

Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday ended constitutional protections for abortion that had stood in America for nearly a half-century. The decision by the court's conservative majority overturned the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling and is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states.

The ruling, unthinkable just a few years ago, was the culmination of decades of efforts by abortion opponents, made possible by an emboldened right side of the court that has been fortified by three appointees of former President Donald Trump.

Both sides predicted the fight over abortion would continue, in state capitals and in Washington, and Justice Clarence Thomas, part of Friday's majority, called on the court to overturn other high court rulings protecting same-sex marriage, gay sex and the use of contraceptives.

Clinics in at least two states, Wisconsin and West Virginia, stopped performing abortions after Friday's decision.

Abortion foes cheered the ruling, but abortion-rights supporters, including President Joe Biden, expressed dismay and pledged to fight to restore the rights.

"It's a sad day for the court and for the country," Biden said at the White House. He urged voters to make it a defining issue

in the November elections, declaring, "This decision must not be the final word."

The ruling came more than a month after the stunning leak of a draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito indicating the court was prepared to take this momentous step.

It puts the court at odds with a majority of Americans who favored preserving Roe, according to opinion polls.

Alito, in the final opinion issued Friday, wrote that Roe and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the 1992 decision that reaffirmed the right to abortion, were wrong the days they were decided and must be overturned.

"We therefore hold that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. Roe and Casey must be overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their elected representatives," Alito wrote, in an opinion that was very similar to the leaked draft.

Authority to regulate abortion rests with the political branches, not the courts, Alito wrote.

Joining Alito were Thomas and Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett. The latter three justices are Trump appointees. Thomas first voted to overrule Roe 30 years ago.

Four justices would have left Roe and Casey in place.

The vote was 6-3 to uphold the Mississippi law, but Chief Justice John Roberts didn't join his conservative colleagues in overturning Roe. He wrote that there was no need to overturn the broad precedents to rule in Mississippi's favor.

Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — the diminished liberal wing of the court — were in dissent.

"With sorrow—for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection—we dissent," they wrote, warning that abortion opponents now could pursue a nationwide ban "from the moment of conception and without exceptions for rape or incest."

The ruling is expected to disproportionately affect minority women who already face limited access to health care, according to statistics analyzed by The Associated Press.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said the Justice Department "will work tirelessly to protect and advance reproductive freedom." He said in a statement that in addition to protecting providers and those seeking abortions in states where it is legal "we stand ready to work with other arms of the federal government that seek to use their lawful authorities to protect and preserve access to reproductive care."

Ukrainian army retreating from battered city in east

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — After weeks of ferocious fighting, Ukrainian forces have begun retreating from a besieged city in the country's east to move to stronger positions, a regional governor said Friday, the four-month mark in Russia's invasion.

The planned withdrawal from Sievierodonetsk, the administrative center of the Luhansk region, comes after relentless Russian bombardment that has reduced most of the industrial city to rubble and cut its population from 100,000 to 10,000. Ukrainian troops fought the Russians in house-to-house battles before retreating to the huge Azot chemical factory on the city's edge, where they remain holed up in its sprawling underground struc-

tures in which about 500 civilians also found refuge.

In recent days, Russian forces have made gains around Sievierodonetsk and the neighboring city of Lysychansk, on a steep bank across a river, in a bid to encircle Ukrainian forces.

Sieverodonetsk and Lysychansk have been the focal point of the Russian offensive aimed at capturing all of the Donbas and destroying the Ukrainian military defending it — the most capable and battle-hardened segment of the country's armed forces. The two cities and surrounding areas are the last major pockets of Ukrainian resistance in the Luhansk region — 95% of which is under the control of Russian and local separatist forces. The

Russians and separatists also control about half of the Donetsk region, the second province in the Donbas.

Russia used its numerical advantages in troops and weapons to pummel Sievierodonetsk in what has become a war of attrition, while Ukraine clamored for better and more weapons from its Western allies. Bridges to the city were destroyed, slowing the Ukrainian military's ability to resupply, reinforce and evacuate the wounded and others. Much of the electricity, water and communications infrastructure has been destroyed.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said Ukrainian troops have been ordered to leave Sievierodonetsk to prevent greater losses and move to better fortified positions.

Congress sends gun violence bill to Biden

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House sent President Joe Biden the most wide-ranging gun violence bill Congress has passed in decades on Friday, a measured compromise that at once illustrates progress on the long-intractable issue and the deep-seated partisan divide that persists.

The Democratic-led chamber approved the election-year legislation on a mostly party-line 234-193 vote, capping a spurt of action prompted by voters' revulsion over last month's mass shootings in New York and Texas. The night before, the Senate approved it by a bipartisan 65-33 margin, with 15 Republicans joining all Democrats in supporting a package that senators from both parties had crafted.

The bill would incrementally toughen requirements for young people to buy guns, deny firearms from more domestic abusers and help local authorities temporarily take

weapons from people judged to be dangerous. Most of its \$13 billion cost would go to bolster mental health programs and for schools, which have been targeted in Newtown, Conn., Parkland, Fla., and many other infamous massacres.

And while it omits the far tougher restrictions Democrats have long championed, it stands as the most impactful gun violence measure that Congress has approved since it enacted a now-expired assault weapons ban nearly 30 years ago.

The legislation was a direct result of the slaying of 19 children and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, exactly one month ago, and the killing of 10 Black shoppers days earlier in Buffalo, N.Y. Lawmakers returned from their districts after those shootings saying constituents were demanding congressional action, a vehemence many felt could not be ignored.

"No legislation can make their families or

communities whole," House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said of those victims. "But we can act to keep others from facing the same trauma."

For the conservatives who dominate Republicans in the House, it all came down to the Constitution's Second Amendment right for people to have firearms, a protection that is key for many voters who own guns.

"Today they're coming after our Second Amendment liberties, and who knows what it will be tomorrow," said Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the Judiciary panel's top Republican.

Fifteen Senate Republicans backed the compromise, but that still meant that fewer than one-third of GOP senators supported the measure. And with Republicans in the House solidly against it, the fate of future congressional action on guns seems dubious.

Army relaxes its policy on hand, neck tattoos

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Soldiers can now sport ink on their hands, behind their ears and on the back of their necks, according to an updated Army tattoo policy published Thursday aimed largely at helping recruiters avoid the lengthy waiver process to bring recruits with body art into the service.

Army officials said the new policy would better align the service with social norms on tattoos and make the enlistment process simpler for recruits with tattoos in some areas of their bodies that were previously banned. The updated policy was issued this week by Army Secretary Christine Wormuth and went into immediate effect for soldiers and incoming recruits.

"We always review policy to keep the Army as an open op-

tion to as many people as possible who want to serve," said Maj. Gen. Doug Stitt, the Army's director of military personnel management. "This directive makes sense for currently serving soldiers and allows a greater number of talented individuals the opportunity to serve now."

Then new policy allows soldiers to have one tattoo on each hand up to one inch in length in every direction. Soldiers can now sport tattoos up to two-inches long on the back of their necks, and they can wear ink up to one-inch long behind each ear. The new policy allows soldiers to have an unlimited number of tattoos between their fingers "as long as they are not visible when the fingers are closed."

The policy still bans tattoos from soldiers' faces and the front of their necks.

Study: COVID vaccines saved 19.8M in 1st year

Associated Press

Nearly 20 million lives were saved by COVID-19 vaccines during their first year, but even more deaths could have been prevented if international targets for the shots had been reached, researchers reported Thursday.

On Dec. 8, 2020, a retired shop clerk in England received the first shot in what would become a global vaccination campaign. Over the next 12 months, more than 4.3 billion people around the world lined up for the vaccines.

The effort, though marred by persisting inequities, prevented deaths on an unimaginable scale, said Oliver Watson of Imperial College London, who led the new modeling study.

"Catastrophic would be the

first word that comes to mind," Watson said of the outcome if vaccines hadn't been available to fight the coronavirus. The findings "quantify just how much worse the pandemic could have been if we did not have these vaccines."

The researchers used data from 185 countries to estimate that vaccines prevented 4.2 million COVID-19 deaths in India, 1.9 million in the United States, 1 million in Brazil, 631,000 in France and 507,000 in the United Kingdom.

The main finding — 19.8 million COVID-19 deaths were prevented — is based on estimates of how many more deaths than usual occurred during the time period. Using only reported COVID-19 deaths, the same model yielded 14.4 million deaths averted by vaccines.

1/6 panel: Trump told DOJ to intervene

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump hounded the Justice Department to pursue his false election fraud claims, striving in vain to enlist top law enforcement officials in his desperate bid to stay in power and relenting only when warned in the Oval Office of mass resignations, according to testimony Thursday to the House panel investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot.

Three Trump-era Justice Department officials recounted persistent badgering from the president, including day after day of directives to chase baseless allegations that the election won by Democrat Joe Biden had been stolen. They said they swept aside each demand from Trump because there was no evidence of widespread fraud, then banded together when the president weighed whether to replace the department's top lawyer with a lower-level official eager to

help undo the results.

All the while, Republican loyalists in Congress trumpeted the president's claims — and several later sought pardons from the White House after the effort failed and the Capitol was breached in a day of violence, the committee revealed Thursday.

The hearing, the fifth by the panel probing the assault on the Capitol, made clear that Trump's sweeping pressure campaign targeted not only statewide election officials but also his own executive branch agencies. The witnesses solemnly described the constant contact from the president as an extraordinary breach of protocol, especially since the Justice Department has long cherished its independence from the White House and looked to steer clear of partisan considerations in investigative decisions.

"When you damage our fundamental institutions, it's not easy to repair them," said

Jeffrey Rosen, the acting attorney general in the final days of the Trump administration. "So I thought this was a really important issue, to try to make sure that the Justice Department was able to stay on the right course."

The hearing focused on a memorably tumultuous time at the department after the December 2020 departure of Attorney General William Barr, who drew Trump's ire with his public proclamation that there was no evidence of fraud that could have changed the election results.

He was replaced by his top deputy, Rosen, who said that for a roughly two-week period after taking the job, he either met with or was called by Trump virtually every day. The common theme, he said, was "dissatisfaction that the Justice Department, in his view, had not done enough to investigate election fraud."

Naval reservist says he stormed Capitol

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Naval reservist who was assigned to an agency that operates spy satellites told an undercover FBI agent that he stormed the U.S. Capitol with members of the far-right Proud Boys extremist group and has espoused anti-government and antisemitic ideologies, federal authorities said in court records unsealed on Thursday.

Hatchet Speed was arrested on Wednesday in McLean, Va., on misdemeanor charges stemming from the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, including disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, court records show.

The FBI says Speed, whose birth name

was Daniel Abraham Speed, is a petty officer first class in the U.S. Naval Reserves and was assigned to the Naval Warfare Space Field Activity at the National Reconnaissance Office. Authorities believe Speed is currently unemployed, a prosecutor said in a court filing.

The agency said Thursday that Speed's assignment at the NRO began three months ago and that he was not part of the reserve unit at the time of the riot.

Speed recently worked in Vienna, Va., as a software developer for Novetta Solutions LLC, a defense contractor that conducts advanced analytics for the Defense Department and other federal agencies, the FBI

said.

In March, Speed met with with an FBI undercover employee, who "presented to Speed as a like-minded individual," an FBI agent said in a court filing.

Speed told the undercover agent that going to the Capitol on Jan. 6 "was always the plan" and said he went there with friends who were Proud Boys members, the filing says.

"We would listen to Donald Trump then all of us would go to the Capitol. Now the reason we were going to the Capitol was to protest what was going on in the Capitol ... what they were doing was counting the ballots," Speed said, according to the FBI.

FDA bans Juuls tied to surge in teen vaping

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. health regulators on Thursday ordered Juul to pull its electronic cigarettes from the market, the latest blow to the embattled company widely blamed for sparking a national surge in teen vaping.

The action is part of a sweeping effort by the Food and Drug Administration to bring scientific scrutiny to the multibillion-dollar vaping industry after years of regulatory delays.

The FDA said Juul must stop selling

its vaping device and its tobacco and menthol-flavored cartridges. Those already on the market must be removed. Consumers aren't restricted from having or using Juul's products, the agency said.

To stay on the market, companies must show that their e-cigarettes benefit public health. In practice, that means proving that adult smokers who use them are likely to quit or reduce their smoking, while teens are unlikely to get hooked on them.

The FDA noted that some of the biggest sellers like Juul may have played a "disproportionate" role in the rise in teen vaping. The agency said Thursday that Juul's application didn't have enough evidence to show that marketing its products "would be appropriate for the protection of the public health."

Juul said it disagrees with the FDA's findings and will seek to put the ban on hold while the company considers its options, including a possible appeal and talking with regulators.

N. Korea approves new front-line army duties

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un doubled down on his nuclear arms buildup to overwhelm “hostile forces” at a key meeting where military leaders approved unspecified new operational duties for front-line army units.

Members of the ruling Workers’ Party’s Central Military Commission decided to supplement an “important military action plan” on the duties of front-line troops and further strengthen the country’s nuclear war deterrent, state media said Friday.

North Korea hasn’t specified the new operational duties for front-line army units, but analysts say the country could be planning to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons targeting rival South Korea along their tense border.

While North Korea’s pursuit of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles that could reach the U.S. mainland gets much of the international attention, it is also developing a variety of nuclear-capable, short-range missiles that can target South Korea. Experts say its rhetoric around those missiles communicates a threat to proactively use them in warfare to blunt the stronger conventional forces of South Korea and the United States. About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in the

South to deter aggression from the North.

Kim during the military commission’s three-day meeting that ended Thursday called for his entire army to “go all out” in carrying out the plans to bolster the nation’s military muscle and consolidate “powerful self-defense capabilities for overwhelming any hostile forces and thus reliably protect the dignity of the great country.”

The commission’s members discussed ways to strengthen the party’s leadership over the entire armed forces and ratified plans for unspecified changes in “military organizational formations,” North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency said.

Some analysts say North Korea’s possible plans to deploy tactical nuclear weapons to front-line artillery units may require command-and-control changes as the country’s nuclear-capable weapons have so far been handled by the army’s strategic force.

State media reports of the meeting did not include any direct criticism toward Washington or Seoul.

The meeting came amid signs that North Korea is preparing to conduct its first nuclear test explosion since September 2017, when it claimed to have detonated a thermonuclear weapon that could be tipped on its intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Quake disaster drives US vets to provide relief

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

American veterans are once again rallying to send aid to beleaguered Afghans after an earthquake Wednesday in a remote area of the country killed hundreds of people and destroyed thousands of homes.

A group of military veterans and family members in the U.S. is coordinating with Afghan medical workers rushing to bring relief to victims, Safi Rauf, a U.S. Navy corpsman, told Stars and Stripes.

“Everyone is springing to action and doing everything we can,” Rauf, an Afghan American veteran, said Thursday. “I woke up (Wednesday) morning to this tragedy, and then I haven’t slept since.”

Rauf is one of two veterans leading an assistance effort, Matt Zeller, an adviser to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said in an email Thursday. The other is Alex Plitsas, a veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and a nonresident fellow at the Atlantic Council.

Both are part of the Human First Coalition, a humanitarian organization based in Alexandria, Va. It has raised about \$800,000 since the earthquake and will need up to \$5 million to pay doctors and buy medical supplies, Rauf said.

Some 50 people, including doctors, nurses and support staff, will be going to the affected area in teams, he said.

The U.S. and other countries have been hesitant to engage with the ruling Taliban after the Islamic militant group toppled the American-backed government last year.

Private groups such as the one helmed by Rauf are sending aid in an ad hoc fashion, similar to the impromptu efforts last year by veterans to evacuate people who were in danger after the collapse of the former government amid the U.S. withdrawal.

While he does not know anyone injured in the earthquake, Rauf said Khost province means a lot to him because he spent summers there during his childhood. He traveled the countryside with his father, a veterinarian, he said.

“It was my happy place,” Rauf said. “When I see the suffering there, it’s very personal to me.”

Donations to the group can be made at <https://www.humanfirstcoalition.org/urgent-earthquake-relief-in-khost>.

State Department to compensate the victims of Havana Syndrome

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department is preparing to compensate victims of mysterious brain injuries colloquially known as “Havana Syndrome” with six-figure payments, according to officials and a congressional aide.

Current and former State Department staff and their families who suffered from “qualifying injuries” since cases were first reported among U.S. embassy personnel in Cuba in 2016 will receive payments of between roughly \$100,000 and \$200,000 each, the officials and aide said.

Specific amounts will be determined to by the extent and severity of the victims’ injuries, which have included brain damage not limited to vertigo, cognitive damage,

eyesight and hearing problems, according to the officials and aides.

The payments will apply only to victims employed by the State Department and their dependents. Other victims will have any compensation handled by the federal agency that employed them. About 20% of the total number of victims are or were employed by the State Department. Almost all the others were employed by the CIA or the Department of Defense, which have their own medical policies.

The officials and aide spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the expected publication next week of the State Department’s plan to compensate victims under the terms of the HAVANA Act, which President Joe Biden signed into law last year.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Team hauls in 18-foot, 215-pound python

FL NAPLES — A team of biologists recently hauled in the heaviest Burmese python ever captured in Florida, officials said.

The female python weighed in at 215 pounds, was nearly 18 feet long and had 122 developing eggs, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida said in a news release.

The team used radio transmitters transplanted in male “scout” snakes to study python movements, breeding behaviors and habitat use, said Ian Bartoszek, wildlife biologist and environmental science project manager for the conservancy’s program.

Jail guard fatally shot by man being booked

AR PERRYVILLE — A man being booked into jail on drug charges pulled out a gun and fatally shot a guard before someone disarmed him, authorities said.

Jeremiah Story, a 21-year-old detention officer at the Perry County jail in Perryville, about 35 miles northwest of Little Rock, died at a hospital, the State Police said in a news release.

Roderick Lewis, 37, shot Story in a bathroom while Lewis was changing out of civilian clothes and into jail issued attire, said the State Police.

A State Police spokesman said Lewis used a gun he had with him when he entered the jail.

Lewis was charged with capital murder. **Fungus kills browntail moth caterpillars**

ME AUGUSTA — A fungus found to kill browntail moth caterpillars has made an appearance in Maine, potentially easing tension for Mainers dealing with the itchy rash, respiratory issues and other problems caused by the caterpillars, researchers said.

“We’re really pretty cautiously optimistic that there’s going to be some relief in parts of the outbreak area,” Allison Kanoti, the director of forest health and monitoring at the Maine Forest Service said.

Officials predicted this year that warm weather would lead to an increase of the caterpillars, which are detrimental to trees and people in the area. But the moths are dying off in the mid-coast and parts of the capital because of rainfall in the last two weeks, The Bangor Daily News reported.

Swimmer seriously injured by shark attack

CA PACIFIC GROVE — A swimmer was seriously injured in a shark attack on the central California coast, police said.

The attack occurred at Lovers Point Beach in Pacific Grove, about 85 miles south of San Francisco, the Pacific Grove Police Department said.

The man suffered “significant injuries from the shark bite,” and was taken to a hospital, police said. The victim’s identity was not released.

Firefighters deployed a drone to search for the shark, but there were no immediate sightings.

Police said the beach at Lovers Point, on the south end of Monterey Bay, would remain closed until Saturday.

Alligator shot dead in gated community

SC HILTON HEAD — The manager of a gated community on the South Carolina coast says a dead alligator found on the property had been shot.

The alligator carcass was collected from private property on Hilton Head Plantation, general manager Peter Kristian told The Island Packet.

Kristian said he suspects the gator was shot elsewhere and dumped in his gated community of 4,250 homes, because no residents reported hearing gunfire.

“Gunshots are something my residents let me know about night or day,” Kristian said.

Killing an alligator can be punishable as a misdemeanor under South Carolina law unless someone has a permit to hunt them during the designated hunting season in September and October.

An 8-foot alligator was captured at Hilton Head Plantation and euthanized in September after it attacked a woman walking her dog. The woman was treated at a hospital for leg injuries after neighbors freed her by whacking the alligator’s snout with a shovel.

Plan sought for homeless shelter pods

VT BURLINGTON — A city board has signed off on the development of a shelter pod community for the homeless population in Vermont’s largest city.

Members of the Burlington Development Review Board said they want to see a management plan in order for a permit

to be issued for the 30 pods, WCAX-TV reported. The board said the plan should include an agreement that an organization will oversee and manage the site off Elmwood Avenue.

Earlier this year, the City Council authorized the spending of nearly \$1.5 million for the construction and operation of the pods. The shelter modules would be between 60 and 120 square feet, provide heat and electricity, but no plumbing.

1 dead after gun sales probe leads to pursuit

CA FONTANA — One man died of a gunshot wound and another was under arrest after an investigation into the sale of illegal assault weapons in Southern California led to a police shooting and lengthy pursuit, authorities said.

The incident began about 50 miles east of Los Angeles in Fontana and ended on Interstate 10 in Redlands.

Officers attempted to make contact with two men who were in a vehicle in a parking lot, the Fontana Police Department said. The driver rammed the unmarked police car, and an officer fired a weapon.

The suspect then drove away and police pursued. The chase went through several cities and ended on Interstate 10 in Redlands.

The driver was identified as Adolfo Quintana, 27, of Fontana. Police said Quintana was held for investigation of several felonies.

— From Associated Press

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Magic take Banchemo first in NBA Draft

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The question for weeks leading into the NBA Draft was whether the first pick would be Paolo Banchemo, Chet Holmgren or Jabari Smith Jr.

The answer finally came Thursday night — and even Banchemo didn't know it until moments before the announcement of the Orlando Magic's selection.

"I had a feeling from the information I was being told is that it was just kind of up in the air," Banchemo said. "Orlando wasn't really sure yet, and just to be ready for whatever."

"I didn't find out, though, that I was actually getting picked until about 20 seconds before the commissioner got on the stage. I didn't even have time to really think about it or anything. It just kind of happened. I can't believe it, but I'm ready. I'm ready."

After leading the Blue Devils to the Final Four in coach Mike Krzyzewski's final season, the 6-foot-10 forward was called first by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver to begin the draft, beating out fellow first-year forwards Smith and Holmgren.

The order had been debated throughout the process, with Smith often considered the player who would go No. 1.

Instead, he wasn't even second, falling behind Holmgren to Houston at No. 3.

"Definitely added a chip, but God makes no mistakes, so I'm happy to be here," Smith said. "I'm happy to be where I'm wanted. I'm happy to get to Houston and just show them, give them what they picked. Just happy to be here."

All the players picked looked thrilled,

with Banchemo among those who were crying or coming close as they hugged friends and family.

Wearing a purple suit full of bling, he received a loud ovation inside Barclays Center, where Duke lost in the ACC Tournament final. He became the fourth Duke player taken No. 1 since 1966, when the NBA did away with territorial draft rights, and was followed by Blue Devils teammates Mark Williams (No. 15, Charlotte), A.J. Griffin (No. 16, Atlanta) and Wendell Moore Jr. (No. 26, Dallas).

The Magic were picking first for the fourth time, and they've done well with their previous choices. They took Shaquille O'Neal in 1992, traded the rights to Chris Webber for Penny Hardaway the next year, and went with Dwight Howard in 2004.

Holmgren went second to the Oklahoma City Thunder after the 7-footer led the West Coast Conference in blocked shots, rebounding and shooting percentage at Gonzaga. He looked sharp in his black suit but may need it to eventually be a bigger size for success in the NBA, as he's listed at just 195 pounds.

He's not worried about that talk.

"I wake up every day with a plan on how to make myself a better person, better basketball player," Holmgren said. "I put so much effort into executing that, that it doesn't really leave room to put effort into things that, one, I can't control, and two, don't help make me better."

The Rockets were happy to end up with Smith, who has the skills to go higher. The 6-10 forward from Auburn is a natural fit in

the current NBA game, able to defend all three frontcourt positions and with a shooting stroke that allowed him to hit 42% behind the arc.

Forward Keegan Murray, after a huge leap in his second season in Iowa, jumped all the way to the No. 4 pick by the Sacramento Kings. The Detroit Pistons, a year after taking Cade Cunningham with the No. 1 pick, took athletic Purdue guard Jaden Ivey fifth.

Benedict Mathurin, a Canadian who played at Arizona, went to Indiana with the No. 6 pick. The Portland Trail Blazers followed with Kentucky's Shaedon Sharpe, Dyson Daniels of the G League Ignite was taken eighth by New Orleans, Baylor's Jeremy Sochan stayed in Texas with San Antonio at No. 9 and Washington rounded out the top 10 with Wisconsin's Johnny Davis.

Then the trades began, with the New York Knicks moving picks to amass more of them. They dealt the rights to No. 11 pick Ousmane Dieng to Oklahoma City for four first-round selections, then used one of them to acquire the rights to No. 13 pick Jalen Duren from Charlotte and deal him along with Kemba Walker to Detroit for another pick, a person with knowledge of the details told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because that trade would not become official Thursday.

The Warriors made Patrick Baldwin Jr. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee their pick at No. 28, and the first round ended with Oklahoma City taking UCLA's Peyton Watson and agreeing to trade his rights to Denver.

DeLucia shuts out Arkansas; Rebels make CWS finals

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Dylan DeLucia was really good in Mississippi's first College World Series game.

He was also great Wednesday in the biggest game, so far, in the program's 129-year history.

DeLucia scattered four hits in his first shutout for Ole Miss, Kevin Graham's run-scoring double in the fourth held up and the Rebels advanced to the CWS finals for the first time with a 2-0 victory over Arkansas on Thursday.

The Rebels (40-23), the last team picked for an at-large bid in the NCAA Tournament, bounced back from a 3-2 loss to the Razorbacks on Wednesday night. They'll face Oklahoma in a best-of-three series that starts Saturday.

DeLucia (8-2) outdueled Connor Noland in a matchup of aces and turned in his second straight dominant CWS start.

"Just a legendary performance," Ole Miss coach Mike Bianco said.

DeLucia was even better

than he was against Auburn in the Rebels' Omaha opener last Saturday, showing greater command of his fastball as the game went on and effectively working his slider to both sides of the plate throughout.

"I don't know if I've seen a better pitching performance in a clutch game," team captain Tim Elko said.

DeLucia struck out Chris Lanzilli to end the 2-hour, 6-minute game. The junior righthander pumped his fist, flung his glove and embraced catcher Hayden Dunhurst after rec-

ording the first individual shutout since Oregon State's Kevin Abel blanked Arkansas 5-0 in the 2018 national title-clinching game.

"It's been interesting, a fun ride," DeLucia said. "Coach Bianco says enjoy the ride. That's what I've been doing, taking every chance I get. This team has played so well the last couple weeks and we've turned it on so far."

The loss ended the Razorbacks' seventh CWS appearance since 2004 under Dave Van Horn.

NHL officiating back under microscope

Associated Press

Jon Cooper backtracked and shifted a possible missed call to the rearview mirror with the expertise of a coach who has been here before. Counterpart Jared Bednar, on the verge of his first NHL championship, sought to settle the issue once and for all and move on.

Still, the Stanley Cup Final is roaring toward a conclusion full of uncertainty about the officiating, which is in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons after Nazem Kadri's overtime goal put the Colorado Avalanche up 3-1 in the best-of-seven series.

The goal came with what Cooper and his Tampa Bay Lightning thought was too many men on the ice. No penalty was called, and now the Avalanche are one victory away from knocking off the back-to-back defending champions.

"Will one call make the difference in the series? No," Hall of Fame goaltender Grant Fuhr said in a phone interview. "Colorado was the better team in overtime, there's no question. Do you hope it doesn't end on a play like that? Yeah. You hope that it's something nice and clean and simple because in-

stead of talking about what a good hockey game it was, everybody's talking about the play."

The play in question involved Kadri — playing his first game of the Final after injuring his right thumb — jumping on the ice for a line change early, with teammate Nathan MacKinnon still roughly 40 feet from the bench. When Kadri scored, MacKinnon still had a skate on the ice, and the joining player isn't supposed to even touch the puck in that situation.

"Players, we're looking for every inch to get an advantage and try and jump in the play when you know your change is coming," Lightning defenseman Ryan McDonagh said Thursday. "It's impossible to say what's the right decision there. It's so fast, and it probably happens a million more times a game more than we think."

There's some leeway for officials to judge too many men on the ice, and Tampa Bay technically had seven, though the players changing for each other were much closer to the home bench.

"You're changing on the fly, everything happens," Bednar

said. "I count 7-6 at one point, so that is what it is. That's the way the game is played. I don't see it as a break or a non-break. I actually see it as nothing."

In a statement sent to The Associated Press after Colorado's 3-2 victory, the league's Department of Hockey Operations deemed it a judgment call.

"In discussing the winning goal, each of the four officials advised that they did not see too many men on the ice situation on the play," the statement read. "This call is not subject to video review either by Hockey Ops or the on-ice officials."

Should it be?

The NHL expanded video review in 2015 to coach's challenges for offside and goaltender interference. Incidents in the 2019 playoffs led to more situations that coaches and officials can take an extra look at in the name of getting it right, though it's limited to potential stoppages like a hand pass or the puck hitting the protective netting above the glass.

But at a time when video reviews put a drag on games in all sports and leagues are working to trim those extra minutes of precious time, there's hardly an

appetite for the NHL to make everything subject to replay.

General managers will undoubtedly discuss this at the draft in Montreal next month, and perhaps the long-debated, so-called "eye in the sky" third referee concept will pick up steam. That could address at least the most obvious missed calls that might be seen and caught better from atop an arena than in the middle of all the action on the ice.

"They've got the hardest job in the sport," Fuhr said of NHL officials. "The game's gotten bigger, faster and they have to keep up and there's going to be missed calls along the way. That's just hockey."

Before flying to Denver for Game 5 on Friday with his team down 3-1, Cooper tried to move on. A little more than 12 hours since he was nearly speechless, he called hockey "an inexact science" and sought to distance himself — sort of — from how Game 4 ended.

"What's great about today is that it's not yesterday," Cooper said. "Nothing we can do to turn back. They missed it. It's unfortunate, but it's water under the bridge now. Let's go get ready."

Title IX report shows stark gap in funding for women

Associated Press

The number of women competing at the highest level of college athletics continues to rise along with an increasing funding gap between men's and women's sports programs, according to an NCAA report examining the 50th anniversary of Title IX.

The report, released Thursday morning and entitled "The State of Women in College Sports," found 47.1% of participation opportunities were for women across Division I in 2020 compared to 26.4% in 1982.

Yet amid that growth, men's programs received more than double that of women's programs in allocated resources in 2020 — and that gap was even more pronounced when looking at the home of the most profitable revenue-generating sports: the Football Bowl Subdivision, the top tier within

Division I that features the Alabamas, Ohio States and Southern Californias of the sports world.

"It tells you schools are investing a huge amount of money in the moneymakers," NCAA managing director for the office of inclusion and lead report author Amy Wilson told The Associated Press, referring to football as the primary revenue-generating sport along with men's basketball.

"It speaks to the business side of what college sports has become."

The gender gap in funding approached nearly 3-to-1 ratios when examining expenditures for recruiting as well as compensation for head coaches and assistant coaches. And that gap isn't new, even with increased expenditures for women across all three divisions.

The difference between median total expenses for men's and women's programs at FBS schools, in particular, has grown from \$12.7 million in 2009 to \$25.6 million in 2019.

Wilson said those discrepancies don't automatically amount to a violation of Title IX, which ensures equity between men and women in education and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity receiving federal funds. But they raise concerns when evaluating whether schools are providing equitable opportunities for, and treatment of, male and female athletes, and how they're spending to achieve those goals.

"Yes, the numbers are stark. It's not a little difference, it's a big difference," she said.

Judge wins it for Yankees in ninth inning

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge and the New York Yankees have a hearing Friday to determine the three-time All-Star's salary for the 2022 season.

Whatever gets decided, the verdict has already come down in the Bronx:

Judge is going to be worth every penny.

The steady, 6-foot-7 slugger lined a game-winning single on the eve of his arbitration showdown, capping a four-run ninth inning that included Aaron Hicks' tying three-run homer off closer Ryan Pressly in the Yankees' 7-6 victory

over the Houston Astros on Thursday night.

Batting with two on against Ryne Stanek, Judge smoked a 3-0 splitter into the left-field corner to score Jose Trevino from second base. It was the Yankees' ninth walk-off win in 70 games this season — their most since 1943 — and one that seemed mighty unlikely when they entered the last inning with only two hits.

"There's a sign on the way out to the dugout that says, 'Do Your Job,'" Judge said. "That's what I tried to do in that situation."

A job with an unknown salary, for now. The 30-year-old

will have an unusual in-season arbitration hearing Friday — rulings are usually made in the offseason but were pushed past opening day this year due to the sport's labor lockout.

Judge is asking for \$21 million. New York has offered \$17 million. The three-person panel will be charged with picking one salary or the other — nothing in between.

The hearing comes after the sides failed to reach agreement on a long-term contract prior to Judge's opening-day deadline this spring, meaning No. 99 could leave the Yankees to chase a free-agent deal elsewhere after the season.

Asked about Friday's meeting, Judge smiled and said only "we'll talk after."

"We always hope the best for our guys in arbitration and stuff like that," Hicks said. "We want him here as a Yankee."

New York took the opener of a highly anticipated four-game series between the American League's top two teams, winning for the 19th time in 22 games to improve to 52-18 — the third-best 70-game start in the majors since 1930.

New York also extended its home winning streak to 15 games, the team's longest since 1961.

Swanson homers twice, Braves hold on to beat Giants

Associated Press

ATLANTA — After a slow start to the season, Braves shortstop Dansby Swanson has turned it around and is sizzling at the plate.

His team is following suit.

Swanson hit two home runs and the Atlanta Braves built a big lead early before holding off the San Francisco Giants 7-6 Thursday for their 18th win in 21 games this month.

"It's definitely been a good one," said Swanson, who's hitting .385 over his last 30 games to boost his average to .302. "I've been working to keep things simple. Most people have gotten to know me pretty good around here, and everything I do is with the mindset to win games. I'm just going to continue with that and put us in a position to be successful."

Swanson, who homered to begin a three-run rally in the ninth inning for a 4-3 win over the Giants a night earlier, had three hits and drove in three runs.

He hit a leadoff home run in the first and connected again in the fourth, his 12th, for a 7-1 lead. It was his seventh career multihomer game, the last com-

ing Aug. 14, 2021, at Washington.

Mariners 2, Athletics 1: Frankie Montas took a no-hit bid into the eighth inning, but reliever A.J. Puk threw a pair of run-scoring wild pitches with two outs in the ninth that gave visiting Seattle a win over Oakland.

Montas didn't allow a hit until Adam Frazier lined a clean single to left field with two outs in the eighth. Montas gave up another hit and was pulled after the inning.

Dodgers 10, Reds 5: Freddie Freeman homered and drove in three runs, leading Clayton Kershaw and visiting Los Angeles past Cincinnati.

Kershaw (5-1) allowed one run and seven hits in six innings. He struck out seven, leaving after 80 pitches and lowering his ERA to 2.00.

Twins 1, Guardians 0: Nick Gordon hit a third-inning home run that stood up for starter Devin Smeltzer, and host Minnesota cooled off Cleveland to dodge a sweep.

Gordon drove a 1-2 curveball from Zach Plesac (3-4) into the grass berm beyond the wall in

center.

Smeltzer (4-1) cruised through six innings, allowing only two singles and one double while striking out three.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 4: Tyrone Taylor hit a three-run homer, Willy Adames added a solo shot and host Milwaukee beat St. Louis to split a four-game series.

The Brewers, who have won five of seven, moved back into a first-place tie with the Cardinals atop the NL Central.

Phillies 6, Padres 2: Kyle Schwarber hit a two-run homer, J.T. Realmuto added a three-run shot and visiting Philadelphia handed San Diego starter Joe Musgrove his first loss of the season to snap a three-game losing streak.

Musgrove (8-1) saw his ERA rise from 1.59, which had been second-lowest in the majors, to 2.12. The right-hander was activated from the COVID-19 injured list earlier in the day.

Ranger Suárez (6-4) pitched into the eighth for the first time this season. He allowed two runs and seven hits in 7⅓ innings.

Pirates 8, Cubs 7 (10): Mi-

chael Chavis hit a tying home run in the eighth before pulling off a defensive gem and delivering a game-ending single in the 10th, sending host Pittsburgh over Chicago.

Chavis' solo homer made it 7-all after the Cubs scored five times in the top of the eighth, upsetting Chicago's comeback attempt.

Marlins 3, Rockies 2: Avisail García drove in the go-ahead run on a fielder's-choice grounder in the eighth inning, and host Miami completed a three-game sweep of Colorado.

Four relievers combined to throw 4⅓ scoreless innings for the Marlins, including Steven Okert (5-0), who pitched a scoreless eighth to pick up his second win of the series.

Orioles 4, White Sox 0: Touted rookie Adley Rutschman homered, doubled and drove in three runs to lead visiting Baltimore past banged-up Chicago.

Ryan Mountcastle had two doubles among his three hits as the Orioles won for the third time in four games. Dean Kremer (2-1) tossed 5⅓ innings before three relievers finished off a nine-hit shutout.