

US flies B-52s in message to N. Korea

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States flew nuclear-capable bombers to the Korean Peninsula on Friday in its latest show of force against North Korea, days after the North staged massive anti-U.S. rallies in its capital.

The B-52 bombers took part in joint aerial drills with other U.S. and South Korean fighter jets over the peninsula, South Korea's Defense Ministry said in a statement. The bombers' flyover is the latest in a series of temporary U.S. deployments of strategic assets in South Korea in response to North Korea's push to expand its nuclear arsenal.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. deployed a submarine capable of carrying about 150 Tomahawk missiles to South Korean waters for the first time in six years.

The USS Michigan's arrival came a day after North Korea resumed missile tests to protest previous U.S.-South Korean drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal.

The South Korean Defense Ministry said the B-52 bombers' deployment boosted the visibility of U.S. strategic assets to the peninsula. It said the allies have been demonstrating their firm resolve to strengthen combined defense postures and will continue joint drills involving U.S. strategic bombers.

On Sunday, more than 120,000 North Koreans participated in mass rallies in Pyongyang to mark the 73rd anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

During the rallies, officials and residents delivered speeches vowing "merciless revenge" against the United States over

the war while accusing the U.S. of plotting an invasion on North Korea.

The Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula in a technical state of war. The U.S. stations about 28,000 troops in South Korea as deterrence against potential aggression by North Korea.

Since its June 15 launches of two short-range ballistic missiles, North Korea hasn't performed any further public weapons tests. But the U.S. bombers' deployment could prompt it to launch weapons again in protest.

Enhancing "regular visibility of U.S. strategic assets" to the Korean Peninsula was part of agreements reached between U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol during their summit in

Washington in April. Biden stated at the time that any North Korean nuclear attack on the U.S. or its allies would "result in the end of whatever regime" took such action.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has carried out more than 100 missile tests in a bid to enlarge its arsenal of nuclear-capable missiles targeting the U.S. mainland and South Korea. The allies have responded by expanding their military exercises.

In late May, a North Korean launch of a rocket carrying its first spy satellite ended in failure, with the rocket plunging into waters soon after liftoff. North Korea has since repeatedly said it would attempt a second launch, saying it's crucial to build space-based surveillance system to cope with what it calls U.S. hostility.

High court rejects plan to wipe away student debt

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A sharply divided Supreme Court on Friday effectively killed President Joe Biden's \$400 billion plan to cancel or reduce federal student loan debts for millions of Americans.

The 6-3 decision, with conservative justices in the majority, said the Biden administration overstepped its authority with the plan, and it leaves borrowers on the hook for repayments that are expected to resume in the fall.

Biden was to announce a new set of actions to protect student loan borrowers later Friday, said a White House official. The official was not authorized to

speak publicly ahead of Biden's expected statement on the case and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The court held that the administration needed Congress' endorsement before undertaking so costly a program. The majority rejected arguments that a bipartisan 2003 law dealing with national emergencies, known as the HEROES Act, gave Biden the power he claimed.

"Six States sued, arguing that the HEROES Act does not authorize the loan cancellation plan. We agree," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court.

Justice Elena Kagan, wrote in

a dissent, joined by the court's two other liberals, that the majority of the court "overrides the combined judgment of the Legislative and Executive Branches, with the consequence of eliminating loan forgiveness for 43 million Americans." Kagan read a summary of her dissent in court to emphasize her disagreement.

Roberts, perhaps anticipating negative public reaction and aware of declining approval of the court, added an unusual coda to his opinion, cautioning that the liberals' dissent should not be mistaken for disparagement of the court itself. "It is important that the public not be misled either. Any such mispercep-

tion would be harmful to this institution and our country," the chief justice wrote.

Loan repayments will resume in October, although interest will begin accruing in September, the Education Department has announced. Payments have been on hold since the start of the coronavirus pandemic more than three years ago.

The forgiveness program would have canceled \$10,000 in student loan debt for those making less than \$125,000 or households with less than \$250,000 in income. Pell Grant recipients, who typically demonstrate more financial need, would have had an additional \$10,000 in debt forgiven.

Colleges seek new ways to boost diversity

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has sent shockwaves through higher education by striking down affirmative action and leaving colleges across the nation searching for new ways to promote student diversity.

Leaders of scores of universities said Thursday that they were disappointed by what they see as a blow to diversity. Yet many also voiced optimism that they would find new ways to admit more Black and Hispanic students, despite evidence that eliminating the practice often leads to steep enrollment decreases among them.

President Joe Biden said he disagreed with the decision and asked the Education Department to explore policies that could help colleges build diverse student bodies. He also pushed against policies like legacy preferences — admissions boosts given to the children of alumni — that tend to help white, wealthy students.

“We should never allow the country to walk away from the dream upon which it was founded,” Biden told reporters. “We need a new path forward, a path consistent with the law that protects diversity and expands opportunity.”

Yet evidence from states that previously outlawed affirmative action show it will be a daunting challenge.

As an alternative to affirmative action, colleges from California to Florida have tried a range of strategies to achieve the diversity they say is essential to their campuses. Many have given greater preference to low-income families. Others started admitting top students from every community in their state.

But years of experimentation — often prompted by state-level bans on considering race in admissions — left no clear solution. In states requiring race-neutral policies, many colleges saw enrollment drops among Black and Hispanic students,

especially at selective colleges that historically have been mostly white.

At Amherst College, officials had estimated going entirely race-neutral would reduce Black, Hispanic and Indigenous populations by half.

“We fully expect it would be a significant decrease in our population,” said Matthew McGann, Amherst’s director of admission, earlier this year.

Facing a conservative Supreme Court that appeared skeptical from the start, colleges have been preparing for a rollback. Some were considering adding more essays to get a better picture of an applicant’s background, a strategy invited in Thursday’s Supreme Court ruling.

“Nothing prohibits universities from considering an applicant’s discussion of how race affected the applicant’s life, so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of character or unique ability that the particular applicant can con-

tribute to the university,” Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court’s conservative majority.

Other colleges were planning to boost recruiting in racially diverse areas, or admit more transfer students from community colleges.

The court took up affirmative action in response to challenges at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina.

Lower courts upheld admission systems at both schools, rejecting claims that the schools discriminated against white and Asian American applicants.

But at Supreme Court arguments in late October, all six conservative justices expressed doubts about the practice, which had been upheld under Supreme Court decisions reaching back to 1978, and as recently as 2016.

Nine states already have banned affirmative action, starting with California in 1996 and, most recently, Idaho in 2020.

California’s Black reparations effort moves to legislature

AP/Report for America

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Members of California’s Black reparations task force handed off their historic two-year report to state lawmakers Thursday, beginning the next chapter in the long struggle to compensate the descendants of slavery.

The first U.S. panel of its kind met one last time Thursday, urging supporters to press lawmakers into action on more than 100 recommendations. State legislators and Gov. Gavin Newsom must agree for any money to be paid or for any policy changes to be adopted.

The mood was buoyant, but tinged with frustration and anger that hours earlier, the U.S.

Supreme Court struck down affirmative action in higher education, programs that have disproportionately helped Black students.

Task force members said their suggestions will pass legal muster because the proposed benefits would only go to descendants of enslaved people, not to all Black residents.

The panel narrowly voted to limit any financial redress to residents who can document lineage from Black people who were in the U.S. in the 19th century.

The 1,100-page report details California’s role in perpetuating discrimination against Black residents. Ideas for repairing

the harm range from formally apologizing to paying descendants of enslaved people for having suffered under racist actions such as over-policing and housing discrimination. The panel also recommended creating a new agency to oversee reparations efforts.

Turning the proposals into policies won’t be easy. State Sen. Steven Bradford said there are “a lot of folks” in the Legislature who do not support reparations and a 2021 Pew Research Center survey found that only 30% of U.S. adults favored the concept.

A more recent survey by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California found 54% of

respondents had a negative opinion of California creating a reparations task force, although 59% said they would support a formal apology from the state to descendants.

More than 200 people gathered at the Thursday meeting in Sacramento, with an overflow crowd outside the room. Inside, many stood at one point and began a call-and-response to demand action.

California Secretary of State Shirley Weber, who wrote legislation creating the task force, said slavery stripped her of her identity and heritage and that she has visited Africa dozens of times, only to conclude there is nowhere for her to go back to.

Lethal heat waves become more frequent

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Heat waves like the one that engulfed parts of parts of the South and Midwest and killed more than a dozen people are becoming more common, and experts say the extreme weather events, which claim more lives than hurricanes and tornadoes, will likely increase in the future.

A heat dome that pressured the Texas power grid and killed 13 people there and another in Louisiana pushed eastward Thursday and was expected to be centered over the mid-South by the weekend. Heat index levels of up to 112 degrees were forecast in parts of Florida over the next few days.

Scientists and medical experts say such deaths caused by extreme heat will only increase each summer without more action to combat climate change that has pushed up temper-

atures, making people especially vulnerable in areas unaccustomed to warm weather.

“Here in Boston we prepare for snowstorms. Now we need to learn how to prepare for heat,” said Dr. Gaurab Basu, a primary care physician and the director of education and policy at the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Planting more trees to increase shade in cities and investing in green technology like heat pumps for home cooling and heating could help, Basu said.

Phoenix, the hottest large city in America, faces an excessive heat warning headed into the weekend. Dangerously hot conditions are forecast from Saturday through Tuesday, including temperatures of 107-115 degrees across south-central Ari-

zona.

Counting heat deaths has become a science in Arizona’s Maricopa County, which includes metro Phoenix. The county tallied 425 heat-associated deaths last year, a 25% increase over 2021.

Located in the Sonoran Desert, Maricopa County counts not just deaths due to exposure but also deaths in which heat is among several major contributing factors, including heart attacks and strokes.

The county’s Office of the Medical Examiner updates suspected and confirmed heat-associated deaths every week through the warm season, which runs from May through October. So far this season, there have been six heat-associated deaths in Maricopa County, home to nearly 4.5 million people.

Dr. Sameed Khatana, a staff

cardiologist at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center and assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania’s Perelman School of Medicine, said deaths in which heat contributed significantly to fatalities from causes like heart failure should also be considered to provide a more complete picture.

Khatana participated in research published last year that suggested that from 2008 and 2017 between 13,000 to 20,000 adult deaths were linked to extreme heat, about half due to heart disease.

Older people and those with diabetes, obesity, heart disease and other serious health conditions are most at risk, he said.

“Hurricanes, flooding and wildfires are very dramatic,” said Khatana. “Heat is harder to see and especially affects people who are socially isolated or living on the margins.”

In Midwest, corn crops stressed, rivers running low

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Mike Shane’s Illinois farm got a nice soaking on May 8, shortly after he planted his corn crop. Since then, rain has been hard to come by.

Plenty of storms have ventured close only to fizzle out before making it to Shane’s 200-acre spread near Peoria.

“It comes across the Mississippi River and then just disappears,” Shane, 47, said. “My corn looks absolutely terrible right now.” Without substantial rain soon, “I just don’t see any hope for it,” he said.

Heavy rain over the winter eased the drought in the West, but now the middle of the country is extraordinarily dry. Crops are stressed, rivers are running low, and cities and towns are anxiously hoping for a break in the weather.

Experts say the drought in the central U.S. is the worst since at least 2012, and in some areas, is

drawing comparisons to the 1988 drought that devastated corn, wheat and soybean crops. This year, although temperatures have been generally mild through the spring and early days of summer, rainfall has been sorely lacking.

The U.S. Drought Monitor, operated by the federal government and the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, reports that nearly half of Kansas is in either extreme or exceptional drought condition — the highest drought designation.

More than a quarter of Nebraska is in extreme drought, and 13% is in exceptional drought.

Arid conditions permeate Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri and Kentucky.

The frequency and intensity of droughts and rainfall are increasing due to burning fossil

fuels and other human activity that releases greenhouse gases, according to data from a pair of satellites used to measure changes in Earth’s water storage. The study was published in March in the journal *Nature Water*.

Adam Hartman, a meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Prediction Center, said some parts of the central U.S. have been experiencing extreme drought since the winter. In other states, “flash droughts” have popped up over the past two to three months.

“As a result you’ve see drastic losses in topsoil, subsoil moisture,” Hartman said. “We’ve seen ground water levels start to lower as well. We’ve seen stream flows start to decline.”

Crops are feeling the impact. The U.S. Department of Agriculture now rates only half of the U.S. corn crop as good or ex-

cellent — the lowest percentage since 1988. Nearly two-thirds of the nation’s corn-growing areas are in drought.

“That gives us some indicator that we’re seeing widespread stress on those crops throughout the Corn Belt,” said Krista Swanson, an economist for the National Corn Growers Association.

If rains don’t arrive soon, Swanson believes total yield could be down about 1 billion bushels from the original projection of 16.7 billion bushels.

Water levels are dipping in rivers. The Mississippi River — especially from southern Illinois to the south — is extremely low in many spots.

It was just last fall that the river reached or neared record low-water marks in several places, only to bounce back to flood levels in the spring, before the latest drought-fueled decline.

Court: Designer can reject work for gay couples

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's conservative majority ruled Friday that a Christian graphic artist who wants to design wedding websites can refuse to work with same-sex couples.

The court ruled 6-3 for designer Lorie Smith despite a Colorado law that bars discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, gender and other characteristics. Smith had argued that the law violates her free speech rights.

Smith's opponents warned that a win for her would allow a range of businesses to discriminate, refusing to serve Black, Jewish or Muslim customers, interracial or interfaith couples or immigrants. But Smith and her supporters had said that a ruling against her would force artists — from painters and photographers to writers and musicians — to do work that is against their beliefs.

"The First Amendment envisions the United States as a rich and complex place where all

persons are free to think and speak as they wish, not as the government demands," Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote for the court's six conservative justices.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote a dissent that was joined by the court's other liberals. "Today, the Court, for the first time in its history, grants a business open to the public a constitutional right to refuse to serve members of a protected class," Sotomayor wrote.

The decision is a win for religious rights and one in a series of cases in recent years in which the justices have sided with religious plaintiffs. Last year, for example, the court ruled along ideological lines for a football coach who prayed on the field at his public high school after games.

The decision is also a retreat on gay rights for the court. For two decades, the court has expanded the rights of LGBTQ people, most notably giving same-sex couples the right to marry in 2015 and announcing

five years later that a landmark civil rights law also protects gay, lesbian and transgender people from employment discrimination. That civil rights law decision was also written by Gorsuch.

Even as it has expanded gay rights, however, the court has been careful to say those with differing religious views needed to be respected. The belief that marriage can only be between one man and one woman is an idea that "long has been held — and continues to be held — in good faith by reasonable and sincere people here and throughout the world," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in the court's gay marriage decision.

The court returned to that idea five years ago when it was confronted with the case of a Christian baker who objected to designing a cake for a same-sex wedding. The court issued a limited ruling in favor of the baker, Jack Phillips, saying there had been impermissible hostility toward his religious views in the consideration of his

case. Phillips' lawyer, Kristen Waggoner, of the Alliance Defending Freedom, also brought the most recent case to the court.

Smith, who owns a Colorado design business called 303 Creative, does not currently create wedding websites. She has said that she wants to but that her Christian faith would prevent her from creating websites celebrating same-sex marriages. And that's where she runs into conflict with state law.

Colorado, like most other states, has a law forbidding businesses open to the public from discriminating against customers. Colorado said that under its so-called public accommodations law, if Smith offers wedding websites to the public, she must provide them to all customers, regardless of sexual orientation. Businesses that violate the law can be fined, among other things. Smith argued that applying the law to her violates her First Amendment rights. The state disagreed.

Union gives UPS deadline for better contract offer

Associated Press

Frustrated by an "appalling counterproposal" earlier this week, the head of the union representing 340,000 UPS workers said a strike is imminent and gave the shipping giant a Friday deadline to improve its offer.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters walked away from negotiations Wednesday, demanding that UPS give its "last, best, and final offer" no later than June 30.

Teamsters officials did not say what time the Friday deadline was or what actions it might take if it is not met.

In a brief statement, United Parcel Service said it has offered significant changes to its

initial financial proposal and that "Reaching consensus requires time and serious, detailed discussion, but it also requires give-and-take from both sides."

Negotiations on the national contract began in April. The current contract expires July 31.

Earlier this month, the Teamsters said 97% of unionized workers voted for a strike authorization, which the union urged to give it more leverage during negotiations with the company.

UPS has pushed back on those claims by boasting that it provides workers with industry-leading pay and benefits.

Key inflation gauge drops to lowest point in 2 years

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An inflation index that is closely monitored by the Federal Reserve tumbled last month to its lowest level since April 2021, pulled down by lower gas prices and slower-rising food costs.

At the same time, consumers barely increased their spending last month, boosting it just 0.1%, after a solid 0.6% gain in April.

The inflation index showed that prices rose 3.8% in May from 12 months earlier, down sharply from a 4.4% year-over-year surge in April. And from April to May, prices ticked up just 0.1%.

Still, last month's progress in easing inflation was tempered

by an elevated reading of "core" prices, a category that excludes volatile food and energy costs. The increase underscored the Fed's belief that it will need to keep raising interest rates to conquer high inflation.

Core prices rose 4.6% in May from a year earlier, down slightly from the annual increase of 4.7% in April. It was the fifth straight month that the core figure was either 4.6% or 4.7% — a sign that the Fed's streak of 10 rate hikes over the past 15 months hasn't subdued all categories of prices. From April to May, core prices increased 0.3%, a pace that, if it lasts, would keep inflation well above the Fed's 2% target.

France sees third night of riots after teenager shot by police

Associated Press

NANTERRE, France — Protesters erected barricades, lit fires and shot fireworks at police, who responded with tear gas and water cannons in French streets overnight as tensions grew over the deadly police shooting of a 17-year-old. More than 875 people were arrested and at least 200 police officers injured as the government struggled to restore order on a third night of unrest.

On Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron is urging parents to keep teenagers at home to quell rioting spreading across France and says social media are fueling copycat violence.

He said he wants social media such as Snapchat and TikTok to remove sensitive content and said that violence is being organized online. Of young rioters, he said: “We sometimes have the feeling that some of them are living in the streets the video games that have intoxicated them.”

Overnight, armored police

vehicles rammed through the charred remains of cars that had been flipped and set ablaze in the northwestern Paris suburb of Nanterre, where a police officer shot the teen identified only by his first name, Nahel. A relative of the teen said his family is of Algerian descent. Nahel will be buried Saturday, according to Nanterre Mayor Patrick Jarry, who said the country needs to “push for changes” in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

“There’s a feeling of injustice in many residents’ minds, whether it’s about school achievement, getting a job, access to culture, housing and other life issues ... I believe we are in that moment when we need to face the urgency (of the situation),” he said.

The unrest extended as far as Belgium’s capital, Brussels, where about a dozen people were detained during scuffles related to the shooting in France and several fires were brought under control.

In several Paris neighborhoods, groups of people hurled

firecrackers at security forces. The police station in the city’s 12th district was attacked, while some shops were looted along Rivoli street, near the Louvre museum, and at the Forum des Halles, the largest shopping mall in central Paris.

In the Mediterranean port city of Marseille, police sought to disperse violent groups in the city center, regional authorities said.

Similar incidents broke out in dozens of towns and cities across France.

Some 40,000 police officers were deployed to quell the protests. National police said a total of 875 people were detained overnight, including 408 in the Paris region alone.

Around 200 police officers were injured, according to a national police spokesperson. No information was available about injuries among the rest of the population.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin on Friday denounced what he called a night of “rare violence.”

Rocket plane lifts Italians to edge of space

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A team of Italian researchers reached the edge of space Thursday, flying aboard a rocket-powered plane piloted by Virgin Galactic as the space tourism company prepares for monthly commercial flights.

The flight launched from Spaceport America in the New Mexico desert, with two Italian Air Force officers and an engineer with the National Research Council of Italy focusing on a series of microgravity experiments during their few minutes of weightlessness.

One wore a special suit that measured biometric data and physiological responses while another conducted tests using sensors to track heart rate, brain function and other metrics while in microgravity. The third studied how certain liquids and solids mix in that very weak gravity.

Virgin Galactic livestreamed the flight on its website, showing the moment when the ship released from its carrier plane and the rocket was ignited. The entire trip took about 90 minutes. The space plane reached a peak altitude of more than 52 miles.

In all, there were six aboard — two Virgin Galactic pilots, the three Italians and another Virgin Galactic employee who oversees training for passengers.

With the ship’s pilot, it marked the most Italians in space at the same time. Col. Walter Villadei, a space engineer with the Italian Air Force, celebrated by unfolding an Italian flag while weightless.

Cops: Colosseum carver a British tourist

Associated Press

ROME — Italian police on Thursday said they believe the man filmed while engraving his name and that of his apparent girlfriend last week on the ancient Roman Colosseum is a tourist who lives in Britain.

The identification was made using photographic comparisons, Italian Carabinieri said in

a press release.

The statement did not provide the name of the suspect nor his whereabouts.

Italian officials have vowed to find and punish the tourist who carved “Ivan+Haley 23” on the wall of the Colosseum in Rome, a crime that has resulted in hefty fines in the past.

The vandal was filmed in the

act by an American tourist, Ryan Lutz of Orange, Calif., who posted the video on social media after he said Colosseum guards failed to show interest in his footage.

It was at least the fourth time this year that such graffiti was reported at the Colosseum, an act that carries fines up to \$15,000 and five years in prison.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Marlins foil no-hit bid, beat Red Sox

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jean Segura's infield single broke up Brayan Bello's no-hit bid with nobody out in the eighth inning, and the Miami Marlins followed with three more hits to break a scoreless tie and beat the Boston Red Sox 2-0 on Thursday night.

Bello held the Marlins hitless through seven, retiring major league batting leader Luis Arraez all three times he faced him. Arraez, who also drew an intentional walk in the eighth, saw his batting average drop from .396 to .392.

Bello (5-5) was charged with an earned run when Chris Martin relieved him and gave up an RBI single to Jon Berti that made it 1-0. Jazz Chisholm Jr. added a solo homer in the ninth.

The Red Sox only managed one hit of their own in the first six innings against Marlins lefty Jesus Lizardo before chasing him in the seventh with back-to-back singles by Rafael Devers and Adam Duvall.

But reliever Andrew Nardi (6-1) pitched out of trouble by striking out Masataka Yoshida and getting Christian Arroyo on a comebacker to the mound. Boston registered just four hits in all, and also played sloppy defense.

A.J. Puk pitched the ninth for his 13th save.

White Sox 9, Angels 7: Eloy Jiménez and Zach Remillard had two-run singles in the third inning and visting Chicago beat Los Angeles, overcoming Shohei Ohtani's Angels-record 14th homer in June.

The Japanese superstar broke the team mark for home runs in a month in the ninth inning with a two-run shot to left-center off Kendall Graveman's slider. Ohtani leads the majors with 29 homers and is batting .309.

Mickey Moniak, Mike Moustakis and Hunter Renfroe also homered for Los Angeles. The Angels were 0 for 9 with runners

in scoring position. Mike Trout added three hits and made a leaping catch at the center field wall in the fourth inning to rob Andrew Vaughn of a solo shot.

The White Sox trailed 4-1 before scoring six runs off Patrick Sandoval (4-7) in the third inning. It is the fourth time this season Chicago has plated at least six in an inning. Yasmani Grandal and Clint Frazier also had RBI hits in the third.

Lance Lynn (5-8) got his first win since May 26. The right-hander allowed five runs on eight hits and struck out seven in six innings.

Pirates 5, Padres 4: Henry Davis capped his first three-hit game with a go-ahead single in a three-run seventh inning that rallied host Pittsburgh for a three-game sweep that stretched San Diego's losing streak to five.

The Padres have lost eight of 10, dropping seven games under .500 at 37-44.

Davis, the top pick in the 2021 amateur draft, had two RBIs and raised his average to .351. He is 13 for 37 (.351) since his June 18 recall from Triple-A Indianapolis and has a seven-game hitting streak.

Nick Gonzalez began the comeback from a 4-0 deficit with a sacrifice fly in the fourth, and Davis cut the deficit to 4-2 with an RBI single in the sixth.

Tim Hill (1-2) relieved Joe Musgrove starting the seventh and walked pinch-hitter Rodolfo Castro leading off, and rookie Jared Triolo singled. Jake Suwinski had a run-scoring infield hit and Triolo scored on a throwing error on the play. Davis put Pittsburgh ahead with his single.

Dauri Moreta (4-2) pitched a hitless inning for the win and David Bednar got four outs for his 16th save.

Blue Jays 2, Giants 1: Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a two-run home run, Chris Bassitt struck out a career-high 12 over six

shutout innings and Toronto beat visiting San Francisco.

Guerrero hit a go-ahead 413-foot drive to left off Keaton Winn (0-1) in the sixth for his 12th home run this season.

Bassitt (8-5) allowed three hits and walked three to win for the first time in four starts. He struck out his final three batters. Erik Swanson pitched the seventh and Tim Mayza worked the eighth. Jordan Romano gave up Blake Sabol's RBI single in the ninth but finished up for his 24th save.

Yankees 10, Athletics 4: Josh Donaldson hit a 472-foot home run in an eight-run sixth inning, Isiah Kiner-Falefa had three RBIs and visting New York won two of three from major league-worst Oakland.

A day after Domingo Germán pitched the fourth perfect game in franchise history, the Yankees rallied with seven hits in the sixth, overcoming a 3-1 deficit and winning their third straight series. They scored 21 runs in their past two days after totaling 21 in their previous nine.

Clarke Schmidt (3-6) won for the first time since May 19, allowing three runs, five hits and three walks in 5½ innings.

Oakland has lost 12 of 14 following a season-best, seven-game winning streak. At 21-62, the A's are on pace to finish 41-121, the most losses since the 1899 Cleveland Spiders went 20-134.

Royals 4, Guardians 3 (10): José Ramirez daringly stole home for the go-ahead run in the 10th inning, but Kansas City rebounded to beat Cleveland on pinch-hitter Freddy Fermin's two-run double in the bottom half.

Standing on third with two outs and an 0-2 count on Andrés Giménez and left-hander Aroldis Chapman (4-2) working from the stretch, Ramirez took five small steps toward the plate and burst home. He slid head-

first and slapped his right hand on the plate as catcher Salvador Perez gloved the high sinker and lunged forward. Umpire Jeremy Riggs called Ramirez out, but the call was reversed in a video review, giving Cleveland its first steal of home since Leonys Martin on June 15, 2019.

Nicky Lopez singled off Emmanuel Clase (1-5) leading off the bottom half, moving automatic runner Kyle Isbel to third. One out later, Fermin lined a pitch into the left-field corner, easily scoring Isbel and allowing Lopez to score standing up.

Brewers 3, Mets 2: Devin Williams struck out Starling Marte to strand the bases loaded in the ninth inning and Milwaukee dropped host New York to a season-high nine games under .500.

The \$355 million Mets are 36-45 and have lost 18 of 24. New York hasn't won a series since sweeping Philadelphia from May 30 through June 1 and have lost two in a row since owner Steve Cohen said manager Buck Showalter and general manager Billy Eppler were not in danger of losing their jobs.

Williams got his third save of the series and 16th in 17 chances this season.

Victor Caratini hit a tying, two-run homer off Max Scherzer in the sixth inning and Brian Anderson hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly against Dominic Leone in the seventh.

Caratini had two of Milwaukee's seven hits off Scherzer and is 10 for 20 against the 38-year-old, who allowed two runs and struck out nine in six innings.

After Caratini hit his fourth homer, the Brewers went ahead against T.J. McFarland (0-1) and Leone.

Brett Baty and Brandon Nimmo hit back-to-back homers in the third off Adrian Houser (3-2), who allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings in his first start since June 9.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Trout is elected to 11th All-Star Game

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Trout will see a bunch of new faces surrounding him at this year's All-Star Game.

The Los Angeles Angels center fielder was selected for his 11th appearance on Thursday, and four Texas Rangers were chosen by fans for the American League's lineup for the July 11 game at Seattle's T-Mobile Park.

Nine first-time starters were picked by fans, including three Rangers: catcher Jonah Heim, shortstop Corey Seager and rookie third baseman Josh Jung. Arizona rookie outfielder Corbin Carroll, who's from Seattle,

also was voted in, giving the starting lineups a pair of rookie position players for the third time after Rich Rollins and Tom Tresh in 1962, and Geovany Soto and Kosuke Fukudome in 2008.

Texas reached the season's midpoint at 49-32, on track for its first winning season since 2016. The Rangers host next year's All-Star Game.

Rangers second baseman Marcus Semien was chosen for his second start.

Texas' previous high was three starters in 2012, when Adrian Beltré, Josh Hamilton and Mike Napoli were picked.

Trout was voted to start for the 10th time and will be joined

in the AL lineup by teammate Shohei Ohtani, who last week was chosen at designated hitter as the league's top-vote getter in the first round.

Tampa Bay first baseman Yandy Díaz and outfielder Randy Arozarena were among the first-time starters, joined by Atlanta shortstop Orlando Arcia and catcher Sean Murphy, Miami second baseman Luis Arraez and Carroll.

"I almost cried there," Arraez said after learning of his election.

Arraez was batting over .400 as recently as this past weekend. His average had dipped to .392 as of Thursday.

Three Los Angeles Dodgers were picked: first baseman Freddie Freeman, outfielder Mookie Betts and designated hitter J.D. Martinez.

St. Louis third baseman Nolan Arenado was elected to his fifth start and eighth appearance.

Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge, elected to start for the fifth time, hasn't played since June 3 because of a torn ligament in his right big toe. Houston's Yordan Alvarez finished fourth in the AL outfield voting.

Atlanta's Ronald Acuña Jr. earned an outfield spot last week as the NL's top vote-getter during the first round, from May 31 to June 22.

FROM PAGE 6

Phillies 3, Cubs 1: Kyle Schwarber homered on the game's first pitch, Taijuan Walker won his fifth straight start and surging Philadelphia beat host Chicago.

Bryce Harper drove in two runs. Trea Turner had two hits and scored a run, helping the Phillies win for the 18th time in 23 games.

Schwarber, the former Cub, got things started with a drive to right against Kyle Hendricks (3-3) for his 21st homer. It was the 25th time he has gone deep to start a game.

Walker (9-3) went six innings, allowing one run and six hits while striking out six and walking one. The right-hander has a 0.84 ERA in his past five outings.

Yunior Marte and Gregory Soto each worked an inning before Craig Kimbrel came on in the ninth for his 12th save.

The Cubs have lost four in a row after winning nine of 10.

Tigers 8, Rangers 5: Spencer Torkelson homered twice and Andy Ibañez had the go-ahead RBI single for visiting Detroit, which had another pitcher get hurt.

Ibañez broke a 3-3 tie as all

four batters that faced reliever Joe Barlow (1-1) to start the seventh inning reached base. John King then got out of that jam with a strikeout and a double-play grounder, though the reliever gave up Torkelson's second homer the next inning.

Ezequiel Durán homered in his third straight game and Leody Taveras also went deep for the Rangers.

Torkelson put Detroit up 3-2 with his one-out solo shot in the fifth that chased Rangers rookie starter Cody Bradford. Torkelson's three-run shot in the eighth, which made it 8-3, was his 11th homer of the season. It was his first career multihomer game.

Mason Englert (4-2), the fourth of seven Detroit pitchers, allowed a run pitching the sixth.

Rays 6, Diamondbacks 1: Luke Raley homered in the first inning, Wander Franco and Josh Lowe drove in two runs each in a five-run third and Tampa Bay beat host Arizona.

Tampa Bay won two of three in a series between the 1998 expansion teams. The Rays lead the major leagues at 56-28, while Arizona tops the NL West at 48-34.

Yonny Chirinos (4-3) allowed

one run and seven hits over six-plus innings of relief that followed opener Zack Littell. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit his 12th homer of the season leading off the seventh.

Brandon Pfaadt (0-3) allowed six runs and seven hits in two-plus innings, raising his ERA to 9.82. He was recalled from Triple-A to make his sixth start.

Astros 14, Cardinals 0: Kyle Tucker homered and drove in five runs, Alex Bregman hit his third grand slam this season and visting Houston routed Adam Wainwright and St. Louis.

Houston had 18 hits, its most since Sept. 10, 2019, against Oakland. Bregman, Yainer Diaz and Corey Julks had three hits each.

Tucker hit a two-run single in a six-run second that included Jose Altuve's go-ahead single, José Abreu's two-run double and Diaz's RBI double. Tucker added a three-run homer in the sixth off Jake Woodford, a 447-foot drive to right.

Bergman's slam was his seventh, tying Jose Altuve and Carlos Lee for most in Astros history. The drive came off outfielder Alec Burleson, the first Cardinals position player to pitch

since Corey Dickerson last Sept. 23.

Wainwright (3-3) gave up six runs, six hits and three walks in 1½ innings, his shortest start since a 15-7 loss to Baltimore on June 17, 2017.

J.P. France (3-3) allowed four hits in seven innings.

Dodgers 14, Rockies 3: J.D. Martinez had four hits, including his 19th home run, to highlight a six-run fourth inning and Los Angeles came out swinging after the game's start was delayed nearly two hours by severe weather, beating host Colorado.

Martinez continued his torrid batting at Coors Field, extending his hitting streak to 11 games at the park, where he is a career .444 hitter (28 for 63).

Max Muncy and Freddie Freeman each had a pair of hits and drove in three runs. Mookie Betts and Jason Heyward both doubled twice, helping the Dodgers take the series 2-1 while establishing season highs in runs and hits in a game (18).

Elías Díaz had three RBIs on a single and sacrifice fly for the Rockies, who fell to 5-17 against fellow NL West teams, including 1-4 against the Dodgers this season.

Venus Williams set for her 24th Wimbledon appearance

Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Five-time Wimbledon champion Venus Williams will begin her 24th appearance at the tournament against 2019 semifinalist Elina Svitolina, while Friday's draw put two-time titlist Andy Murray up against wild-card entry Ryan Peniston in an all-British first-round matchup.

Williams, who is 43 and has played just five matches this season, and Svitolina, who returned to the tour in April after taking time off to have a baby, both were given wild cards by the All England Club.

Whoever wins that contest could face No. 28 seed Elise Mertens in the second round, followed perhaps by a matchup against No. 7 Coco Gauff, the American who was just 15 when she began her Grand Slam career by eliminating Williams at Wimbledon in 2019.

Williams won Wimbledon in 2000, 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2008, to go along with two U.S. Open trophies.

Audible gasps filled the All England Club's main interview room where the draw was being conducted when Murray — who has twice undergone hip surgery since winning Wimbledon in 2013 and 2016 — was drawn to face a fellow British player, and again moments later when the winner of that match was slated to take on either No. 5 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, twice a major finalist, or 2020 U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem.

Murray's initial title at Wimbledon made him the first British man in 77 years to earn the singles title there.

Play at the year's third Grand Slam tournament begins Monday, when No. 2 seed Novak Djokovic will open his bid for a fifth consecutive championship — and

eighth overall — at the All England Club against Pedro Cachin, a 67th-ranked Argentine making his Wimbledon debut. Djokovic, who is halfway to a calendar-year Grand Slam after winning the Australian Open in January and the French Open in June, is also seeking his 24th major title, which would set the record for most by a man or woman in the Open era.

The potential men's quarterfinals are No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz vs. No. 6 Holger Rune, and No. 3 Daniil Medvedev vs. Tsitsipas on the top half of the bracket, and Djokovic vs. No. 7 Andrey Rublev, and No. 4 Casper Ruud vs. No. 8 Jannik Sinner on the bottom half.

Possible women's quarterfinals are No. 1 Iga Swiatek vs. Gauff, and No. 4 Jessica Pegula vs. No. 5 Caroline Garcia on the top half, and No. 3 Elena Rybakina vs. No. 6 Ons Jabeur, and No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka vs. No. 8 Maria Sakkari on the bottom half.

Three NFL players get suspended indefinitely

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Cornerback Isaiah Rodgers Sr. lost the biggest bet of his life Thursday.

He was waived by the Indianapolis Colts shortly after the NFL suspended Rodgers and two other players indefinitely for gambling on NFL games last season.

The Colts also cut backup defensive end Rashod Berry after Berry and free agent defensive tackle Demetrius Taylor received the same punishment for the same infraction. None of the three can seek reinstatement until after next season.

Tennessee Titans right tackle Nicholas Petit-Frere received a six-game suspension for betting on non-NFL sports at the team's facility, though he can participate in all of the team's offseason and preseason activities including preseason games.

For the Colts, the decision came swiftly and decisively — even for a potential starter like Rodgers.

"We have made the following roster moves as a consequence of the determination that these players violated the league's gambling policy," Colts general manager Chris Ballard said in a statement. "The integrity of the game is of the utmost importance. As an organization we will continue to educate our players, coaches and staff on the policies in place and the significant consequences that may occur with violations."

Those rules bar players, coaches, team officials and all league personnel from betting on NFL games, placing bets at team facilities or team hotels or having someone else place a bet for them.

NFL executive vice president of communications, public affairs and policy Jeff Miller said last week that only players are permitted to bet on non-NFL games following consultation with the NFL Players Association.

Harden picks up \$35.6 million option with Sixers and could soon be traded

The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — James Harden just did the unexpected, and it just might benefit the 76ers.

On Thursday, the Sixers point guard picked up the \$35.6 million player option on his contract for next season, according to a league source.

This doesn't mean that Harden will return to Philadelphia. The two sides are working together to find a new team for the 10-time All-Star via a trade. The Los Angeles Clippers and New York Knicks are reportedly among the franchises that could engage with the Sixers on a potential deal.

But Harden was expected to

opt out.

The Sixers and the Houston Rockets were believed to be the leading candidates to sign him in free agency, which began at 6 p.m. on Friday.

If he opted out, Harden could have received a maximum salary of around \$210 million over four years with the Sixers, who have his Bird rights. That enables them to offer him a larger contract than other teams. He could have made up to \$201.7 million with another team. But with Harden at 33 years old and prone to struggles in the postseason, it's unlikely any team would want to max him out for four years.

The Sixers have expressed

that they're not willing to hinder their short- or long-term future by overpaying for Harden. A report also indicated that the Rockets were only interested in giving him a two-year deal. The prevailing thought is that a deal in the two-year range would be ideal for the 14-year veteran.

Harden's decision to opt in comes one summer after he took a \$15 million pay cut to help the Sixers sign P.J. Tucker and Danuel House Jr. in free agency.

This could be a great scenario for the Sixers. They were aware that not re-signing Harden would put them in a tough spot if he opted out.