

## New Navy promotion system to begin

BY SHANNON RENFROE  
*Stars and Stripes*

A new Navy promotion system for junior enlisted sailors that will base advancement on time in the service will take effect Monday.

Under the new policy, which was announced last year, sailors will be promoted to E-2 after nine months, E-3 after 18 months and E-4 after 30 months.

The policy effectively does away with a system that delayed junior advancement in more crowded job fields and at one time required high scores on examinations that were administered twice a year, which made the Navy an outlier among the services.

Under the new system, sailors must maintain their commanding officer's retention recommendation and meet the time requirement.

Meritorious advancements

will still be available for E-3 sailors with the necessary experience and their commanding officer's endorsement.

The new policy excludes sailors in nuclear, advanced technical and electronics fields, who already have a faster path to E-4 because of additional service obligations.

Known as Apprentice Advancement Alignment, the system aims to streamline the advancement process and provide sailors with clear expectations for their career progression, according to Navy officials.

The Navy will phase in the new policy, heavily weighting the fall advancement cycle's calculations toward time in service, with significantly increased quotas for rates that traditionally advance more slowly than others.

Sailors who still require eligibility for their next rank by Monday will be automatically

enrolled in the Apprentice Advancement Alignment program, with those over the 30-month mark being phased in throughout the year.

The policy is part of the service's efforts to promote with "increased flexibility, transparency and greater geographic stability," according to a 2022 service memo.

The Navy discontinued advancement exams for E-4 candidates starting in April 2020, when 20,000 exams couldn't be administered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although there were efforts to reschedule and stagger the exams, concerns about possible cheating and the need to adhere to mitigation measures overrode those attempts.

"I could only speculate the advancement exams themselves will be going away and replaced with the Rating Knowledge Exam" for sailors

vying for pay grades E-5 and E-6, said a Navy educational services officer who requested anonymity in order to speak freely about the policy.

The new knowledge exam would cover the same material as the former advancement exam but be required only once per pay grade, or be taken multiple times if a sailor wants to improve their score.

Aviation boatswain's mates and sailors working in damage control began taking the knowledge exam in the spring advancement cycle.

"In other words, the E-4 and junior sailors are going through an apprenticeship phase by learning their trade, and when they are eligible to advance to E-5 and E-6, they will take a Rating Knowledge Exam and compete for assignments to the next higher pay grade to fill the billet gap," the educational services officer said.

## DOD shows off Gaza pier as it resumes deliveries

*Associated Press*

With U.S. soldiers within shouting distance of Gaza's bombed-out coast, the American military is taking another stab at delivering aid to hungry Palestinians by sea.

After several fits and starts, a \$230 million pier is up and running again. The U.S. military invited reporters for a tour of it on Tuesday, marking the first time international media has witnessed its operations firsthand.

International journalists have not been allowed to enter Gaza independently since the Israel-Hamas war began Oct. 7.

The project, which first

launched in mid-May, resumed operations last week after a recent pause due to rough seas.

As journalists looked on Tuesday, U.S. soldiers with machine guns directed the pier's operations. U.S. vessels carrying trucks loaded with humanitarian aid docked at the pier.

Israeli and Cypriot drivers drove the trucks off the vessels and headed down the 437-yard causeway to the beach, where they unloaded pallets of aid.

The trucks then return to the vessels to be ferried to large cargo ships and reloaded. The cargo ships travel across the Mediterranean Sea from Cyprus.

Col. Samuel Miller, the commander of a joint task force, U.S. Army 7th Transportation Brigade, said the vessels can ferry aid to the pier at least five times a day.

"Our mission out here is to receive those humanitarian assistance pallets offshore from a larger vessel onto that floating pier," he said, shouting over waves crashing against the pier. "Over time, we are learning organization and we've gotten better."

The floating pier was anchored back on Gaza's shoreline on June 19 after heavy seas and high winds led the military to

disconnect it from the beach. In May, similar conditions forced a two-week pause in operations after the pier broke apart and four U.S. Army vessels ran aground, injuring three service members, one critically.

Since coming back online, the pier has been delivering hundreds of pallets of aid a day to the shore, Miller said.

From the pier, Associated Press journalists could see aid piling up against a backdrop of near-total destruction.

The U.S. military said about 6,800 tons of aid have so far been delivered from the project to Gaza's shore.

# Amphibious combat vehicles debut on Okinawa

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Marine Corps' new amphibious combat vehicle went to work Tuesday in waters off Okinawa doing for the first time what it was designed to do: moving troops from ship to shore.

Marines and sailors of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit reached White Beach Naval Facility, Okinawa, moving part of the way on recently deployed amphibious vehicles, the unit said in a news release Tuesday.

Elements of the unit arrived June 18 at White Beach aboard

the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry for a port visit and sustainment training, according to the release.

During the ship-to-shore operation, personnel boarded the vehicles before they emerged from the Harpers Ferry well deck. Boats of the 3rd Expeditionary Operations Training Group pulled alongside the amphibious vehicles to transfer those personnel to a pier, simulating safety egress procedures, the statement said.

"This was fairly standard training for us, but I'm proud it also represented

the first overseas ship-to-shore employment of ACVs," Marine Lt. Col. Nick Freeman, commander of Marines of Battalion Landing Team 1/5 involved in the movement, said in the release. "We'll continue to train at other locations in the months ahead, using a deliberate approach, capturing useful data and lessons learned, and ultimately sharpening our understanding of how to best employ the ACV in its intended environment."

The ACV replaced the Corps' amphibious assault vehicles after the accidental deaths of nine Ma-

rines off the Southern California coast in July 2020. BAE Systems of York, Pa., developed the ACV under a \$67 million contract in June 2019. The following year, the company received a \$184 million contract for the vehicle's full production.

The new vehicles' first operational deployment took place in May in the Philippines during the Balikatan exercise. During those drills, the 15th MEU launched its amphibious vehicles for live-fire exercises at a waterborne range in Oyster Bay, on the island of Palawan.

## Veteran submariner takes reins of Naval Forces Japan

By ALEX WILSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance — and the threats of Chinese and Russian activity in the region — were front and center Wednesday as a seasoned submariner took responsibility for all U.S. Navy bases in Japan.

Hundreds gathered that morning at Yokosuka's Fleet Theater to see Rear Adm. Ian Johnson relieve Rear Adm. Carl Lahti as commander of Naval Forces Japan and Navy Region Japan.

Johnson, who most recently served as commander of Navy Region Southeast at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., did not mention China or Russia by name. Instead, he emphasized that regional security depends on the U.S.-Japan alliance and other partners.

"It's not necessarily the ships, or the aircraft, or the buildings or the weapons," he said during the ceremony. "It's the people that make us strong,

a team of teams built on relationships developed over time, over many decades."

The dual-hatted command carries diverse responsibilities, including coordinating with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, authority over shore-based Navy assets and the administration of five U.S. Navy bases in Japan, another on Diego Garcia and a tenant command in Singapore.

Those responsibilities comprise a "vital role" in the defense of Japan and the Indo-Pacific region, particularly against "routine incursions into sovereign territory" from China and Russia's determination to "assert itself" in the northern Pacific, according to Air Force Lt. Gen. Ricky Rupp, commander of U.S. Forces Japan.

The two countries are "intent on destroying the current status quo and asserting their presence in a region increasingly pivotal to global economic security," he said during the ceremony.

## Netherlands prime minister Rutte named NATO chief

*Associated Press*

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Over the course of more than a dozen years at the top of Dutch politics, Mark Rutte got to know a thing or two about finding consensus among fractious coalition partners. Now he will bring the experience of leading four Dutch multiparty governments to the international stage as NATO's new secretary general.

On Wednesday, NATO ambassadors appointed the outgoing Dutch prime minister as the alliance's next secretary general, its top civilian post. Rutte is scheduled to head the world's biggest military organization from October.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that "Mark is a true trans-Atlanticist, a strong leader, and a consensus-builder."

"I wish him every success as we continue to strengthen NATO for the challenges of today and tomorrow. I know I am leaving NATO in good hands," he said.

Rutte will be congratulated by President Joe Biden and his NATO counterparts at a summit in

Washington on July 9-11 focused on support for Ukraine against the Russian invasion, perhaps the alliance's greatest challenge.

Taking to social media, Rutte described his nomination as "a tremendous honor."

"The alliance is and will remain the cornerstone of our collective security. Leading this organization is a responsibility I do not take lightly," he posted on X. He said that he looks "forward to taking up the position with great vigor in October."

The secretary general chairs meetings and guide sometimes delicate consultations among the 32 NATO member countries to ensure an organization that operates on consensus can continue to function. The NATO leader also ensures that decisions are put into action and speak on behalf of all members.

Rutte had to accept Hungary's demand that it should not be obliged to provide personnel or funds for NATO's new support plans for Ukraine. In an alliance that works on consensus, every country has a veto.

# Pro-Israel centrist Latimer tops Bowman in NY

*Associated Press*

George Latimer, a pro-Israel centrist, defeated U.S. Rep. Jamaal Bowman on Tuesday in a Democratic primary in suburban New York that highlighted the party's deep divisions over the war in Gaza.

With the victory, Latimer has ousted one of the most liberal voices in Congress and one of its most outspoken critics of Israel. Bowman has accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza, where thousands of Palestinians have died in military strikes.

Latimer, who got into the race

at the urging of Jewish leaders and had heavy financial backing from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, is a former state legislator who has served as Westchester County executive since 2018.

In a victory speech, Latimer called for more civility following the contentious election.

"We have to fight to make sure we don't vilify each other and we remember that we're all Americans, and our common future is bound together," he told supporters at an event in White Plains.

"We argue, we debate, we find

a way to come together," he said, adding that all representatives had a duty to find ways to work across political divides and prevent the country from splintering.

Bowman had been seeking a third term, representing a district in New York City's northern suburbs. His defeat is a blow to the party's progressive wing and a potential cautionary tale for candidates trying to shape their messaging around the Israel-Hamas conflict.

His loss also disrupted what has generally been a stable pri-

mary season for congressional incumbents. Most current members of Congress have been able to repel challenges from within their party, though GOP Rep. Bob Good is in a tight contest with a rival backed by Donald Trump in a race that is too close to call.

"This movement has always been about justice. It has always been about humanity. It has always been about equality," Bowman said at his election party in Yonkers, conceding that he lost the race but remaining unapologetic about his opposition to the war in Gaza.

## Boebert wins Colorado GOP primary after moving districts

*AP/Report for America*

DENVER — U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert won Tuesday's Republican primary in a U.S. House race that she jumped into last year, surviving a scandal over a video of her at a Denver theater and accusations of carpetbagging after fleeing what could have been a tough reelection bid in her current district.

Boebert's resounding win over four other candidates in the new district across the state from where she lived before showcased her political cachet among Republicans and positions her for a likely easy win in the November general election.

Taking the stage at her election night victory party, Boebert wore a pair of reflective gold sneakers sold by former President Donald Trump and a white "Make America Great Again" hat with his signature across the bill.

"America will rise again, and I am so excited that you all are here to be a part of it with me," Boebert said to applause.

Boebert responded to questions about her switch to the 4th District by saying, "While the crops may be slightly different here in CD4, the values are not."

She promised to fight for pol-

icies including shutting down the southern border and also signaled that she intends to continue her combative style.

"A lot of folks criticize my approach on things," Boebert said, "but I learned very early on in Washington, D.C., that nothing happens without force."

In two other closely watched Republican contests, Attorney Jeff Hurd won the primary for the 3rd District seat currently held by Boebert, and political consultant and talk radio host Jeff Crank defeated Colorado GOP Chairman Dave Williams, who was endorsed by Trump, in the 5th District.

Boebert built national hard-line conservative stardom that likely made it easier for her to weather the scandals of the last year, which included the video of her vaping and causing a disturbance at a musical production of "Beetlejuice."

On Tuesday she beat a group of more traditional, homegrown primary candidates who had far less name recognition and generally less combative political styles: former state Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg; current state Reps. Mike Lynch and Richard Holtorf; and parental rights advocate Deborah Flora.

## Curtis wins Utah GOP primary for Romney's open Senate seat

*Associated Press*

PROVO, Utah — A pair of moderate Utah Republicans won primary elections Tuesday for U.S. Senate and governor over far-right candidates who are loyalists to former President Donald Trump, the latest example of how Utah is a rare Republican state that doesn't fully embrace Trump's stranglehold on the GOP.

U.S. Rep. John Curtis, who won the GOP primary for Mitt Romney's open U.S. Senate seat, and Gov. Spencer Cox still support Trump and many of his policies, but have shown a willingness to stake out different positions on issues where they disagree.

Curtis and Cox both defeated candidates who beat them at the state party convention earlier this year among delegates who lean far right. But in Tuesday's primary, when Utah's more muted GOP electorate had its say, they easily scored victories.

Their wins make Curtis and Cox heavy favorites in November's general election in a state that leans heavily Republican.

A crowd of Curtis supporters gathered at a park in Provo erupted in cheers as the race call came in. The congressman

hugged his children and grandchildren, many covered head to toe in "John Curtis for U.S. Senate" stickers, between congratulatory phone calls from U.S. Sen. Mike Lee and other Utah officials.

"Tonight is a night to celebrate, but tomorrow we go back to work," Curtis told the crowd. "Thank you for the best campaign in the history of the world."

Romney said Utah will be fortunate to have Curtis in the Senate.

"John Curtis is a man of honor and integrity who cares deeply about our fellow citizens and the future of our country. We need more leaders like him," he wrote Tuesday night on X.

Cox, a moderate Republican who took office in 2021, prevailed in the primary after he was booed earlier this year by GOP convention delegates. Cox defeated state Rep. Phil Lyman, a former county commissioner turned state legislator who espoused false claims of fraud following the 2020 election.

"Tonight we restored our faith in the Republican Party and our faith in the people of Utah. They don't respond to the lies, to the made up conspiracy theories," Cox said.



# Midwest flooding leaves behind ruin

*Associated Press*

DES MOINES, Iowa — A house that was teetering on the edge of an eroding riverbank near a Minnesota dam collapsed into the river in the latest jarring example of extreme weather gripping the upper Midwest.

Video shows most of the house owned by the Barnes family falling into the flood-swollen Blue Earth River near Mankato on Tuesday night. The dam's west abutment failed Monday, sending the river around the dam and eroding the bank where the home sat. The family had evacuated the house before the collapse.

"It's been a very scary and hard situation," Jenny Barnes, whose family has run the nearby Dam Store for decades, told KARE-TV on Tuesday before the house fell into the river. She also was worried about the store.

A swath through Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota has been under siege from flooding because of torrential rains since last week, while also

suffering through a scorching heat wave. Up to 18 inches of rain have fallen in some areas, pushing some rivers to record levels. Hundreds of people were rescued, homes were damaged and at least two people died after driving in flooded areas.

Tornado warnings, flash flooding and large hail Tuesday night also added insult to injury for some people in the Midwest. The weather service on Tuesday night also extended flood warnings for multiple rivers in the region. Earlier Tuesday, floodwaters breached levees in Iowa, creating dangerous conditions that prompted evacuations.

Preliminary information from the weather service shows the recent flooding brought record-high river levels at more than a dozen locations in South Dakota and Iowa, surpassing previous crests by an average of about 3.5 feet. The Big Sioux River reached nearly 41 feet in Hawarden, Iowa, on Saturday and nearly 45 feet in Sioux City, Iowa, on Monday, exceeding previous highs by 5 to 7 feet.

# High wind speeds propel growing Oregon wildfire

*Associated Press*

LA PINE, Ore. — Gusty winds fueled a rapidly growing wildfire just outside the central Oregon community of La Pine and prompted evacuations Tuesday.

The fire was estimated to be 2.7 square miles in size Tuesday night, Central Oregon Fire Information posted on the social media site X. The fire was growing and not contained.

Evacuation alerts were sent to 1,100 homes and businesses, said Lt. Jayson Janes of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. He said about 50-60 people sought refuge at a local high school serving as an evacuation center.

It was not clear whether any structures had burned.

Gov. Tina Kotek invoked an order allowing the fire marshal to mobilize resources to help fight the blaze.

Jodi Kerr was packing up her home decor and gifts store in La Pine so she could evacuate.

"It's part of the risk of living in an area like this. It's beautiful, but it's wild," said Kerr, the owner of Meandering Maker Mercantile.

The fire started about one mile south of La Pine. Its cause

was under investigation.

Central Oregon Fire Management Service firefighters used heavy construction equipment adapted to battle wildfires to establish control lines around the blaze. Aircraft dropped fire retardant.

La Pine High School was serving as a temporary evacuation point while La Pine Rodeo Grounds was hosting a livestock and small animal shelter.

TV station KTVZ reported that several U.S. Forest Service campgrounds and trails had been evacuated and closed.

In Southern California, about 2,500 San Diego residents were under evacuation orders as fire crews used aircraft to attack a blaze that broke out Tuesday afternoon near Torrey Pines State Beach.

Authorities closed two Interstate 5 off-ramps as winds pushed flames through about 20 acres of dry brush at a nature preserve and toward homes.

Improved weather conditions aided firefighters as they battled a rural Northern California wildfire that destroyed two structures and threatened the community of Palermo, which is near where the state's deadliest wildfire struck six years ago.

# Hush money trial judge alters Trump gag order

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — A Manhattan judge on Tuesday modified Donald Trump's gag order, freeing the former president to comment publicly about witnesses and jurors in the hush money criminal trial that led to his felony conviction, but keeping others connected to the case off limits until he is sentenced July 11.

Judge Juan M. Merchan's decision — just days before Trump's debate Thursday with President Joe Biden — clears the presumptive Republican

nominee to again go on the attack against his lawyer-turned-foe lawyer Michael Cohen, porn actress Stormy Daniels and other trial witnesses. Trump was convicted in New York on May 30 of falsifying records to cover up a potential sex scandal, making him the first ex-president convicted of a crime.

In a five-page ruling, Merchan wrote that the gag order was meant to "protect the integrity of the judicial proceedings" and that protections for witnesses and jurors no longer applied now that the trial has ended and

the jury has been discharged.

Merchan said it had been his "strong preference" to continue barring Trump from commenting about jurors, whose names have not been made public, but that he couldn't justify doing so. The judge did leave in place a separate order prohibiting Trump and his lawyers from disclosing the identities of individual jurors or their addresses. Trump lawyer Todd Blanche said after the verdict the defense team has destroyed that information.

"There is ample evidence to

justify continued concern for the jurors," Merchan wrote.

Merchan also left in place a ban on Trump commenting about court staffers, the prosecution team and their families until he is sentenced, writing that they must "continue to perform their lawful duties free from threats, intimidation, harassment, and harm."

Those restrictions do not prohibit Trump from commenting about the judge himself or District Attorney Alvin Bragg, whose office prosecuted the case.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Ex-chief sentenced for stealing drugs on job

**MI** HARTFORD — A former Michigan police chief who admitted stealing drugs from her department was sentenced Monday to more than three years in prison.

Circuit Court Judge Kathleen Brickley said Tressa Beltran tarnished the image of law enforcement.

Beltran resigned as police chief in Hartford in southwestern Michigan last year, six months after investigators searched department offices. She admitted stealing prescription drugs, especially hydrocodone, from a disposal box.

Beltran pleaded guilty to drug possession and using a computer to commit a crime. She was accused of selling drugs and using her influence to extort others for drugs.

### Oakland mayor won't resign after FBI raid

**CA** OAKLAND — In her first public remarks since federal authorities raided her home last week, a defiant and furious Oakland mayor said she did not do anything wrong and she has no plans to resign.

Mayor Sheng Thao read from a prepared statement and took no questions Monday, four days after FBI agents carried boxes out of the home she shares with her son and partner as part of an investigation that included searches of two other houses owned by another family.

Thao said the timing of the very public raid was suspicious as it came days after backers of a mayoral recall were informed by the city clerk that they had

collected enough signatures to qualify for the ballot, likely in November. Backers of the recall say public safety and economic vitality have worsened under the politically progressive mayor, and that she should not have fired Police Chief LeRonne Armstrong.

Agents also searched two homes owned by members of the politically influential Duong family that owns the recycling company Cal Waste Solutions. The firm has been investigated over campaign contributions to Thao and other elected city officials.

### Infant mortality up 8% after abortion ban

**TX** AUSTIN — In the wake of Texas' abortion ban, the state's infant death rate increased and more died of birth defects, a study published by Johns Hopkins University on Monday shows.

The researchers looked at how many infants died before their first birthday after Texas adopted its abortion ban in September 2021. They compared infant deaths in Texas to those in 28 states — some also with restrictions. The researchers calculated that there were 216 more deaths in Texas than expected between March and December the next year.

In Texas, the 2022 mortality rate for infants went up 8% to 5.75 per 1,000 births, compared to a 2% increase in the rest of the United States, according to the study in the journal JAMA Pediatrics.

Among causes of deaths, birth defects showed a 23% increase, compared to a decrease of about 3% in the rest of the U.S.

The Texas law blocks abortions after the detection of cardiac activity, usually five or six weeks into pregnancy, well before tests are done to detect fetal abnormalities.

### Judge bars boaters from flooded property

**WI** JEFFERSON — The public's right to use flooded rivers, lakes and streams ends where the water normally stops, a Wisconsin judge ruled Monday.

Jefferson County Circuit Judge Bennett Brantmeier's decision limits the reach of the public trust doctrine, provisions in the state constitution that guarantee public access to navigable waters.

The ruling stems from a lawsuit Thomas Reiss of Ixonia filed last year. He argued in the filing that his land abuts the Rock River. He alleged that when the river floods, airboat users take advantage of the higher water levels to trespass across his land.

He challenged state Department of Natural Resources policies that state the public trust doctrine grants access rights to any part of a navigable waterway as long as the person remains in the water. Reiss argued that interpretation was illegal and public access ends at the ordinary high-water mark, a point on the bank or shoreline where the water regularly stops.

### Wildfire death toll up after woman dies

**HI** HONOLULU — The death toll from the deadliest U.S. wildfire in over a

century has risen to 102, authorities in Hawaii said Monday.

Claudette Heermance, 68, died in hospice care in Honolulu on March 28 of injuries suffered in the fire which devastated the historic town of Lahaina on the Hawaiian island of Maui last year.

The Maui Police Department announced the death, citing information from the Honolulu medical examiner's office.

Heermance suffered burns on 20% of her body and her case was complicated by multiple other conditions, said Dr. Masahiko Kobayashi, the Honolulu medical examiner.

### Court renews ban on 'X' option for sex on IDs

**AR** LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Supreme Court on Monday reinstated an agency rule prohibiting residents from using "X" instead of male or female on state-issued driver's licenses or identification cards.

In a one-page order, justices stayed a lower-court ruling that had blocked the new rule that also made it more difficult for transgender people to change the sex listed on their IDs and licenses. The court did not elaborate for its reasons on staying the decision.

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration said in March that it was rescinding a practice implemented in 2010 that officials have said conflicted with state law and had not gone through proper legislative approval. A legislative panel approved an emergency rule implementing the new policy.

— From Associated Press

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# Morgan left off roster for Paris Games

Associated Press

Veteran forward Alex Morgan won't be going to the Paris Olympics after surprisingly being left off the roster by U.S. national team coach Emma Hayes.

Morgan, a three-time Olympian and two-time Women's World Cup winner, was the most notable absence on the 18-player list announced Wednesday by Hayes.

The roster, the youngest for the United States since 2008, signals a shift in the team as it looks toward the 2027 Women's World Cup under Hayes.

"First off, I want to talk about what an amazing player and human that Alex Morgan has been. I've only had one opportunity to work with her, in the last camp, and I saw first-hand not just her qualities but her professionalism, and her record speaks for itself," Hayes said. "Second of all, it's not easy making a decision that there's only 16 outfield players and two goalkeepers on a roster of 18. So, it was a tough decision, of course, especially considering Alex's history and record with this team. But I felt that I wanted to go in another direction."

The 34-year-old Morgan missed more than a month with the San Diego Wave after she injured her left ankle April 19, but she had since returned. She was also

named to the squad Hayes assembled for a pair of U.S. friendlies against South Korea earlier this month.

Morgan, who has 123 goals in 224 appearances with the national team, missed the latest Wave match last weekend as an excused absence.

"Today, I'm disappointed about not having the opportunity to represent our country on the Olympic stage," Morgan posted on X. "This will always be a tournament that is close to my heart and I take immense pride any time I put on the crest."

The Olympic roster is smaller than the 23 players who are included on teams for the Women's World Cup and other competitions.

Hayes, who had been coaching English club Chelsea, was named coach of the U.S. in November but finished the Women's Super League season. After her arrival in May, she coached the national team's matches against South Korea.

Versatile veteran Crystal Dunn, who in recent years has played on the back line, was included as a forward, along with Trinity Rodman, Sophia Smith, Mallory Swanson and 19-year-old Jaedyn Shaw.

Goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher was included on the squad despite a recent thigh injury that kept her out of the team's last two

matches. Naeher recently returned to play for her NWSL team, the Chicago Red Stars.

Hayes also selected goalkeeper Casey Murphy, while Jane Campbell was included among the team's four alternates, with midfielders Hal Harshfelt and Croix Bethune, and forward Lynn Williams.

Former coach Vlatko Andonovski resigned from the U.S. team following last year's disappointing finish at the Women's World Cup. Twila Kilgore led the team in the interim while awaiting Hayes' return, and now serves as an assistant coach.

Ten players who were on the World Cup roster were included on the Olympic team. The U.S. has won four Olympic gold medals, more than any other team, but has not won gold since the 2012 London Games. The U.S. was eliminated by Sweden in the quarterfinals at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games before earning the bronze in Tokyo.

The U.S. fell to No. 5 in the latest FIFA rankings, its lowest rank ever.

Morgan was also left off the roster for the CONCACAF Gold Cup earlier this year, but was added to the squad when Mia Fishel tore her ACL.

The U.S. opens the Olympic tournament on July 25 against Zambia in Nice.

## Sources: Knicks set to acquire Bridges from Nets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mikal Bridges is being traded by the Brooklyn Nets to the New York Knicks, where he will join Jalen Brunson and his other former Villanova teammates, two people with knowledge of the details said Tuesday.

The first trade between the New York rivals since 1983 will put Bridges in the lineup alongside Brunson, Josh Hart and Donte DiVincenzo, players who helped the Wildcats win two NCAA titles and were the core of a Knicks lineup that reached the Eastern Conference semifinals last season.

The Knicks will pay big to get him, with ESPN reporting they are sending Bojan Bogdanovic to the Nets along with four unprotected first-round picks and

one protected pick. The deal was confirmed to The Associated Press under condition of anonymity because it is not yet official.

The Nets acquired Bridges from Phoenix in the deal for Kevin Durant in February 2023 and he went on to average 26.1 points the rest of that season in helping Brooklyn reach the playoffs. The swingman scored 19.6 per game in 2023-24, but the Nets slipped to 32-50 and missed the postseason.

While his team was struggling, he couldn't help but notice how much fun his friends were having just a few miles away. The Knicks signed Brunson in the summer of 2022, traded for Hart in the 2022-23 season and then signed DiVincenzo last summer, and

reached the second round in both seasons.

The four players helped Villanova win the 2016 NCAA title, and Brunson, Bridges and DiVincenzo were still there when the Wildcats won again in 2018.

They clearly can't wait to get the band back together.

"This is crazy lol," Bridges wrote on X after the deal was reported.

Hart posted a picture of what appeared to be the four players smiling during a group video call.

The teams hadn't made a deal since 1983, when the Nets were still in New Jersey and sent Len Elmore to New York for a future draft pick. This one gives Brooklyn more picks to build through the draft or package in further trades.

The Knicks had picks to move and have been looking to strengthen a team that has been on the rise. They were a game away from their first appearance in the Eastern Conference finals since 2000 last season despite losing a number of key players to injuries before and during the postseason.

Their new addition, on the other hand, doesn't get hurt.

Bridges was the runner-up for Defensive Player of the Year in 2022 and is currently the NBA's most durable player, which should quickly make him a favorite of Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau. He has played in all 474 games in his career — and never missed a game in college, either. — and led the league in minutes played in both 2021-22 and 2022-23.



# Roenick headed to Hockey Hall of Fame

Associated Press

Jeremy Roenick was getting a coffee when he got the call he once hoped for, but some time ago stopped expecting when the Hockey Hall of Fame selection committee meets typically in late June.

Tears welled up in his eyes and then down his face as he was rendered unable to pay, to hold the cup or to speak. It was to him an embarrassing but also a wonderful moment to get the word that he'll be inducted into the hall this November.

"I still can't believe it," Roenick said. "I'm sitting here in shock. I'm shaking. I'm sweating. ... This means the world to me."

His lengthy wait is over after more than a decade, as Roenick was unveiled Tuesday as part of the seven-member class of 2024, the first to include two women's players since 2010. It's the first class with two U.S. women's players in the hall's history: Natalie Darwitz and Krissy Wendell-Pohl.

"Hopefully this is a regular occurrence from here on out,"

Darwitz said. "There's so many players of our generation and past generations that have paved the way to get women's hockey to be where it is today, so hopefully we're the starting line of that happening every single year, that two female hockey players can get into the Hall of Fame."

Two-time Detroit Red Wings Stanley Cup-winning winger Pavel Datsyuk and former Nashville Predators defenseman Shea Weber were elected in their first year of eligibility. Longtime executives Colin Campbell and David Poile were chosen in the builder category.

Roenick's 1,216 points with Chicago, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and San Jose are fourth-most of any U.S.-born player. He has been a candidate since 2012 and passed over each year since.

"I actually did not think it was going to happen," Roenick said on a conference call with reporters. "Having something when you wait for it, and like I waited for it, never knowing if it would happen, it feels like it

means more because it hit me really, really hard."

Datsyuk and Weber were slam dunks to be first-ballot Hall of Famers. Datsyuk dazzled as "the Magic Man" throughout a 14-year career with Detroit in which he excelled offensively and defensively and afterward won Olympic gold with Russia in 2018 when NHL players did not participate.

"Of course I'm pumped," Datsyuk said. "Now I'm a lucky boy. I'm happy."

Weber, only 38, is still under contract — his rights are owned by the Utah Hockey Club that relocated from Arizona and used to be called the Coyotes — but was eligible because injuries ended his playing career in 2021 after helping Montreal reach the Final. A two-time Olympic gold medal winner for Canada in 2010 and '14, he said he screened the hall's call a couple of times not recognizing the number or expecting the news.

"My career obviously it was a great career," said Weber, who played 11 of his 16 NHL seasons

with Nashville and served as captain there from 2010-16. "I wish it could've gone longer and something that the body kind of tells you it's time, and unfortunately it was a tough time because mentally I still felt like I could compete and contribute, but physically I just had nothing left to give."

Poile, who drafted and then later traded Weber, has the most victories of any general manager in league history from his stints running the Washington Capitals and the Predators. He follows his late father, fellow exec Bud Poile, into the hall.

Campbell, who spent more than a decade on the selection committee, has been working high up in the NHL office for more than 20 years since a stint coaching the New York Rangers. He said it was "kind of shocking" to get the call.

Darwitz and Wendell-Pohl were teammates at the University of Minnesota and on the U.S. national team, reaching the Olympic final in Salt Lake City in 2002 and leaving with silver medals.

## Texas A&M baseball coach leaves for arch-rival Texas

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Jim Schlossnagle, who built the Texas A&M baseball program into a national power in three years and led the Aggies to the brink of this season's national championship, is leaving to become coach at arch-rival Texas.

Schlossnagle and Texas A&M officials announced he was leaving Tuesday night without saying where he was going. Texas then confirmed Schlossnagle would be a Longhorn.

"What a home run hire," Texas President Jay Hartzell said.

And a hit to the Aggies.

The Texas-Texas A&M rivalry will get a new dose of venom when Texas joins A&M in the Southeastern Conference next season.

"Although I know many will be upset with my decision, I chose to make a change to join a longtime friend to continue my career

as a college baseball coach," Schlossnagle said in a statement released by Texas A&M. He worked with Texas athletic director Chris Del Conte when the two were at TCU together from 2009-2017.

"The run to the national championship game was truly a remarkable one this year, and I will savor the memories and true friendships I have made there for a lifetime," Schlossnagle said.

Schlossnagle led the Aggies to the College World Series in two of his three seasons with the program. Texas A&M just missed its first national championship on Monday when the Aggies lost a best-of-three series to SEC rival Tennessee in the CWS.

He leaves to take over a Texas program with a deep history of success and six national titles, but none since 2005. Schlossnagle replaces David Pierce, who was fired Monday after eight seasons with the Longhorns.

Contract terms for Schlossnagle at Texas were not immediately announced. The school planned an introductory news conference for Schlossnagle on Wednesday.

Schlossnagle's name immediately surfaced as a likely target for Texas, even as the Aggies were preparing to play in the CWS finals. After Texas A&M lost to Tennessee, Schlossnagle bristled at a question about the Texas job.

"I think it's pretty selfish of you to ask me that question, to be honest with you," he told a reporter. "But I left my family to be the coach at Texas A&M. I took the job at Texas A&M to never take another job again. And that hasn't changed in my mind. ... That's unfair to talk about something like that. But I understand you've got to ask the question. But I gave up a big part of my life to come take this job. And I poured every ounce of my soul in this job and I gave this job every ounce I could possibly give it. Write that."

# Surging Guardians top slumping Orioles

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — José Ramírez hit a three-run homer in the fourth inning, and the Cleveland Guardians slugged their way to a seventh consecutive victory, beating the slumping Baltimore Orioles 10-8 on Tuesday night.

Gunnar Henderson, James McCann, Colton Cowser and Anthony Santander hit home runs for Baltimore, but that wasn't enough to prevent a fifth straight loss for the defending AL East champions. Pitching injuries have caught up to the Orioles, who haven't had a skid this long since dropping six in a row from May 13-18, 2022, days before catcher Adley Rutschman made his big league debut.

Ramírez has gone deep in each of the first two games of this series, and with 237 homers he's now in sole possession of third place on the franchise's career list. His drive to center capped a five-run fourth that put Cleveland up 8-4 on a night when neither starting pitcher lasted past the fourth.

Pedro Avila (2-1) worked two hitless innings of relief for the win. The AL Central-leading Guardians used five pitchers in relief of Logan Allen, who was removed with nobody out in the fourth.

Emmanuel Clase worked the ninth for his 25th save in 28 chances.

**Tigers 4, Phillies 1:** Tarik Skubal struck out seven in seven scoreless innings as host Detroit beat Philadelphia.

Skubal (9-3) allowed three hits and a walk while hitting one batter.

Andy Ibáñez had two hits, including a two-run single in the Tigers' four-run fifth inning, as Detroit ended a seven-game losing streak to the Phillies.

**Rays 11, Mariners 3:** Ben Rortvedt hit a two-run homer and finished with four RBIs, and host Tampa Bay beat Seattle for its seventh win in nine games.

The Mariners got homers from Ty France and Mitch Gar-

ver. AL West-leading Seattle dropped to 2-6 on a nine-game trip.

In a span of six pitches from reliever Mike Baumann, the Rays scored four times in the sixth inning to take a 6-2 lead. After Luis Castillo walked his last two batters, Taylor Walls tripled in a pair of runs on Baumann's first pitch, and Rortvedt followed with a two-run drive.

**Pirates 9, Reds 5:** Bryan Reynolds extended the longest active hitting streak in the major leagues to 22 games with a two-run home run in the first inning and visiting Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati.

It was a rough start for the Reds' Hunter Greene, who was evaluated by training staff after throwing up on the mound in the first inning after issuing a six-pitch walk to leadoff batter Andrew McCutchen.

Reynolds followed with his home run on a 3-2 pitch to put the Pirates ahead 2-0.

Greene (5-3) worked through a three-run, 32-pitch first inning and managed to last four innings, allowing six earned runs on seven hits with two walks and five strikeouts.

**Blue Jays 9, Red Sox 4:** Vladimir Guerrero hit a pair of two-run doubles, George Springer added a two-run homer and visiting Toronto snapped a seven-game skid with a win over Boston.

The Blue Jays tagged Red Sox starter Brayan Bello for seven runs in the third inning, including Guerrero's drive to the triangle in center that scored two runs before Springer homered into Boston's bullpen.

**Brewers 3, Rangers 1:** Joey Ortiz hit a tiebreaking homer in the fifth inning to put host Milwaukee ahead for good and Bryse Wilson threw six shutout innings in the victory over Texas.

Wilson (5-3) entered the game to start the third after Ho-bey Milner — normally a reliever — worked the first two innings.

Milner became the 13th different pitcher to start a game for the Brewers this season, matching the Miami Marlins for the most of any team.

**Mets 9, Yankees 7:** Mark Vientos hit a pair of solo homers and the host Mets held off a furious rally by the AL East-leading Yankees for a win in the first Subway Series game of the season and their 11th victory in 14 games.

Vientos led off the second and fourth innings with home runs off Gerrit Cole (0-1) for the first multi-homer game of his career and became the 12th Mets player with at least two long balls in a Subway Series game.

Harrison Bader and Brandon Nimmo also homered off Cole on fastballs clocked at 91 and 93 mph, respectively.

**Marlins 2, Royals 1:** Nick Gordon's infield hit highlighted Miami's late two-out rally for a win over host Kansas City.

After collecting just two singles in six scoreless innings against Seth Lugo, the Marlins recorded four hits in the seventh, scoring both runs with two out against relievers Carlos Hernández (0-1) and Will Smith.

Otto López doubled and scored the tying run on Gordon's two-out hit. Gordon later scored on Jazz Chisholm's infield hit and Smith's throwing error.

**Astros 5, Rockies 2:** Hunter Brown struck out seven in six scoreless innings and Chas McCormick drove in two runs as host Houston used a big first inning to beat Colorado.

Brown (5-5) allowed two hits to win his fourth straight start and help the Astros tie a season high with their sixth consecutive win.

Jake Meyers tied a season high with three hits and Jose Altuve had two hits and an RBI as Houston moved within a game of .500 at 39-40.

**Dodgers 4, White Sox 3:** Shohei Ohtani hit a leadoff homer and a tiebreaking RBI single,

helping visiting Los Angeles top Chicago.

Led by Ohtani and Freddie Freeman, the Dodgers won for the seventh time in nine games. The NL West leaders are 50-31 at the midpoint of their schedule.

**Diamondbacks 5, Twins 4:** Ketel Marte hit a two-run homer in the first inning and drove in the go-ahead run with an infield hit in the seventh as host Arizona beat Minnesota.

Marte, leading the All-Star voting as the National League's second baseman, hit his 16th homer off Joe Ryan, then beat out a slow roller to second with two out to break a 4-4 tie.

**Giants 5, Cubs 1:** Matt Chapman's two-run single highlighted a three-run eighth inning and six San Francisco pitchers combined for a four-hitter to beat visiting Chicago.

Michael Conforto added an RBI single, and David Villar and Jorge Soler had sacrifice flies to help the Giants win their second straight following a five-game skid.

**Padres 9, Nationals 7:** Jurickson Profar hit a grand slam, and Manny Machado also hit a dramatic home run as host San Diego beat Washington.

Profar's fourth career grand slam and second this season came with one out in the sixth off Derek Law and the Petco Park crowd went wild. Profar craned to watch the ball sail just inside the foul pole and into the home run porch in right field. He tossed his bat aside, patted his chest and gestured to the Padres' dugout as he began his trot.

**Angels 7, Athletics 5:** Mickey Moniak hit his first career grand slam, and Taylor Ward also homered in host Los Angeles' victory over Oakland.

Jo Adell had an RBI double and Logan O'Hoppe added an RBI single for the Angels, who have won three of four after taking two straight from the Athletics.