wang's comments on Tuesday clarified publicly what the country has been doing throughout the pandemic.

On Wednesday, China reported no new COVID-19 deaths and subtracted one death from its overall toll, lowering it to 5,241.

The clarification of how China officially records COVID-19 deaths comes as cases have soared across the country amid the loosening of restrictions. Yet the overall count remains blurry, as China has stopped requiring daily PCR tests and many people are testing at home.

Anecdotally, many people have fallen ill in cities such as Beijing and Shanghai.

World Health Organization

emergencies chief Dr. Michael Ryan suggested China's definition of COVID-19 deaths was too narrow.

"People who die of COVID die from many different (organ) systems' failures, given the severity of infection," Ryan said at a media briefing Wednesday. "So limiting a diagnosis of death from COVID to someone with a COVID positive test and respiratory failure will very much underestimate the true death toll associated with COVID."

Earlier this year, Shanghai was hit by an omicron-driven outbreak. Multiple people told the AP then that their elderly family members who tested positive for COVID-19 and died were not counted in the city's official death toll.

When patients had underlying diseases, the deaths were attributed to those.

## Taliban official defends ban on college studies by women

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The minister of higher education in the Taliban government on Thursday defended his decision to ban women from universities — a decree that had triggered a global backlash.

Discussing the matter for the first time in public, Nida Mohammad Nadim said the ban issued earlier this week was necessary to prevent the mixing of genders in universities and because he believes some subjects being taught violated the principles of Islam. He said the ban was in place until further notice.

In an interview with Afghan television, Nadim pushed back against the condemnation, including from Muslim-majority countries such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar. Nadim said that foreigners should stop interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Earlier on Thursday, the foreign ministers of the G-7 group of leading industrial nations urged the Taliban to rescind the ban, warning that "gender persecution may amount to a crime against humanity."

Other reasons he gave for the university ban were women's failure to observe a dress code and the study of certain subjects and courses.

"We told girls to have proper hijab but they didn't and they wore dresses like they are going to a wedding ceremony," he said. "Girls were studying agriculture and engineering, but this didn't match Afghan culture."

## 3 dead, 3 wounded in Paris shooting

Associated Press

PARIS — A shooting targeting a Kurdish cultural center in a bustling Paris neighborhood Friday left three people dead and three others wounded, authorities said. A 69-year-old suspect was wounded and arrested.

The Paris prosecutor's office opened an investigation for murder and attempted murder. The Paris prosecutor said the suspect had a prior police record, including an arrest for attacking migrants living in tents, and that investigators are considering a possible racist motive for the shooting.

The shooting occurred at

midday at a Kurdish cultural center and a restaurant and hairdresser nearby, according to the mayor for the 10th arrondissement, Alexandra Cordebar.

Speaking to reporters at the scene, she said the "real motivation" for the shooting remains unclear.

As she spoke, a crowd nearby chanted, "Erdogan, terrorist" — referring to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan — and "Turkish state, assassin."

Police cordoned off the area in the 10th arrondissement of the French capital, on a busy street with shops and restaurants near the Gare de l'Est

train station. The shooting came at a time when Paris is buzzing with activity before the Christmas weekend.

The Paris police department warned people to stay away from the area.

Paris Prosecutor Laure Becquau said three people hit in the shooting have died, one is in critical condition and two others are hospitalized with less serious injuries.

The attacker was also wounded in the face, she said.

She said anti-terrorism prosecutors are in contact with investigators, but haven't indicated any sign of a terrorist motive.

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# Lawrence, Jaguars outclass Jets 19-3

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Trevor Lawrence was in a celebratory mood, decked out in an ugly Christmas sweater while acknowledging it wasn't exactly the prettiest performance he and his Jacksonville Jaguars have had during their playoff surge.

It was plenty good enough, though. The Jags' 19-3 victory over an embarrassed Zach Wilson and the slumping New York Jets on a rainy, windy Thursday night has them in control of their postseason destiny.

"It's just a big win," Lawrence said. "It shows this team is growing. We don't have to have 40 points to win. We don't have to have all these yards. Whatever it takes to win, we're able to do. To be able to adjust was really good for us."

Lawrence finished 20 of 31 for 229 yards and ran for 51 yards, including a leaping touchdown, on seven carries for the Jaguars (7-8), who moved within one-half game of skidding Tennessee in the AFC South. Jacksonville would win the division title with victories in its final two games — including the season finale against the Titans.

"We understand the task in front of us," Lawrence said. "Every game is a must win for us. That's how we're treating it."

We understand it and we love it."

The second matchup between last year's first two draft picks — Lawrence at No. 1 and Wilson No. 2 — wasn't even close.

While Lawrence sliced through the Jets' normally strong defense, Wilson couldn't get anything going and was booed frequently — all the way to the bench. Chris Streveler, elevated from the practice squad before the game, replaced Wilson late in the third quarter.

Wilson went 9 of 18 for 92 yards with an interception and a dismal 41.9 rating for the Jets (7-8), whose playoff hopes took a devastating hit with their fourth straight loss. That's the worst skid under second-year coach Robert Saleh.

And it came in their regular-season home finale — in front of a national audience on Amazon Prime Video.

"It's not about playoffs right now," Saleh said. "It's about about getting off this mat and trying to freakin' find a way to put together a football game."

Wilson, who returned from a three-game benching last Sunday in place of an injured Mike White, couldn't make any plays and his offensive line gave him little protection.

"I just felt like I didn't have

any rhythm out there," Wilson said.

Things actually got off to a promising start for the Jets when Quinnen Williams strip-sacked Lawrence on the Jaguars' third play from scrimmage. Carl Lawson recovered to put New York at Jacksonville's 16. It was Williams' career-high 12th sack and Lawrence's eighth lost fumble, tops in the NFL.

But the Jets couldn't get into the end zone and settled for a 37-yard field goal from Greg Zuerlein after Andre Cisco sacked Wilson on a safety blitz on third down.

Riley Patterson kicked a 32-yarder to tie it on Jacksonville's second possession.

Lawrence jumped over a pile for a 1-yard go-ahead touchdown early in the second quarter to cap a 16-play, 96-yard drive. The Jaguars faced just one third down on the drive — on Lawrence's score.

The Jets had just 66 yards of offense in the first half and three first downs. While boos rained down throughout the first half, the poncho-clad crowd really let New York — and Wilson — have it when he was intercepted by Devin Lloyd on a Hail Mary just before halftime.

After Patterson added a 41-

yarder midway through the third quarter to make it 16-3, Wilson was booed again when he jogged onto the field with the offense. But then, the Jets put Streveler in at quarterback on their next possession — and the fans went wild. And New York's offense finally found a short-lived spark.

There were cheers after his 30-yard duck of a throw that C.J. Uzomah caught for a first down. The crowd loved Streveler's consecutive runs of 14, 10 and 8 yards before he was stopped for a 2-yard loss. On fourth-and-4, Streveler completed a 4-yard pass to Garrett Wilson and he led the Jets to the Jaguars 13.

But the drive stalled when his throw to Wilson sailed wide of the receiver, turning the ball over on downs.

Streveler, who went 10 of 15 for 90 yards, became a fan favorite during the summer when he led the Jets to three fourth-quarter comeback victories in the preseason. He also helped lead the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to a Grey Cup victory during the 2019 season, but couldn't deliver a victory for the Jets in this one.

Instead, Lawrence — who lost 26-21 to Wilson and the Jets last season — and the Jaguars maintained control.

## YouTube to pay \$14 billion for NFL's Sunday Ticket

The Washington Post

Alphabet Inc. won the right to broadcast the National Football League's Sunday Ticket games starting with the 2023 season, becoming the latest tech company to snag a piece of America's most-watched sport.

The deal is valued at over \$2 billion per year over seven years, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

NFL Sunday Ticket gives viewers access to games not

otherwise airing in their local TV markets. The service will be offered as both an add-on and as a standalone a la carte package, the league said Thursday.

It will be available on both YouTube TV — an online, cable-TV alternative service — and YouTube Primetime Channels, a way to subscribe directly to pay-TV channels like Showtime and Starz. The deal will likely provide YouTube TV, which costs \$65 a month, with a signifi-

cant subscriber boost, analysts say.

NFL Sunday Ticket is available through the end of this season from satellite-TV provider DirecTV, which charges about \$300 for the package. YouTube's pricing plans weren't disclosed.

The NFL retained the commercial rights to show Sunday Ticket games to bars and restaurants and could sell that to another company, the person

added.

YouTube TV, which has more than 100 channels, is the largest online pay-TV service, with about 5 million subscribers, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

It will face a steep challenge in making Sunday Ticket profitable. DirecTV, which has about 2 million Sunday Ticket subscribers, has been losing money on the package for years due to its \$1.5 billion annual-rights fee.



# Trevor Bauer reinstated by MLB arbitrator

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Trevor Bauer was reinstated Thursday by Major League Baseball's independent arbitrator, allowing the pitcher to resume his career at the start of the 2023 season.

The 31-year-old Los Angeles Dodgers star was given an unprecedented two-season suspension without pay by baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred on April 29 for violating the league's domestic violence and sexual assault policy after a San Diego woman said Bauer beat and sexually abused her last year, an accusation the pitcher denied.

The players' association filed a grievance on behalf of the former Cy Young Award winner,

and a three-person panel headed by independent arbitrator Martin Scheinman started hearing the case on May 23.

Scheinman upheld a 194-game suspension rather than Manfred's intended 324-game penalty but reinstated Bauer immediately, assigning 50 games to cover part of the lengthy time Bauer was put on administrative leave while MLB investigated during the 2021 season and early this year.

"Can't wait to see y'all out at a stadium soon!" Bauer wrote on Twitter.

Bauer will lose more than \$37 million in salary for the final 144 games of last season and for the first 50 games of next season, through May 23. The lost salary

next year is effectively a clawback from part of his administrative leave, when he continued to receive pay.

MLB said Scheinman affirmed that Bauer violated the domestic violence policy.

"While we believe a longer suspension was warranted, MLB will abide by the neutral arbitrator's decision, which upholds baseball's longest-ever active player suspension for sexual assault or domestic violence," MLB said in a statement.

While Scheinman issued his award to the parties, a full written decision is not expected until later. The panel included MLB Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem and union assistant

general counsel Bob Lenaghan.

"While we are pleased that Mr. Bauer has been reinstated immediately, we disagree that any discipline should have been imposed," Bauer's representatives, Jon Fetterolf, Shawn Holley and Rachel Luba, said in a statement. "That said, Mr. Bauer looks forward to his return to the field, where his goal remains to help his team win a World Series."

Bauer was never charged with a crime. His accuser sought but was denied a restraining order against him, and Los Angeles prosecutors said in February there was insufficient evidence to prove the woman's accusations beyond a reasonable doubt.

## Boras: Giants wouldn't seal Correa deal, so he called Mets

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Carlos Correa was in the St. Regis San Francisco with his parents, brother and in-laws, ready to head to Oracle Park for his introductory news conference. That's when agent Scott Boras asked the prized player to meet him in room 1212.

Farhan Zaidi, the Giants' president of baseball operations, had called Boras at 8 a.m. Tuesday, three hours before the scheduled announcement.

"He reported to me that they needed more time, more evaluation," Boras said Thursday. "They had not made any decisions, but they weren't prepared to go ahead with a news conference because they didn't feel they would be able to collect the information within that short period of time."

Boras conveyed the development to Correa.

"He was obviously surprised, as we all were," Boras said.

Instead of finalizing a \$350 million, 13-year agreement with the Giants, Boras struck a \$315

million, 12-year deal with the free-spending Mets, and Correa headed to New York for a physical Thursday. Boras said results usually come back within 24-48 hours and timing of an announcement was up to the team. A news conference likely won't be scheduled until next month, after the holiday break.

Correa had taken his physical with the Giants on Monday and the club asked for more time to evaluate it. The time frame for San Francisco's medical process never reached 48 hours.

"We've had three teams offer this player contracts in excess of 10 years," Boras said. "Obviously, every one of them had their medicals. There is no current issue with Carlos' health whatsoever. There's been a lot of discussion about backs and ankles. There's nothing about him that is currently any form of medical issue. All the conjecture and evaluation of him has been about physicians using their crystal ball for years to come."

Boras spoke after pitcher

Carlos Rodón's introductory news conference with the New York Yankees. The agent said all teams had been provided results of Correa's end-of-season physical conducted by Dr. Christopher Camp, the Twins' medical director and director of high performance and an orthopedist at the Mayo Clinic.

"They have a full account of the player prior to doing anything that has to do with offers," Boras said. "Got a long letter passing him, and with that came a recommendation for over a 10-year contract. So that was the known of the Minnesota team physician who was with him all year long."

Boras maintained Correa's 2014 surgery to repair a broken right tibia should not have been an issue. Dr. Kevin Varner, chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at Houston Methodist Hospital, operated on Correa.

"He talked and was available to talk about the stability and functionality of what he felt," Boras said. "The player has nev-

er, ever had any form of treatment, anything to do with anything about that since that occurred when he was 19 years old."

San Francisco told Boras on Tuesday it still wanted to sign Correa, a discussion Boras said included chairman Greg Johnson, Zaidi and team counsel.

"I said, 'How much time do you need?' They set the time, they told me that they needed — 1 o'clock they would let us know," Boras said. "Then we received notice from them that they wanted to continue to talk and that they needed more time. But at that point in time, I told them I had to have a decision whether they were going to honor their letter of agreement that we had reached. And they said at that point in time they needed more information, they needed more discussion. They wanted to continue to talk but at this time they couldn't go forward. And then I advised them that I had to pursue alternative measures on behalf of Carlos with other teams."

# Pettersson has 5-point night for Canucks

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Elias Pettersson scored his second goal of the game to tie it with 1:20 left in regulation and added the shoot-out winner in the Vancouver Canucks' 6-5 victory over the Seattle Kraken on Thursday night.

Pettersson, who also had three assists, drilled a hard shot from above the faceoff circle to tie it with goalie Spencer Martin off for an extra attacker.

Pettersson returned to the lineup after missing two games because of a non-COVID-19 illness.

"I was running on no energy, just wanting the puck to go in,"

Pettersson said.

Canucks coach Bruce Boudreau heaped praise on Pettersson.

"That's six days off the ice and then he came in and did what he did tonight," Boudreau said. "Pretty amazing. I don't think you guys realize how much of an anomaly that is, being off six days and then playing that great. It defies logic."

The Canucks had a power play with a minute left in the 3-on-3 overtime after Seattle's Jordan Eberle was called for holding, but couldn't score.

Andrei Kuzmenko had a goal and two assists for Vancouver, Lane Pederson scored his first goal in his third NHL game and added an assist, and Brock

Boeser also connected. The Canucks have beaten the Kraken all six times they've met.

Martin stopped 31 shots for Vancouver.

Daniel Sprong scored twice for Seattle, and Jared McCann, Oliver Bjorkstrand and Alex Wennberg also had goals. Bjorkstrand and Sprong struck 10 seconds apart in the second to give Seattle a 3-1 lead.

"The result is disappointing," Wennberg said. "We just worked really hard. 'I feel like we emptied the tank today and unfortunately it didn't work out.'"

The Canucks erased three, two-goal deficits.

"We don't do anything the easy way," Boudreau said.

"Give the team credit for not quitting. That's a testament to the boys in the room."

Kuzmenko cut it to 4-3 at 5:13, scoring off the rebound of Pederson's shot.

Sprong scored his second of the night just over a minute later, tipping in a pass from Brandon Tanev. Boeser got Vancouver back within one, redirecting Pettersson's shot past goalie Martin Jones on a power play at 8:52.

Jones made 32 saves.

"We're here to win a hockey game and we didn't do that," Seattle coach Dave Hakstol said. "We have to do better when we've got a two-goal lead. That's a game we feel like we should be able to close out."

## Capitals beat Senators in OT, Ovechkin stuck at 800

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Alex Ovechkin went without a goal for the fourth straight game, while Marcus Johansson scored 2:04 into overtime to give the Washington Capitals a 3-2 victory over the Ottawa Senators on Thursday night.

Ovechkin is stuck at 800 goals, one short of tying Gordie Howe for second place in NHL history behind Wayne Gretzky. The Russian star had two assists.

Evgeny Kuznetsov and Sonny Milano also scored for the Capitals. Darcy Kuemper made 23 saves in his first start since sustaining an upper-body injury Dec. 3.

Alex DeBrincat and Drake Batherson scored for Ottawa and Cam Talbot stopped 37 shots. Batherson tied it at 2 with a power-play goal 3:04 into the third period to extend his points streak to 10 games.

**Hurricanes 4, Penguins 3 (OT):** Jacob Slavin scored 23 seconds into overtime to lift streaking Carolina past Pittsburgh.

In overtime, Brent Burns started a pretty passing sequence with his 800th NHL point and Slavin ended the play when he beat goalie Tristan Jarry at the top of the crease.

Martin Necas, Jordan Staal and Jalen Chatfield — with his first NHL goal — also scored and Antti Raanta stopped 24 shots.

Sidney Crosby scored his 19th goal for Pittsburgh. Bryan Rust and Brock McGinn also scored.

**Bruins 3, Jets 2:** Nick Foligno broke a tie midway through the third period, Jeremy Swayman stopped 25 shots and NHL-lead-ing Boston rallied to beat Winnipeg.

The Bruins improved to 26-4-2.

Foligno scored from the left circle off a feed from Charlie Coyle. David Pastrnak and Jake DeBrusk also scored for the Bruins. Mark Scheifele and Jansen Harkins scored for Winnipeg and Connor Hellebuyck made 37 saves.

**Maple Leafs 4, Flyers 3:** William Nylander scored his 20th goal and had two assists to help Toronto beat Philadelphia.

The Maple Leafs (21-7-6) have won six straight at home.

Mitch Marner added a goal and an assist, Michael Bunting and Calle Jarnkrok also scored and Ilya Samsonov made 16 saves.

Morgan Frost and Joel Farabee scored 1:23 apart for Philadelphia in the third to make it a one-goal game. Tony DeAngelo also scored for the Flyers.

**Rangers 5, Islanders 3:** Kaapo Kakko scored the tiebreaking goal with 2:47 remaining and the Rangers beat the Islanders for their eighth win in nine games.

Barclay Goodrow had a goal and two assists, Julien Gauthier had a goal and an assist, and Artemi Panarin and Vincent Trocheck also scored for the Rangers. Igor Shesterkin stopped 15 shots.

Mathew Barzal and Alexander Romanov

each had a goal and an assist, and Anders Lee also scored for the Islanders.

**Sharks 5, Wild 2:** Erik Karlsson had a goal and three assists and San Jose beat Minnesota to snap the Wild's six-game winning streak.

Karlsson scored on a one-timer 44 seconds into the game to extend his points streak to nine games. Noah Gregor, Timo Meier, Kevin Labanc and Oscar Lindblom also scored for San Jose, and James Reimer made 24 saves.

Joel Eriksson Ek and Mats Zuccarello scored for Minnesota, and Filip Gustavsson made 20 saves. Wild forward Mason Shaw was assessed a major penalty and ejected for kneeing Sharks forward Evgeny Svechnikov in the second period.

**Kings 4, Flames 3 (OT):** Adrian Kempe scored in overtime, Pheonix Copley made 27 saves and Los Angeles beat Calgary.

The Kings had to fight back after squandering a two-goal lead in the third period, but Kempe scored his 13th goal on the rush from Viktor Arvidsson.

Gabe Vilardi had a goal and an assist, and Phillip Danault and Blake Lizotte scored 10 seconds apart early in the third period for Los Angeles.

Tyler Toffoli had a power-play goal, and Dillon Dube and Jonathan Huberdeau also scored, but the Flames couldn't get their third straight road victory.