

National Guard troops aid LA officers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tensions in Los Angeles escalated Sunday as thousands of protesters took to the streets in response to President Donald Trump's extraordinary deployment of the National Guard, blocking off a major freeway and setting self-driving cars on fire as law enforcement used tear gas, rubber bullets and flash bangs to control the crowd.

Many protesters dispersed as evening fell and police declared an unlawful assembly, a precursor to officers moving in and making arrests of people who don't leave. Some of those remaining threw objects at police from behind a makeshift barrier that spanned the width of a street and others hurled chunks of concrete, rocks, electric scooters and fireworks at California Highway Patrol officers and their vehicles parked on the closed southbound 101 Freeway. Officers ran under an overpass to take cover.

On Monday, California Gov. Gavin Newsom planned to file a lawsuit against Trump in response to the National Guard deployment.

"Commandeering a state's National Guard without consulting the Governor of that state is illegal and immoral," Newsom, a Democrat, told MSNBC.

The streets of the sprawling city of 4 million people were mostly quiet Monday morning, the day after crowds blocked off a major freeway and set self-driving cars on fire as law enforcement responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades.

Sunday's protests were centered in several blocks of downtown. It was the third and most intense day of demonstrations against Trump's immigration crackdown in the region, as the arrival of around 300 Guard troops spurred anger and fear among many residents.

The Guard was deployed specifically to protect federal

buildings, including the downtown detention center where protesters concentrated.

Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell said officers were "overwhelmed" by the remaining protesters. He said they included regular agitators who show up at demonstrations to cause trouble.

Several dozen people were arrested throughout the weekend of protest. One was detained Sunday for throwing a Molotov cocktail at police, and another for ramming a motorcycle into a line of officers.

Trump responded to McDonnell on Truth Social, telling him to arrest protesters in face masks.

"Looking really bad in L.A. BRING IN THE TROOPS!!!" he wrote.

In San Francisco, officers monitoring protests arrested dozens of people Sunday night after a group of people refused to comply with an order to disperse, police said in a statement.

Starting in the morning in Los Angeles, the troops stood shoulder to shoulder, carrying long guns and riot shields as protesters shouted "shame" and "go home." After some closely approached the guard members, another set of uniformed officers advanced on the group, shooting smoke-filled canisters into the street.

Minutes later, the Los Angeles Police Department fired rounds of crowd-control munitions to disperse the protesters, who they said were assembled unlawfully. Much of the group then moved to block traffic on the 101 freeway until state patrol officers cleared them from the roadway.

By evening, police had issued an unlawful assembly order shutting down several blocks of downtown Los Angeles.

Newsom requested Trump remove the Guard members in a letter, calling their deployment a "serious breach of state sovereignty."

Chinese aircraft carrier observed near Japanese island

By ALEX WILSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A Chinese aircraft carrier entered Japan's easternmost exclusive economic zone for the first time over the weekend, a move likely to raise tensions in a region already on edge amid growing maritime competition.

Japan's Joint Staff announced Sunday that the Liaoning, China's first aircraft carrier, was observed roughly 185 miles southwest of Minamitorishima, a remote coral atoll con-

sidered Japan's easternmost territory.

The carrier was accompanied by two guided-missile cruisers and a fast combat support ship, according to the Joint Staff news release. The vessels were first spotted around 6 p.m. Saturday.

On Sunday, Japanese surveillance confirmed that fighter jets and helicopters were taking off from and landing on the carrier's deck.

"This is the first time the Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning has been confirmed to conduct

activities east of Iwo Jima," a Joint Staff spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone Monday.

Minamitorishima, also known as Marcus Island, is a tiny speck of land some 1,500 miles southeast of Tokyo. Although it measures just half a square mile, it is of strategic value.

It provides Japan with an exclusive economic zone, or EEZ, of approximately 166,000 square miles where rare-earth minerals have been discovered, according to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government website.

Under the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea, a country's EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles from its coast, granting it special rights to natural resources within that area, even though it does not constitute sovereign territory.

Monitoring and surveillance of the Liaoning were carried out by the Sasebo-based guided-missile destroyer JS Haguro, according to the release.

The maneuvers appear to be part of China's ongoing efforts to build the blue-water capabilities of its naval forces, the Joint Staff spokesman said.

NATO urges 'quantum leap' in spending

By PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

NATO members lack enough air and missile defenses to counter potential threats from Russia, the leader of the trans-Atlantic military alliance said Monday.

Speaking in London, Secretary General Mark Rutte said "a quantum leap" in collective defense is needed amid growing instability in Europe.

"We see in Ukraine how Russia delivers terror from above, so we will strengthen the shield that protects our skies," Rutte said at

Chatham House, a British think tank.

Rutte's remarks came hours after Poland scrambled fighter jets along its border following Russian airstrikes that pummeled nearby western Ukraine.

Kyiv said Moscow launched some 500 drones and missiles at the country overnight on Monday, specifically targeting western regions, and described it as the largest drone attack on the country since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in early 2022.

Nearly 480 of the projectiles were shot down, according to Uk-

raine's air defense forces. No violations of NATO airspace were reported.

Last week, NATO defense ministers agreed to ambitious new defense targets. While the exact details remain classified, Rutte shed some light on them Monday.

In addition to a 400% increase in air and missile defenses, he said NATO needs thousands of additional armored vehicles and tanks as well as millions of artillery shells and must beef up its logistics, transport and medical support. He also said NATO would invest in more warships

and aircraft, procuring at least 700 U.S.-made F-35 fighter jets.

"[Vladimir] Putin's war machine is speeding up, not slowing down," Rutte said before repeating a warning that Moscow could be ready to use military force against NATO within five years.

Rutte's remarks come as President Donald Trump puts pressure on the U.S.'s European allies to increase defense spending to 5% of gross domestic product. Currently, 22 of the alliance's 32 member countries meet or exceed NATO's spending benchmark of 2% of GDP.

Houthi weapons smuggler tied to deadly SEAL raid

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

A Pakistani man has been convicted of federal charges for his role in a scheme to smuggle Iranian-made weapons to Houthi militants in Yemen, including those found during a shipboard raid that resulted in the deaths of two Navy SEALs.

Muhammad Pahlawan, 49, was found guilty Thursday by a federal jury in Virginia of conspiring to provide material support or resources to terrorists, the Justice Department said in a statement the same day.

His sentencing is scheduled

for Sept. 22, with most of the six convictions each carrying a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, the Justice Department said. Pahlawan was the captain of an unflagged small vessel, or dhow, boarded by U.S. Navy forces, including SEALs and members of the U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Security Response Team East, on Jan. 11, 2024, off the coast of Somalia.

During the nighttime raid, Pahlawan instructed his crew not to stop the vessel and to burn it down. He also told them to lie about the ship's cargo to the boarding team and falsely iden-

tify him as a mechanic, according to court records. The interdiction team subsequently discovered ballistic missile and anti-ship cruise missile parts and a warhead, according to the Justice Department. Those weapons have been used by Houthi militants in targeting commercial and military ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden following Hamas' attack on Israel in October 2023.

During the raid, Chief Petty Officer Christopher Chambers lost his grip while attempting to board the dhow and fell into heavy seas.

Petty Officer 1st Class Nathan Gage Ingram jumped into the water to try to save Chambers, but the two were weighed down by equipment and drowned. Both were lost at sea. Ingram was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his "bravery and selflessness."

The January 2024 incident was one of several trips in which Pahlawan worked with Iranian brothers Shahab Mir'kazei and Yunus Mir'kazei to smuggle materials from Iran to the Houthis, the Justice Department said.

Explosion on American base injures 4 Japanese soldiers

By BRIAN McELHINEY
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

Four Japanese soldiers were injured Monday in an explosion at a munitions storage area on Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, according to U.S. Air Force and local officials.

The blast occurred in the northern section of the site as workers were removing rust to help identify unexploded ord-

nance, the Yomitan Fire Department said in a news release.

The facility is primarily used to store munitions left over from World War II.

The fire department said it received the report at 11:17 a.m. One man in his 40s suffered minor to moderate injuries to his left hand, while three others reported minor injuries, including hearing issues.

One of the injured soldiers al-

so suffered scratches on his right arm and left cheek.

All four are members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and were taken to an off-base hospital, a fire department spokesman said by phone.

The facility is managed by the Okinawa Prefectural Government, according to a statement from Kadena's 18th Wing.

No U.S. personnel were involved in the incident, accord-

ing to a follow-up statement.

Unexploded ordnance from the 1945 Battle of Okinawa is still regularly found across the island, particularly at former battlefield and construction sites.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, crews disposed of nearly 22 tons of WWII-era ordnance on Okinawa, according to the Okinawa General Bureau website.

Trump's new travel ban goes into effect

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's new ban on travel to the United States by citizens from 12 mainly African and Middle Eastern countries took effect Monday amid rising tension over the president's escalating campaign of immigration enforcement.

The new proclamation, which Trump signed last week, applies to citizens of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. It also imposes heightened restrictions on people from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela who are outside the U.S. and don't hold a valid visa.

The new ban does not revoke visas previously issued to people from countries on the list, according to guidance issued Friday to all U.S. diplomatic missions.

Unless an applicant meets narrow criteria for an exemption to the ban, however, his or her application will be rejected starting Monday. Travelers with previously issued visas should still be able to enter the U.S. even after the ban takes effect.

During Trump's first term, a hastily written executive order ordering the denial of entry to citizens of mainly Muslim countries created chaos at numerous airports and other ports of entry, prompting successful legal challenges and major revisions to the policy.

Many immigration experts have said the new ban is more carefully crafted and appears designed to beat court challenges that hampered the first by focusing on the visa application process.

Trump said this time that some countries had "deficient" screening for passports and other public documents or have historically refused to take back their own citizens. He relied extensively on an annual Homeland Security report of people who remain in the U.S. after their visas expired.

Measuring overstay rates has challenged experts for decades, but the government has made a limited attempt annually since 2016. Trump's proclamation cites overstay rates for eight of

the 12 banned countries.

Trump also tied the new ban to a terrorist attack in Boulder, Colo., saying it underscored the dangers posed by some visitors who overstay visas. U.S. officials have said the man charged in the attack overstayed a tourist visa. He is from Egypt, a country that is not on Trump's restricted list.

The ban was quickly denounced by groups that provide aid and resettlement help to refugees.

"This policy is not about national security—it is about sowing division and vilifying communities that are seeking safety and opportunity in the United States," said Abby Maxman, president of Oxfam America, a nonprofit international relief organization.

House considers cuts, GOP senators tweak bill

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — As Senate committees continue to release their proposals for the House-passed reconciliation package this week, the House plans to vote on President Donald Trump's proposals to rescind aid and other spending.

"The rescissions request sent to Congress by the Trump Administration takes the federal government in a new direction where we actually cut waste, fraud, and abuse and hold agencies accountable to the American people," House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., said in a statement.

The path to House passage of the \$9.4 billion package is still far from clear. Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., has already indicated he would vote against the package if it includes cuts to the George W. Bush-era program known as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, which provides foreign aid to

fight HIV and AIDS.

The House will also take up bills this week targeting local operations in Washington, D.C. One measure would bar non-citizens from voting in local elections in the District of Columbia. Another seeks to overturn a D.C. policing overhaul law.

While Republicans are often critical of public employee unions, police unions have long been an exception. Scalise's office says the bill would restore "collective bargaining rights for MPD officers and a statute of limitations on disciplinary cases."

Senate Republicans are still working behind the scenes to draft their version of the reconciliation bill.

The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee released its text last week. The draft would shut off the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's funding stream from the Federal Reserve.

NIH scientists denounce public health research cuts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In his confirmation hearings to lead the National Institutes of Health, Jay Bhattacharya pledged his openness to views that might conflict with his own. "Dissent," he said, "is the very essence of science."

On Monday, scores of scientists at the agency sent their Trump-appointed leader a letter titled the Bethesda Declaration, a frontal challenge to "policies that undermine the NIH mission, waste public resources, and harm the health of Americans and people across the globe."

In a capital where insiders often insist on anonymity to say such things publicly, more than 90 NIH researchers, program directors, branch chiefs and scientific review officers put their signatures on the letter.

It addresses the abrupt termination of 2,100 research grants valued at more than \$12

billion and some of the human costs that have resulted, such as cutting off medication regimens to participants in clinical trials or leaving them with unmonitored device implants.

In one case, an NIH-supported study of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis in Haiti had to be stopped, ceasing treatment mid-course for patients.

In a number of cases, trials that were mostly completed were rendered useless without the money to finish and analyze the work, the letter says. "Ending a \$5 million research study when it is 80% complete does not save \$1 million," it says, "it wastes \$4 million."

The four-page letter, addressed to Bhattacharya but also sent to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and members of Congress who oversee the NIH, was endorsed by 250 anonymous employees of the agency besides the 92 who signed.

Ukraine: 479 drones launched by Russia

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia launched almost 500 drones at Ukraine in the biggest overnight drone bombardment of the three-year war, the Ukrainian air force said Monday, as the Kremlin presses its summer offensive amid direct peace talks that have yet to deliver progress on stopping the fighting.

As well as 479 drones, 20 missiles of various types were fired at different parts of Ukraine, according to the air force, which said the barrage targeted mainly central and western areas of Ukraine.

Ukraine's air force said its air defenses destroyed 277 drones and 19 missiles in mid-flight on Sunday night, claiming that only 10 drones or missiles hit their target. Officials said one person was injured. It was not possible to independently verify the claims.

A recent escalation in aerial attacks has coincided with a renewed Russian battlefield push on eastern and northeastern parts of the roughly 620-mile front line.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Sunday that in some of those areas "the situation is very difficult." He provided no details.

Ukraine is short-handed on the front line against its bigger enemy and needs further military support from its Western partners, especially air defenses. But uncertainty about the U.S. policy on the war has fueled doubts about how much help Kyiv can count on.

Ukraine has produced some stunning counter-punches, however. Its recent drone attack on distant Russian air bases was unprecedented in its scope and sophistication.

The Ukrainian General Staff claimed Monday that special operations forces struck two Russian fighter jets stationed at the Savasleyka airfield in Russia's Nizhny Novgorod region located some 650 kilometers northeast from the Ukrainian border. The statement did not say how the planes were hit. There was no immediate comment on the claim from the Russian authorities. Some Russian war bloggers said there was no damage to the warplanes.

Russian officials have said the recent intensified assaults are part of a series of retaliations for Ukraine's strike on air bases that were hosting nuclear-capable strategic bombers.

Migrant acquitted on military zone charge

Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal

An El Paso jury on Thursday rendered a blow to the Trump administration's new attempt to charge migrants with additional crimes for crossing illegally into the U.S. at the Texas and New Mexico international borders.

The "not guilty" verdict in U.S. Magistrate Court in El Paso came in the case of a Peruvian woman charged with the petty misdemeanor of entering restricted military property when she crossed into the U.S. on May 12 west of Tornillo, Texas.

The jury did convict Adely Vanessa De La Cruz-Alvarez of the charge of illegal entry, and U.S. Magistrate Judge Laura Enriquez dismissed the third charge of violation of a security regulation.

It was one of the first times, if not the first, that average citizens have weighed in on the new "novel" approach to immigration enforcement at the U.S. border with Mexico.

The Department of Defense, at the behest of the White House, established temporary military zones in April adjacent to the international border. The defense areas stretch about 180 miles in New Mexico and 63 miles in western Texas and signs are posted about every 100 yards

warning of the restricted zones.

"This is a victory," said Veronica Lerma, one of the El Paso defense attorneys in the case. "We hope this sends a message that there are attorneys willing to set these cases for jury trials and let the community decide." The jury deliberated for more than five hours after a two-day trial.

Efforts to reach the U.S. Attorney's Office in El Paso for comment weren't immediately successful.

Lerma said her 21-year-old client, captured after she walked across the Rio Grande riverbed from Mexico, will likely be deported back to her home in Peru. She was sentenced to time served on the illegal entry conviction.

"She was crying and hugged us (upon hearing she was acquitted of the trespass charge)," said another defense attorney, Shane McMahon. Conviction on the petty misdemeanor would have carried a prison term of up to six months. The violation of a security regulation charge carries up to a year in prison.

The new regulations are part of the Trump administration's push to deter undocumented immigrants from entering the country illegally.

Israeli forces seize aid boat, detain Thunberg, others

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli forces seized a Gaza-bound aid boat and detained Greta Thunberg and other activists who were on board early Monday, enforcing a longstanding blockade of the Palestinian territory that has been tightened during the war with Hamas.

The activists had set out to protest Israel's ongoing military campaign in the Gaza Strip, which is among the deadliest and most destructive since

World War II, and its restrictions on the entry of humanitarian aid, both of which have put the territory of some 2 million Palestinians at risk of famine.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition, which had organized the voyage, said the activists were "kidnapped by Israeli forces" while trying to deliver desperately needed aid to the territory.

"The ship was unlawfully boarded, its unarmed civilian crew abducted, and its life-saving cargo — including baby for-

mula, food and medical supplies — confiscated," it said in a statement. It said the ship was seized in international waters 120 miles from Gaza.

Israel's Foreign Ministry portrayed the voyage as a public relations stunt, saying in a post on X that "the 'selfie yacht' of the 'celebrities' is safely making its way to the shores of Israel."

It said the activists would return to their home countries and the aid would be sent to Gaza through established channels.

The foreign ministry also circulated footage of what appeared to be Israeli military personnel handing out sandwiches and water to the activists, who were wearing orange life vests.

Thunberg, a climate campaigner, was among 12 activists aboard the Madleen, which set sail from Sicily a week ago. Along the way, it had stopped on Thursday to rescue four migrants who had jumped overboard to avoid being detained by the Libyan coast guard.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Lawyer: IDs, weapons not checked in boat shooting

SC LITTLE RIVER — No one was checking IDs or for weapons before a party boat cruise that ended with a shooting that hurt 11 people in South Carolina over Memorial Day weekend, a lawyer for one of the victims said.

Police have announced a second arrest in the May 25 shooting at a dock in Little River, taking a 16-year-old from North Carolina into custody. He and a 19-year-old man from Illinois have been charged with attempted murder, Horry County Police said.

Officials said 120 people partied on the boat and were leaving on the dock when the shooting happened. Ten people were wounded by gunfire, mostly on the lower parts of their bodies, and one person was hurt by a falling speaker, authorities said.

No one appeared to be checking IDs as people got on the boat and there didn't appear to be any security looking for weapons, said attorney Tyler Bailey, who is representing a shooting victim.

Wildlife rescued as officials clean oil spill

MD BALTIMORE — As efforts to clean thousands of gallons of oil from waters near Baltimore's Harbor East continue, officials are working to rescue turtles and other wildlife from the affected areas. Officials said that the leak originated from diesel tanks that supplied fuel to the Johns Hopkins Hospital care facilities.

A.J. Metcalf, a spokesperson

for Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, said it had been an "all hands on deck effort," with officials from various state departments coming together to help identify and remove the impacted animals. Around two dozen geese and ducks had been rescued from the area, along with three turtles — two slider turtles and a snapping turtle — as of Thursday afternoon.

The affected animals are being transferred to Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, a wildlife rescue service in Newark, Del., where they will be rehabilitated before being released back into the wild.

Consultant in AI-made Biden calls goes on trial

NH CONCORD — A political consultant who sent voters artificial intelligence-generated robocalls mimicking former President Joe Biden last year went on trial in New Hampshire, where jurors are being asked to consider not just his guilt or innocence but whether the state actually held its first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

Steven Kramer, who faces decades in prison if convicted of voter suppression and impersonating a candidate, has admitted orchestrating a message sent to thousands of voters two days before the Jan. 23, 2024, primary. The message played an AI-generated voice similar to the Democratic president's and, as prosecutors allege, suggested that voting in the primary would preclude voters from casting ballots in November.

Kramer, who owns a firm specializing in get-out-the-vote

projects, has said he wasn't trying to influence the election but rather wanted to send a wake-up call about the potential dangers of AI.

2 killed in helicopter crash in remote area

AK ANCHORAGE — A helicopter crash killed two people on Alaska's remote North Slope, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

NTSB Alaska Chief Clint Johnson said the agency was notified of a missing helicopter and found wreckage from a crash roughly 30 miles west of Deadhorse, news outlets reported.

The safety board is investigating. It said in a social media post that the helicopter was a Robinson R-66 that went down near the Kuparuk oil field.

Mayor sues after arrest at immigration detention

NJ NEWARK — Newark Mayor Ras Baraka sued New Jersey's top federal prosecutor over his arrest on a trespassing charge at a federal immigration detention facility, saying the Trump-appointed attorney had pursued the case out of political spite.

Baraka, who leads New Jersey's biggest city, is a candidate in a crowded primary field for the Democratic nomination for governor. The lawsuit against interim U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Alina Habba coincided with the day early in-person voting began.

The lawsuit seeks damages for "false arrest and malicious prosecution," and also accuses Habba of defamation for com-

ments she made about his case, which was later dropped.

The suit also names Ricky Patel, the Homeland Security Investigations agent in charge in Newark. Baraka's attorney, Nancy Erika Smith, said they also expect to sue President Donald Trump's administration but are required to wait six months.

Experiment finds tiny particle still acting weird

NY NEW YORK — Final results from a long-running U.S.-based experiment showed a tiny particle continues to act strangely — but that's still good news for the laws of physics as we know them.

The mysterious particles called muons are considered heavier cousins to electrons. They wobble like a top when inside a magnetic field, and scientists are studying that motion to see if it lines up with the foundational rulebook of physics called the Standard Model.

Experiments in the 1960s and 1970s seemed to indicate all was well. But tests at Brookhaven National Laboratory in the late 1990s and early 2000s produced something unexpected: the muons weren't behaving like they should.

Decades later, an international collaboration of scientists decided to rerun the experiments with an even higher degree of precision.

The first two sets of results — unveiled in 2021 and 2023 — seemed to confirm the muons' weird behavior, prompting theoretical physicists to try to reconcile the new measurements with the Standard Model.

— From wire reports

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Thunder open big lead on Pacers to even Finals

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — This has been the Thunder's formula all season: Lose one game, respond in the next.

That's exactly what Oklahoma City did in Game 2 of the NBA Finals.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 34 points, Alex Caruso added 20 off the bench and the Thunder beat the Indiana Pacers 123-107 on Sunday night to tie these finals at one game apiece.

Jalen Williams scored 19, Aaron Wiggins had 18 and Chet Holmgren finished with 15 for OKC. It was the franchise's first finals game win since the opener of the 2012 series against Miami.

"We did some things good tonight. We did some things bad," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "We've got to be able to get bet-

ter and be ready for Game 3."

Tyrese Haliburton scored 17 for Indiana, which erased a 15-point, fourth-quarter deficit in Game 1 but never made a push Sunday. Myles Turner scored 16 and Pascal Siakam added 15 for the Pacers, the first team since Miami in 2013 to not have a 20-point scorer in the first two games of the finals.

Game 3 is Wednesday at Indianapolis, in what will be the city's first finals game in 25 years.

"A bad first half, obviously, was a big problem," Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said. "And we just played poorly. A little better in the second half. But you can't be a team that's reactive and expect to be successful or have consistency."

Gilgeous-Alexander's first basket of the night was a history-maker: It gave him 3,000

points on the season, including the regular season and playoffs. And later in Game 2, he passed New York's Jalen Brunson (514) as the leading overall scorer in these playoffs.

But the real milestone for the MVP came a couple hours later, when he and most everybody else on the Thunder got a finals win for the first time.

A 19-2 run in the second quarter turned what was a six-point game into a 23-point Oklahoma City lead. It might have seemed wobbly a couple of times — an immediate 10-0 rebuttal by the Pacers made it 52-39, and Indiana was within 13 again after Andrew Nembhard's layup with 7:09 left in the third — but the Thunder lead was never in serious doubt.

"They did a good job being disruptive," Siakam said.

"They got out in transition. ... They were super aggressive, which is what they do."

With the noise level in the building often topping 100 decibels — a chain saw is 110 dB, for comparison purposes — OKC did what it's done pretty much all season. It came off a loss, this time a 111-110 defeat in Game 1, and blew somebody out as its response.

Including the NBA Cup title game, which doesn't count in any standings, the Thunder are now 18-2 this season when coming off a loss. Of those 18 wins, 12 have been by double digits.

"That's a long 48 hours when you lose Game 1 like that, coming into Game 2," OKC coach Mark Daigneault said. "The guys did a great job of just focusing on what we needed to do to stack to a win tonight. That's how we got it."

Vets Marchand, Perry shine on hockey's biggest stage

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Brad Marchand and Corey Perry are by far the oldest players in the Stanley Cup Final. Marchand just turned 37 last month, and Perry is 40.

Naturally, they combined for a third of the goals in Game 2 on Friday night, showing this is indeed a Cup final for old men, not for the earth but certainly in hockey. Marchand scored his second of the game to win it in double overtime for the Florida Panthers after Perry got the latest tying goal in the history of the final in the waning moments of regulation to give the Edmonton Oilers hope.

"You saying he's old, or what?" teammate Seth Jones said of Marchand. "I'm going to tell him you said that. He's a dog. He's a gamer. He's a competitor. He brings so much energy to our team on and off the ice."

Where does that energy come from to play 22 important minutes? Anton Lundell hopes it comes from him and fellow linemate Eetu Luostarinen, the pups keeping an older dog like Marchand feeling young.

"He likes to spend time and be around us," said Lundell, who set up each of Mar-

chand's breakaway goals. "He's in great shape, and it seems like nothing is stopping him."

Marchand is not slowing down in his 16th NHL season and 13th playoff run, the first away from Boston. He is in the final for a fourth time, this one 14 years after his first, when the Bruins beat the Vancouver Canucks.

Marchand's two-goal game came on the anniversary of scoring short-handed on Roberto Luongo in the 2011 final. Luongo now works for Florida's front office and posted on social media after the game, "Favorite player of all time."

"Lu is awesome," said Marchand, whose 10 goals in the final are the most among active players, one more than Perry. "Happy to be on his team."

Perry also helped beat a Canadian team in the final even longer ago, when he and Anaheim defeated Ottawa in 2007. He's playing for the Cup for a sixth time in his career and for the fourth time over the past five years, and is still producing at important moments.

Perry's tying goal with 17.8 seconds on the clock in the third period was just the latest example.

"Determination, finding a way to find the puck and then obviously putting it in the net. He's got a skill for that," Edmonton coach Kris Knoblauch said. "Knowing in the playoffs it's hard to score and you need guys around the net and finding ways, he's as good as anybody finding ways to score."

Plenty of folks might be surprised to see Marchand and Perry doing this at their advanced ages. Paul Maurice, who has coached more games than anyone in NHL history except for Scotty Bowman, is not one of them.

Maurice credits rule changes coming out of the 2004-05 lockout and sports science around the league for paving the way for players to contribute later into their 30s and even 40s.

"I think we're coming into an age of that," Maurice said. "A tremendous amount of care for the players, whether that's the meals that they eat, how we travel — there's a lot of money that goes into allowing these players to play. The old guys and the young guys benefit from the rule change, and they're better fit, conditioned athletes over their entire lives."

Alcaraz tops Sinner in five-set thriller

Associated Press

PARIS — Bad starts in Grand Slam finals are nothing new for Carlos Alcaraz, and each time it's happened he has won the tournament anyway.

But not in such dramatic style as Sunday's French Open final, when the Spaniard rallied from two sets down and saved three match points to beat top-ranked Jannik Sinner 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (10-2) for his fifth major title in as many finals.

It was Alcaraz's second straight French Open title with a comeback, after trailing 2-1 in sets to Alexander Zverev in last year's final, and a third major title from behind, following his five-set win against Novak Djokovic in the 2023 Wimbledon final.

"When the situations are against you, then you have to keep fighting. It's a Grand Slam final, it's no time to be tired, no time to give up," Alcaraz said. "Do I enjoy that? The real champions are made in those situations."

In producing one of the great-

est comebacks in the history of the clay-court tournament Sunday, he emulated Djokovic's feat from the 2021 final at Roland-Garros — when the now 24-time major winner fought back from two sets down to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas.

"Today it was all about the belief in myself," Alcaraz said.

Alcaraz became just the ninth player to rally from two sets down and win a Grand Slam final in the Open Era, which began in 1968. The first was Bjorn Borg in 1974 against Manuel Orantes at the French Open, where Ivan Lendl and Andre Agassi achieved the same feat. Rafael Nadal also did so, at the Australian Open, and Sinner too.

It was the first time Sinner had lost a Grand Slam final, but the fifth time in succession he has now lost to Alcaraz, who clinched the 20th title of his career at the age of 22.

Unending drama

It was also the longest-ever French Open final — 5 hours, 29

minutes — in the Open Era. It was so tight that Sinner won 193 points, and Alcaraz had 192.

It might not have been close to those numbers.

For after 3 hours, 43 minutes, Sinner had his first match point. But with just over five hours since the match began, Alcaraz served for the title at 5-4 up.

The drama was still not over.

Sinner made a remarkable retrieve from yet another superb Alcaraz drop shot. At the very limit he could stretch to, Sinner glided his return over the net, the ball landing with the softness of an autumn leaf and out of Alcaraz's reach to make it 15-40.

When Sinner won the game to make it 5-5, it was his turn to milk the applause and he was two points away from victory in the 12th game, with Alcaraz on serve and at 15-30 and at deuce.

But Alcaraz made a staggering cross-court backhand to make it 6-6 and force a tiebreaker, with the crowd going wild when Alcaraz's cross-court winner made it 4-0.

"Just amazing the support you have given me today," Alcaraz said. "During the whole tournament."

Nightmare ninth

Sinner might have nightmares about the ninth game of the fourth set.

Serving to stay in the match at 5-3 down, Alcaraz trailed 0-40 to give Sinner three match points.

On the second match point, and with Alcaraz on second serve, he hit a hurried backhand which landed just out. He then hit a forehand into the net for another unforced error, making it deuce.

The crowd chanted "Carlos, Carlos," and roared when Alcaraz hit an ace, then gave him a standing ovation when his audacious forehand down the line went in — to win that game — and again when he broke Sinner's serve to level at 5-5.

"That's what the real champions have done in their whole careers. Not being afraid," Alcaraz said. "That's why I had my best tennis in crucial moments."

Hamlin pulls away for third Cup Series win of season

Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Mich. — Denny Hamlin is pulling off quite a juggling act.

Hamlin outlasted the competition at Michigan International Speedway for his third NASCAR Cup Series victory of the season and 57th of his career, juggling his roles as a driver, expectant father and co-owner of a racing team that's suing NASCAR.

"The tackle box is full," Hamlin said Sunday. "There's all kinds of stuff going on."

Hamlin, in the No. 11 Toyota, went low to pass William Byron on the 197th of 200 laps and pulled away from the pack to win by more than a second over Chris Buescher.

"Just worked over the guys

one by one, giving them different looks," he said.

Ty Gibbs finished third, matching a season best, followed by Bubba Wallace and Kyle Larson.

The 44-year-old Hamlin was prepared to leave his team to join his fiancée, Jordan Fish, who is due to give birth to their third child, a boy.

Hamlin said he would skip next week's race in Mexico City if necessary to witness the birth. To add something else to Hamlin's plate, he is also co-owner of 23XI Racing with Michael Jordan, which is involved in a lawsuit against NASCAR.

He drives for Joe Gibbs Racing, which hadn't won at Michigan in a decade.

"I think it's the most under-

rated track that we go to," said Hamlin, who has won three times on the 2-mile oval.

Hamlin became JGR's winningest driver, surpassing Kyle Busch's 56 victories, and the 10th driver in NASCAR history to win after his 700th start.

"It feels good because I'm going to hate it when I'm not at the level I'm at now," he said. "I will certainly retire very quickly after that."

Hamlin's team set him up with enough fuel to win while many drivers, including Byron, ran out of gas late in the race.

"It really stings," said Byron, the points leader, who was a season-worst 28th. "We just burned more (fuel) and not able to do much about that."

Hamlin, meanwhile, wasn't

on empty until his celebratory burnout was cut short.

Pole-sitter Chase Briscoe was out front until Byron passed him on Lap 12. Buescher pulled ahead on Lap 36 and stayed up front to win his first stage this season.

Ryan Blaney and Chase Elliott took turns with the lead before a crash brought out the red flag on Lap 67.

Byron took the lead again after a restart on Lap 78 and surged to the front again to win the second stage.

Carson Hocevar took the lead on Lap 152 and was informed soon thereafter that he didn't have enough fuel to finish, but that became moot because a flat tire forced him into the pits with 18 laps to go.

Red Sox power ahead of Judge, Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carlos Narváez put Boston ahead with a three-run homer against his former team in the sixth inning, and the Red Sox overcame two home runs by Aaron Judge in an 11-7 victory over the New York Yankees on Sunday night.

Rafael Devers also went deep as Boston equaled a season high with five longballs to take two of three games at Yankee Stadium in the first series this season between the longtime rivals.

Narváez signed with New York in 2015 and broke into the big leagues with them last year, getting into six games before the Yankees traded him to the Red Sox in December. The rookie catcher gave Boston a 5-3 lead by lifting a fastball from Carlos Rodón (8-4) into the left-field seats.

Judge hit a pair of two-run homers for his fourth multi-homer game this season and the 43rd of his career. He connected in the first off rookie Hunter Dobbins (3-1) and again in the ninth, ending the night with a .396 batting average.

Red Sox rookie Kristian Campbell hit a two-run homer to the short porch in right field off Rodón in the fifth. Abraham Toro and Trevor Story hit back-to-back solo shots in the eighth off Jonathan Loaisiga.

Padres 1, Brewers 0: Manny Machado homered and Ryan Bergert combined with five relievers on a four-hitter as visiting San Diego edged Milwaukee.

The victory enabled the Padres to win the series before they return home to face the reigning World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers for the first time this season.

Machado greeted Rob Zastrow (1-1) by connecting on a 3-2 pitch and delivering a 425-foot drive over the wall in left-center field for his third homer in his last four games.

Rangers 4, Nationals 2: Evan Carter and Jake Burger

each finished a triple short of the cycle as visiting Texas beat slumping Washington.

Carter hit a two-run homer, doubled and singled his first three times up, but struck out in the eighth inning.

Burger doubled, flied out and singled before providing an insurance run with a homer in the eighth.

Mariners 3, Angels 2: George Kirby struck out a career-high 14 during seven innings of two-hit ball, and visiting Seattle snapped its five-game losing streak with a victory over Los Angeles.

Kirby (1-3) issued no walks while retiring both his first 11 and his final 10 batters.

His strikeouts were the most by a Mariners pitcher since James Paxton had 16 on May 2, 2018.

Mets 13, Rockies 5: Pete Alonso and Jeff McNeil each hit two of New York's six home runs, and the visiting Mets routed Colorado to sweep the major league-worst Rockies for the second time in a week.

Brett Baty and Francisco Alvarez also went deep for New York, which completed a 5-2 trip and finished 6-0 against Colorado (12-53) this season.

The Mets moved a season-best 18 games over .500 at 42-24 and opened a 4½-game lead in the NL East over skidding Philadelphia.

Athletics 5, Orioles 1: Max Muncy homered and Jacob Wilson and Tyler Soderstrom each had two hits and an RBI as the host Athletics beat Baltimore to win their first series in more than a month.

Sean Newcomb (1-4) struck out three in three scoreless innings in relief of starter Jacob Lopez for the win.

Grant Holman pitched a scoreless eighth and Mason Miller tossed a 1-2-3 ninth to end it.

Rays 3, Marlins 2: Yandy Díaz hit a tying two-run homer in the fifth inning and his double

in the eighth led to the eventual winning run as host Tampa Bay beat Miami.

Díaz homered off Marlins reliever Valente Bellozo in the fifth, tying the game at 2. He doubled off Bellozo (1-3) with one out in the eighth and was replaced by pinch runner José Cabello, who stole third and scored on a Brandon Lowe's sacrifice fly off Calvin Faucher to make it 3-2.

Guardians 4, Astros 2: Nolan Jones scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error by pitcher Steven Okert in the seventh inning, and host Cleveland beat Houston to avoid a three-game sweep.

Steven Kwan followed with a sacrifice fly, plating Bo Naylor, as Okert (1-2) allowed two runs in his lone inning. The Astros had tied the game at 2-all in the top of the seventh on Cam Smith's two-run double against Tanner Bibee.

Tigers 4, Cubs 0: Jack Flaherty struck out nine in six scoreless innings as host Detroit defeated Chicago and took two of three games in a matchup of two of baseball's top teams.

The AL Central-leading Tigers improved to 43-24, while the NL Central-best Cubs fell to 40-25 in the first matchup this season of 40-win teams. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, June 8 matched the earliest such matchup since 2004. The Yankees and Dodgers played the first such game of last season, also on June 8.

Pirates 2, Phillies 1: Paul Skenes again pitched into the eighth for Pittsburgh before Andrew McCutchen came through with a go-ahead single that inning, helping the host Pirates complete a three-game sweep of Philadelphia.

Skenes lowered his ERA to 1.88 while his record remained at 4-6. The 23-year-old ace gave up one unearned run on two hits with seven strikeouts and one walk in 7⅓ innings before get-

ting pulled for Braxton Ashcraft (1-0), who got the final four outs for his first win in the majors.

Reds 4, Diamondbacks 2: Matt McLain broke a seventh-inning tie with a two-run homer off Zac Gallen, and host Cincinnati completed a three-game sweep with a win over Arizona.

Christian Encarnacion-Strand and Jose Trevino also homered for the Reds, who got back to .500 for the first time since May 30.

Royals 7, White Sox 5: Jonathan India hit a tiebreaking double in visiting Kansas City's two-run seventh inning, and the Royals beat Chicago to avoid a series sweep.

Salvador Perez and Bobby Witt Jr. each hit a two-run homer for Kansas City, which had lost three of four. Jac Caglianone went 4-for-4 in his sixth major league game.

Dodgers 7, Cardinals 3: Clayton Kershaw allowed one run in five innings to record his first win since last August, and visiting Los Angeles beat St. Louis to avoid a three-game sweep.

Kershaw (1-0) threw 82 pitches, gave up six hits, struck out seven and walked none.

Twins 6, Blue Jays 3: Brooks Lee and Christian Vázquez hit back-to-back home runs in the fourth inning and host Minnesota beat Toronto to avoid a sweep and snap a three-game skid.

The Twins trailed 3-2 when Lee led off against Bowden Francis with his fifth homer. Vázquez followed with his second and Minnesota was never behind again.

Giants 4, Braves 3: Mike Yastrzemski drove in three runs as host San Francisco extended its winning streak to five games with a victory over Atlanta.

The Giants swept the three-game series and sent the Braves to their seventh straight loss. Atlanta has lost 14 of its last 17 games and fell to 27-37, a season-low 10 games under .500.