

Cranes arriving to remove bridge wreckage

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A crane appeared at the site of a collapsed highway bridge in Baltimore as crews prepared Friday to begin clearing wreckage that has stymied the search for four missing workers and blocked ships from entering or leaving the city's vital port.

A crane that can lift 1,000 tons — described as the largest on the Eastern Seaboard — had been expected to arrive late Thursday, and a second that can lift 400 tons should arrive Saturday, officials said earlier. They will be used to clear the channel of the twisted metal and concrete remnants of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, as well as the cargo ship that hit it this week.

Divers had already recovered the bodies of two men from a pickup truck in the Patapsco River, but the nature and placement of the debris has complicated efforts to find the four workers still missing and presumed dead.

"The divers can put their hands on that faceplate, and they can't even see their hands," said Donald Gibbons, an instructor with Eastern Atlantic States Carpenters Technical Centers. "So we say zero visibility. It's very similar to locking yourself in a dark closet on a dark night and really not being able to see anything."

Divers must cut up debris to remove it, Gibbons said, likening it to playing pickup sticks, since items at the bottom can't move without disturbing the whole pile.

"So we use underwater burning and underwater cutting solutions to help make those pieces smaller so that when we do cut them away, we're not affecting the entire pile," said Gibbons, who is not involved in the Baltimore effort.

Baltimoreans made morning stops at vantage points to watch for the cranes.

Ship traffic at the Port of Baltimore remains suspended, but

the Maryland Port Administration said in a statement Friday that trucks were still being processed at marine terminals.

"There is a lot of speculation as to when the channel will be reopened," the agency said. "The fact of the matter is we do not know."

Officials have said the collision and collapse Tuesday appeared to be an accident that came after the ship lost power. Investigators are still trying to determine why.

The victims, who were part of a construction crew fixing potholes on the bridge, were from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, officials said. At least eight people initially went into the water when the ship struck the bridge column, and two of them were rescued, officials said.

The crash caused the bridge to break and fall into the water within seconds. Authorities had just enough time to stop vehicle traffic but were unable to alert

the construction crew.

During the Baltimore Orioles' opening day game Thursday, Sgt. Paul Pastorek, Cpl. Jeremy Herbert and Officer Garry Kirts, of the Maryland Transportation Authority, were honored for their actions in halting bridge traffic and preventing further loss of life.

The three said in a statement that they were "proud to carry out our duties as officers of this state to save the lives that we could."

The cargo ship Dali, which is managed by Synergy Marine Group, had been headed from Baltimore to Sri Lanka. It is owned by Grace Ocean Private Ltd. and was chartered by Danish shipping giant Maersk.

The loss of a road that carried 30,000 vehicles a day and the port disruption will affect not only thousands of dockworkers and commuters, but also U.S. consumers, who are likely to feel the impact of shipping delays.

Russia launches 99 drones, missiles on energy system

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Moscow launched a large-scale attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure Friday, with a barrage of 99 drones and missiles hitting regions across the country, Ukraine's armed forces said.

Air raid warnings rang out across the nation, with 10 Ukrainian regions coming under fire, the country's interior minister, Ihor Klymenko, said.

Russia has escalated its attacks on Ukraine in recent days, launching several missile barrages on the capital, Kyiv, and hitting energy infrastructure

across the country in apparent retaliation for recent Ukrainian aerial attacks on the Russian border region of Belgorod. Such sporadic attacks, however, have been common throughout the war.

Large-scale blackouts have already affected Ukraine's eastern city of Kharkiv, where 700,000 people lost power after the city's thermal power plant was hit in a drone and missile attack on March 22.

In the winter of 2022-23, Russia targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure, causing frequent blackouts. Many in Uk-

raine and the West expected that Russia might repeat that strategy this winter, but Russia instead initially focused its strikes on Ukraine's defense industries.

Ukraine's state-owned grid operator, Ukrenergo, said Friday's attack deliberately targeted thermal and hydroelectric power plants across central and western regions.

In a statement, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed that Ukraine's Kaniv and Dniester hydroelectric power stations had come under attack and accused Mos-

cow of risking an ecological disaster.

Zelenskyy also warned that other countries would be threatened if the dams were hit. Dniester Hydroelectric station, located near the city of Novodnistrovsk is about 9 miles from the border with Moldova.

DTEK, Ukraine's largest private electricity operator, also said that three of its thermal power plants had been damaged in the attacks. It announced emergency power shutdowns in the city of Odesa, leaving several neighborhoods without power.

Israel will resume cease-fire talks

Associated Press

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel will return to the table for cease-fire talks with Hamas.

Friday's announcement marks yet another attempt to reach a deal with the militant group that would pause Israel's military offensive in Gaza in exchange for the release of Israeli hostages. Several rounds of negotiations have faltered.

Netanyahu says he has spoken with Israel's lead negotiators and authorized Israeli delegations to join talks in Qatar and Egypt over the coming days.

With the war now grinding through a sixth month, the United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent months trying to negotiate

another cease-fire and hostage release. But those efforts appear to have stalled.

Hamas has previously proposed a phased process in which it would release all the remaining hostages in exchange for an end to the war and full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the opening of its borders for aid and reconstruction and the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including top militants serving life sentences.

Netanyahu has called the demands delusional and vowed to resume Israel's offensive after any hostage release and keep fighting until the militant group is destroyed. Hamas is believed to be holding roughly 100 hostages, as well as the remains of

about 30 people killed in the group's Oct. 7 attack, which triggered the war, or who died in captivity.

Meanwhile, the International Court of Justice issued two new so-called provisional measures Thursday in a case brought by South Africa accusing Israel of acts of genocide in its war in Gaza — charges Israel strongly denies.

The U.N. has reported that 100% of Gaza's 2.3 million people are at severe levels of food insecurity. Aid deliveries have been impeded by Israeli military restrictions, ongoing hostilities and the breakdown of public order, according to the U.N. and international aid groups.

And in the West Bank, Israeli

authorities say an attacker wounded three people Thursday after opening fire at several vehicles on a main route in the territory. The military says it's still searching for the shooter.

Tensions in the West Bank have surged since the start of the war in Gaza, which has killed more than 32,000 people and wounded 74,000, according to the Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its tally, but says women and children make up two-thirds of the dead.

Some 1,200 people were killed in Israel and another 250 people abducted when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel, triggering the war in Gaza.

Russia says 9 detained in relation to deadly attack

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Nine people have been detained by Tajikistan's state security service over suspected contact with the perpetrators of last week's attack by gunmen on a suburban Moscow concert hall that killed 144 people, Russian state news agency RIA Novosti said Friday.

"Nine residents of the Vakhdat district were detained for contact with the persons who committed the terrorist attack at Crocus City Hall on March 22," the agency reported, citing information from an unnamed source in Tajikistan's special services, who said that Russian security forces were also involved in the operation to detain the suspects. Vakhdat lies east of the Tajik capital, Dushanbe.

Those detained are also suspected of having connections with Islamic State, according to

RIA Novosti.

A Moscow court also ruled on Friday that another suspect in the deadly concert hall attack — Lutfullo Nazrimad — should be held in custody until at least May 22, pending investigation and trial. Russian independent news site Mediazona cited Nazrimad as saying in court that he was born in Tajikistan.

Nazrimad is the ninth suspect to face court.

Russian officials previously said that 11 suspects had been arrested, including four who allegedly carried out the attack. Those four, identified as Tajik nationals, appeared in a Moscow court on Sunday on terrorism charges and showed signs of severe beatings. One appeared to be barely conscious during the hearing.

A faction of Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the massacre.

Recalled Japanese health products blamed in deaths

Associated Press

TOKYO — Five people who took a Japanese health supplement have died and more than 100 have been hospitalized as of Friday, a week after a pharmaceutical company issued a recall of the products, officials said.

Osaka-based Kobayashi Pharmaceutical Co. came under fire for not going public quickly with problems known internally as early as January. The first public announcement came March 22.

Earlier in the week, the number of deaths stood at two people. Company officials updated the number of dead to five Friday, and said 114 people were being treated in hospitals after taking products — including Benikoji Cholestel Help meant to lower cholesterol — that contain an ingredient called benikoji, a red species of mold.

Some people developed kidney problems after taking the supplements, but the exact cause was still under investigation in cooperation with government laboratories, according to the manufacturer.

"We apologize deeply," President Akihiro Kobayashi told reporters Friday, bowing for a long time to emphasize the apology alongside three other top company officials.

He expressed remorse to those who have died and have been sickened, and to their families. He also apologized for the troubles caused to the entire health food industry and the medical profession, adding that the company was working to prevent further damage and improve crisis management.

The company's products have been recalled — as have dozens of other products that contain benikoji.

Trump attends wake of slain police officer

Associated Press

MASSAPEQUA PARK, N.Y. — Donald Trump attended Thursday's wake of a New York City police officer gunned down in the line of duty and called for "law and order," as part of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's attempt to show a contrast with President Joe Biden and focus on crime as part of his third White House campaign.

The visitation for Officer Jonathan Diller, who was fatally shot during a traffic stop on Monday, was held in suburban Massapequa on Long Island. Police said the 31-year-old Diller was shot below his bullet-proof vest while approaching an illegally parked car in Queens.

Diller, who was married and had a 1-year-old son, was rushed to a hospital, where he died.

Trump's visit came as Biden was also in New York for a previously scheduled fundraiser with Democratic ex-presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

Trump has accused Biden of lacking toughness and his campaign sought to contrast his visit with Biden's fundraiser.

Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung, in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, noted Trump's visit and said, "Meanwhile, the Three Stooges — Biden, Obama, and Clinton — will be at a glitzy fundraiser in the city with their elitist, out-of-touch celebrity benefactors."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Thursday that the president has spoken with New York City's mayor, but she said she didn't have any "private communications to share" when asked if Biden had spoken to the family of the officer who was killed. Jean-Pierre said the administration's hearts go out to the officer's family.

Speaking aboard Air Force One, she said Biden has supported law enforcement throughout his entire career and took a dig at Trump's rec-

ord. "Violent crime surged under the previous administration," Jean-Pierre said. "The Biden-Harris administration have done the polar opposite, taking decisive action from the very beginning to fund the police and achieving a historic reduction in crime."

After visiting in the funeral home with Diller's family, Trump spoke outside to news reporters with about a dozen local police officers, half in patrol uniforms, half in tactical gear, forming as a backdrop behind him. One officer standing in front held his rifle across his chest.

Trump called Diller's killing "such a sad, sad event, such a horrible thing."

"The police are the greatest people we have. There's nothing and there's nobody like them. And this should never happen," Trump said.

He spoke about Diller's wife and young son, saying he "doesn't know how his life has

been changed."

"We have to get back to law and order. We have to do a lot of things differently. This is not working. This is happening too often," Trump said.

After his brief remarks, he repeated himself as he walked away toward his motorcade and added: "We've got to toughen it up."

He did not elaborate.

Trump has deplored crime in heavily Democratic cities, called for shoplifters to be shot immediately and wants to immunize police officers from lawsuits for potential misconduct. But he's also demonized local prosecutors, the FBI and the Department of Justice over the criminal prosecutions he faces and the investigation while he was president into his first campaign's interactions with Russia.

He has also embraced those imprisoned for their roles on the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

House Republicans invite Biden to testify at hearing

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans on Thursday invited President Joe Biden to testify before Congress in what appears to be a last-ditch effort to deliver on their stalled months-long impeachment inquiry into the Biden family businesses.

Rep. James Comer, chair of the House Oversight Committee, sent a letter to the Democratic president, inviting him to sit for a public hearing to "explain, under oath," what involvement he had in the Biden family businesses. So far, the GOP-led inquiry has not produced hard evidence of wrongdoing while Biden was in public office.

"In light of the yawning gap between your public statements and the evidence assembled by

the Committee, as well as the White House's obstruction, it is in the best interest of the American people for you to answer questions from Members of Congress directly, and I hereby invite you to do so," the Kentucky Republican wrote.

The invitation comes as the months-long inquiry into Biden is all but winding down as Republicans face the stark reality that it lacks the political appetite from within the conference to go forward with an actual impeachment.

Nonetheless, leaders of the effort, including Comer are facing growing political pressure to deliver something after months of work investigating the Biden family and its web of international business transactions.

First Amendment cited as Ga. charges contested

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The charges against Donald Trump in the Georgia election interference case seek to criminalize political speech and advocacy conduct that the First Amendment protects, a lawyer for the former president said Thursday as he argued that the indictment should be dismissed.

The hearing before Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee centered on technical legal arguments. It marked something of a return to normalcy after the case was rocked by allegations that District Attorney Fani Willis improperly benefited from her romantic relationship with Nathan Wade, a special prosecutor hired for the case.

"There is nothing alleged factually against President Trump that is not political speech," Trump's lead lawyer, Steve Sadow, told the judge. Sadow said a sitting president expressing concerns about an election is "the height of political speech" and that is protected even if it turns out to be false.

Prosecutor Donald Wakeford countered that Trump's statements are not protected by the First Amendment because they were integral to criminal activity.

Wakeford pointed out that similar arguments were raised and rejected in the federal election interference case against Trump brought by Department of Justice special counsel Jack Smith.

Federal EV charging stations slow to open across nation

Associated Press

LONDON, Ohio — Within 24 hours of buying his red Ford Mustang Mach-E, Liam Sawyer set off on a camping trip.

Sawyer, who bought the electric SUV “because I think the technology is cool and the range is just long enough,” searched ahead of time for convenient charging stations between his home in Indianapolis and Allegheny National Forest in western Pennsylvania.

About 175 miles into his journey, he stopped at a new public charging station at the Pilot Travel Center along Interstate 70 outside Columbus, Ohio. The station, which opened in London, Ohio, in December with four chargers, can power an EV in about half an hour while drivers buy food and drinks and use amenities.

That first charge cost Sawyer, a 32-year-old civil engineer, about \$20.

The Ohio charging station was

created from the \$5 billion National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program, part of the bipartisan infrastructure bill President Joe Biden signed into law in November 2021. More than two years later, only four states — Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and Hawaii — have opened stations funded by the program.

Biden, a Democrat, has set a goal of creating a national network of 500,000 publicly available chargers by 2030. Easily accessible charging ports are a key part of his effort to encourage drivers to move away from gasoline-powered cars and trucks that contribute to global warming.

That effort took on greater urgency this month as the Biden administration announced new automobile emissions standards that officials called the most ambitious plan ever to cut planet-warming pollution from passenger vehicles. Meeting those

standards would require a huge increase in sales of EVs and plug-in hybrids.

EVs hit a record 1.19 million in sales in the U.S. last year and accounted for 7.6% of the total U.S. vehicle market, up from 5.8% in 2022.

Transportation emissions are the nation’s largest source of greenhouse gases.

The Biden administration says the federal charging program is on track. Several states, including Maine, Vermont and Colorado, are expected to open public charging stations later this year, while more than a dozen others have awarded contracts for projects or broken ground.

“The first two years were about getting the rules right, getting the plans in place,” Federal Highway Administrator Shailen Bhatt said in an interview. “And now what you’re going to see is this year being about the chargers coming online.”

Actor Louis Gossett Jr. dies at 87

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Louis Gossett Jr., the first Black man to win a supporting actor Oscar and an Emmy winner for his role in the seminal TV miniseries “Roots,” has died. He was 87.

Gossett’s first cousin Neal L. Gossett told The Associated Press that the actor died in Santa Monica, Calif. A statement from the family said Gossett died Friday morning. No cause of death was revealed.

Gossett’s cousin remembered a man who walked with Nelson Mandela and who also was a great joke teller, a relative who faced and fought racism with dignity and humor.

“Never mind the awards, never mind the glitz and glamor, the Rolls-Royces and the big houses in Malibu. It’s about the humanity of the people that he stood for,” his cousin said.

Louis Gossett always thought of his early career as a reverse Cinderella story, with success finding him from an early age and propelling him forward, toward his Academy Award for “An Officer and a Gentleman.”

Gossett broke through on the small screen as Fiddler in the groundbreaking 1977 miniseries “Roots,” which depicted the atrocities of slavery on TV. The sprawling cast included Ben Vereen, LeVar Burton and John Amos.

Gossett became the third Black Oscar nominee in the supporting actor category in 1983. He won for his performance as the intimidating Marine drill instructor in “An Officer and a Gentleman” opposite Richard Gere and Debra Winger. He also won a Golden Globe for the same role.

“More than anything, it was a huge affirmation of my position as a Black actor,” he wrote in his 2010 memoir, “An Actor and a Gentleman.”

Schools in path of total solar eclipse prepare for a natural teaching moment

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Seventh grade student Henry Cohen bounced side to side in time to the Beatles’ “Here Comes the Sun” playing in teacher Nancy Morris’ classroom, swinging his arms open and closed around the planets pictured on his T-shirt.

Henry and other classmates at Cleveland’s Riverside School were on their feet, dancing during a session of activities tied to April’s total solar eclipse. Second graders invited in for the lessons sat cross-legged on the floor, laughing as they modeled newly decorated eclipse viewing glasses. Dioramas with softball-sized model Earths and

moons and flashlight “suns” occupied desks and shelves around the room.

Henry said his shirt reflected his love of space, which he called “a cool mystery.” The eclipse, he said, “is a one in a million chance and I’m glad I get to be here for it.”

For schools in or near the path of totality of the April 8 eclipse, the event has inspired lessons in science, literacy and culture. Some schools also are organizing group viewings for students to experience the awe of daytime darkness and learn about the astronomy behind it together.

A hair out of the path of total-

ity, the school system in Portville, N.Y., near the Pennsylvania line, plans to load its 500 seventh through 12th grade students onto buses and drive about 15 minutes into the path, to an old horse barn overlooking a valley. There, they will be able to trace the shadow of the eclipse as it arrives around 3:20 p.m. EDT.

It required rearranging the hours of the school day to remain in session, but Superintendent Thomas Simon said staff did not want to miss out on the learning opportunity, especially at a time when students experience so much of life through screens.

A's fans boycott home opener in protest of planned move

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Many fans at the Oakland Coliseum were still hanging out in the parking lot when Alex Wood delivered the first pitch of the season for the Athletics against the Cleveland Guardians.

And they had no intention of going into the stadium.

In protest of the A's planned move to Las Vegas in 2028, fan groups staged a boycott of the home opener Thursday, purchasing tickets to the game to organize a block party outside the stadium.

A half-hour before the game's first pitch, hundreds of fans gathered in the far corner of the parking lot. They displayed "Sell" T-shirts and flags, threw beanbags at caricatures of team

executives and danced to live music while munching on dinner from food trucks.

"Everyone's in such a good mood because we're all here for the same thing," said Edward Silva, a student at San Jose State and a lifelong A's fan. "Everyone knows the score. So everyone's on the same page, and just creating a wonderful atmosphere."

The A's opened gates to parking lots just two hours before the game to align with what they said was the expected attendance, but fan groups that organized the boycott, including the Oakland 68's and The Last Dive Bar, said it was an attempt to limit the protest.

Dennis Biles said at a rally in the parking lot that Thursday

was the first A's home game he missed in five years.

Biles, a season ticket holder since 2007, chose to attend college locally so he could still go to A's games.

He noted that other fans probably made similar sacrifices to support the club, small or large.

"For a long time, I really believed that the A's were actually dedicated to the community," Biles said. "And I really bought into that whole spiel."

The A's plan to relocate to Las Vegas in 2028, but where they will play after this season remains uncertain with their lease at the Coliseum expiring. Sacramento and Salt Lake City have been floated as options, as well as sharing Oracle Park with the San Francisco Giants.

Franco on administrative leave through start of June

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Tampa Bay All-Star shortstop Wander Franco was placed on administrative leave through June 1 under an agreement between Major League Baseball and the players' association while the investigation continues into an alleged relationship with a minor.

Administrative leave is not disciplinary under the sport's joint domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse policy, and a player continues to be paid. Franco, who has a \$2 million salary this year, has remained in his native Dominican Republic while authorities there investigate and he did not report to spring training.

The Rays opened the season Thursday against Toronto, forcing MLB and the union to make a decision on Franco's roster status.

"I don't have any comment. ... I'm really focused on the guys that are here," manager Kevin Cash said before Thursday's game at Tropicana Field.

Franco has not played since Aug. 12. He was placed on the restricted list for a week on Aug. 14 while MLB launched an investigation following social media posts suggesting Franco was in a relationship with a minor. The Associated Press has not been able to verify the reported posts.

Franco was moved to administrative leave on Aug. 22 and remained there through the end of the season. There is no leave during the offseason.

MLB commissioner hopes Shohei Ohtani investigation will be short, but isn't sure

Associated Press

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred says he hopes the sport's gambling investigation of Los Angeles Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani will be short, but he isn't sure.

MLB announced its investigation Friday after the Dodgers fired Ohtani's interpreter and friend, Ippei Mizuhara, following reports from the Los Angeles Times and ESPN about his alleged ties to an illegal bookmaker and debts of well over \$1 million. Ohtani said Monday he never bet on sports or knowing-

ly paid any gambling debts accumulated by Mizuhara.

"Given the way the story unfolded, it's important in terms of assuring our fans about the integrity of the game that we verify the things that Mr. Ohtani has said, and it's really that simple," Manfred said Thursday.

The IRS has confirmed that Mizuhara and Mathew Bowyer, the alleged illegal bookmaker, are under criminal investigation.

"It's really difficult for the federal authorities to cooperate with us fully when they have

their own ongoing investigation, so I think this is one where we'll have to proceed on our own," Manfred said.

MLB has limited ability to compel cooperation.

"We never have the kind of authority that law enforcement people have, but we manage to get these investigations done and find the facts, and I'm sure we will on this one," Manfred said.

Asked about the length of the investigation, Manfred said: "I hope short, but I just don't know."

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Burnes strikes out 11 as Orioles top Angels

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Corbin Burnes allowed one baserunner in a dominant debut for Baltimore, and Anthony Santander and Cedric Mullins both homered as the Orioles began their AL East title defense with an 11-3 rout of the Los Angeles Angels on Thursday.

Mike Trout hit a first-inning home run off Burnes, but the Angels managed nary a peep against the new Baltimore ace after that. Burnes (1-0) struck out 11 in six innings in his first start after the Orioles acquired the right-hander from Milwaukee in an offseason trade.

Yankees 5, Astros 4: Juan Soto threw out the potential tying run at the plate in the ninth inning of his Yankees debut after starting New York's comeback from a four-run deficit in a season-opening win over Houston.

Oswaldo Cabrera homered and Aaron Judge doubled and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as the Yankees went ahead.

Dodgers 7, Cardinals 1: Shohei Ohtani reached three times in his home debut, and Los Angeles beat St. Louis in the Dodger Stadium opener to a season of sky-high expectations.

Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman homered in the third inning, and Tyler Glasnow pitched six innings of two-hit ball for the Dodgers.

Rangers 4, Cubs 3 (10): Jonah Heim hit a game-ending RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning as World Series champion Texas opened the season with a win over the visiting Chicago Cubs.

Adolis García and Travis Janowski homered for the Rangers, who unfurled the franchise's first World Series championship banner from the rafters high above right field before the dramatic victory.

Blue Jays 8, Rays 2: George Springer, Cavan Biggio and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered to

lead visiting Toronto to a season-opening victory over Tampa Bay.

Alejandro Kirk and Bo Bichette drove in two runs apiece for the Blue Jays.

Padres 6, Giants 4: Jake Cronenworth's two-run double highlighted a four-run seventh inning for San Diego, who beat San Francisco to spoil Bob Melvin's return to San Diego.

Jung Hoo Lee hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the seventh inning of his first big league game to put the Giants ahead 3-2 in the seventh.

But the Padres responded in the bottom of the inning.

Diamondbacks 16, Rockies 1: Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had five RBIs and three hits, including a two-run homer, and host Arizona used a franchise-record 14-run third inning to rout Colorado.

The 14 runs were the most in an inning on opening day for any team since 1900.

Arizona — the defending National League champions — led 2-1 going into the bottom of the third, but then sent 18 batters to the plate and had 13 hits, two walks and a sacrifice fly.

Arizona ace Zac Gallen (1-0) gave up one run on three hits over five innings. He was helped on a pair of stellar defensive plays by third baseman Eugenio Suarez and center fielder Alek Thomas, which both squashed potential scoring opportunities for the Rockies.

Reds 8, Nationals 2: Nick Martini homered twice and drove in five runs in his first opening-day start, Frankie Montas pitched six shutout innings in his Cincinnati debut as they cruised to a win over visiting Washington.

Martini, a 33-year-old designated hitter with his fourth major league team since 2018, hit a two-run homer in the second inning and a three-run shot in the third for a 7-0 lead off Josiah Gray (0-1). Martino became the first Cincinnati player to hit two

homers on opening day since Adam Dunn in 2007.

Red Sox 6, Mariners 4: Tyler O'Neill homered in his fifth straight opening day game to set a major league record, this time against the organization that drafted him, for visiting Boston.

Rafael Devers homered and doubled off Seattle ace Luis Castillo, but it was O'Neill's homer on the first pitch from Cody Bolton in the eighth inning that gave the Red Sox a 6-4 lead.

O'Neill homered the previous four opening days with St. Louis, tying him with Todd Hundley (1994-97), Gary Carter (1977-80) and Yogi Berra (1955-58). He was a top prospect in the Mariners organization before being traded to St. Louis in 2017.

Twins 4, Royals 1: Pablo Lopez allowed one run over seven innings, Royce Lewis homered before leaving with an injury, and visiting Minnesota beat Kansas City to begin defense of their AL Central crown.

Carlos Correa added three hits and two RBIs to back a near-peerless performance by Lopez, who picked up where he left off last postseason. The right-hander allowed four hits and struck out seven without a walk in his first opening-day start. The lone run Lopez (1-0) allowed was a homer to Maikel Garcia, the first batter he faced.

Cole Ragans (0-1) set a Royals record for opening day with nine strikeouts in just six innings.

Pirates 6, Marlins 5 (12): Jared Triolo hit a RBI single in the top of the 12th inning to finish visiting Pittsburgh's rally and beat Miami.

Triolo's line drive single against Marlins reliever Declan Cronin (0-1) scored automatic runner Ke'Bryan Hayes. Pirates reliever Jose Hernandez got the save, retiring 2023 NL batting champion Luis Arraez, Josh Bell and Bryan De La Cruz in his only inning of relief.

Luis Ortiz recorded the win for the Pirates.

After Pirates starter Mitch Keller gave up seven hits, five runs (four earned), walked two and struck out three over 5.2 innings, Pittsburgh's bullpen held the Marlins to just one hit.

Marlins starter Jesús Luzardo allowed two hits and two runs over five innings.

He walked two and struck out eight — one shy of matching the club record of nine opening-day strikeouts set by Josh Beckett in 2004 and Jose Fernandez in 2014.

Tigers, 1 White Sox 0: Tarik Skubal pitched six innings of three-hit ball and visiting Detroit opened a promising season on a winning note, beating the Chicago White Sox.

Skubal and three relievers combined to retire the final 17 batters. The White Sox did not advance past first base and wasted a terrific start by Garrett Crochet.

Javier Báez singled and scored on Andy Ibáñez's sacrifice fly in the third. The Tigers finished with six hits.

Skubal (1-0) picked up right where he left off last year. The 27-year-old left-hander struck out six without a walk in his first opening-day start, after going 4-0 with a 0-90 ERA in his final five outings a year ago.

Guardians 8, Athletics 0: Shane Bieber struck out 11 in six shutout innings, David Fry had three hits and Stephen Vogt won his managerial debut as visiting Cleveland beat Oakland.

Bieber, the 2020 Cy Young Award winner, made his fifth consecutive opening day start and allowed four hits in six innings.

Vogt spent six seasons as a player with the A's in two stints before retiring in 2022. He was hired by Cleveland to replace Terry Francona after a year as a bullpen coach for the Seattle Mariners.

The Guardians scored five times in the fourth inning to knock A's starter Alex Wood out of the game and take a 6-0 lead.

Clemson advances to the Elite Eight

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Chase Hunter scored 18 points and converted a three-point play with 25.7 seconds remaining, and Clemson advanced to the Elite Eight for the second time in school history, beating Arizona 77-72 in a West Region semifinal on Thursday night.

PJ Hall added 17 points for the sixth-seeded Tigers (24-11), who advanced to face No. 4 seed Alabama.

Clemson last reached the final eight in 1980, when there were 48 teams in the NCAA Tournament. Coach Brad Brownell was making his second appearance in the second weekend of March Madness in his 14 seasons with the Tigers.

Oumar Ballo scored 15 points and Caleb Love 13 for second-seeded Arizona (27-9), which had a horrific shooting night, going 5 of 28 (17.9%) from 3-point range. Love

missed all nine of his attempts beyond the arc as the Wildcats failed to reach the Elite Eight for the 12th time overall and first time since 2015.

Alabama 89, North Carolina 87: Grant Nelson converted a go-ahead three-point play with 38 seconds remaining, and Alabama beat top-seeded North Carolina to reach the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament for the second time in school history.

Nelson finished with a season-high 24 points, 19 in the second half, and he blocked RJ Davis' attempt at a tying layup after giving Alabama the lead. Rylan Griffen added 19 points, tying his career high with five 3-pointers, and Aaron Estrada also scored 19 for the fourth-seeded Crimson Tide (24-11).

Bacot finished with 19 points and 12 rebounds for UNC (29-8). Cormac Ryan had 17 points and made five 3-point-

ers, and Davis had 16 points.

East Region

UConn 82, San Diego State 52: In Boston, Stephon Castle had 16 points and 11 rebounds for top-seeded UConn and the defending NCAA champion advanced to the Elite Eight with another double-digit victory, beating San Diego State 82-52 in a rematch of last year's title game.

Cam Spencer scored 18 points and Tristen Newton added 17 points and seven rebounds for the Huskies (34-3), who will play No. 3 Illinois for a spot in the Final Four in Glendale, Ariz.

Seven-footer Donovan Clingan, who played just 23 minutes after getting into foul trouble, had eight points and eight rebounds.

Jaedon LeDee scored 15 of his 18 points in the first half for fifth-seeded San Diego State,

which followed up the only Final Four appearance in school history with another Sweet 16 run.

Illinois 72, Iowa State 69: Terrence Shannon Jr. scored 29 points and Illinois reached the Elite Eight for the first time since 2005, beating Iowa State.

Shannon had 20 points in the first half for the third-seeded Illini (29-8), who never trailed. He broke away for a dunk in the closing seconds and later hit two free throws to help Illinois finally put away the second-seeded Cyclones (29-8).

Illinois made a regional final for the fourth time in the past 40 years and will meet defending champion UConn on Saturday for a trip to the Final Four.

Curtis Jones scored 26 points to lead Iowa State, which came into March Madness having blown out Houston for the Big 12 Tournament title.

Murray's shot in OT helps push Atlanta past Boston

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Dejounte Murray scored a career-high 44 points, including a go-ahead jumper in the final second of overtime to power the Atlanta Hawks to a 123-122 victory over the Boston Celtics on Thursday.

Murray scored all of Atlanta's 11 points in the extra period to give the Hawks their second win over Boston in four days.

Jaylen Brown sank a go-ahead jumper with 6 seconds remaining in overtime to give Boston a 122-121 lead. Murray answered with the jumper over Jrue Holiday.

Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 24 points and De'Andre Hunter had 21 points and 13 rebounds as Atlanta won its fourth straight game to match its longest streak of the season.

Jayson Tatum led Boston with 31 points and 13 rebounds. Kristaps Porzingis scored 20 points and Brown had 18.

Pelicans 107, Bucks 100: Zion Williamson scored 28 points, CJ McCollum added 25 and host New Orleans held off Milwaukee.

Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans, giving him his 32nd double-double of the season, but just his first in 11 games. Trey Murphy III had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Pelicans, who won despite going just 8 of 32 on 3-pointers and shooting just 39.6% (36 of 91) overall.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 35 points and 14 rebounds for Milwaukee. Damian Lillard scored 20 for the Bucks, as did Malik Beasley, who hit six 3s.

Scheffler starts under par again, trails by a shot

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Scottie Scheffler had his 28th consecutive round under par to start the year, a 5-under 65 on Thursday that left him one shot behind Taylor Moore and Wilson Furr in the Houston Open.

Scheffler also extended his streak to 49 holes without a bogey dating to the third round of The Players Championship two weeks ago, where he became the first back-to-back winner in the 50 years of the PGA Tour's flagship event.

The streak that matters is his bid for a third straight PGA Tour victory, a feat last accomplished seven years ago by Dustin Johnson.

That also was the last thing on Scheffler's mind at Memorial Park, his final tournament

before he heads to the Masters as a strong favorite.

"I don't ever really put expectations on myself," Scheffler said. "I try to be committed to my shots. I try to stay patient out there. At the beginning of the week, I'm not looking forward toward Sunday. I'm just focused on today."

Moore came up short of the first hole and missed a 6-foot par putt. That was his lone mistake. He pitched in for eagle on the par-5 third and was on his way, getting up-and-down on the 18th for a 64.

Furr matched him late in the day, holing out from 120 yards for eagle on the par-4 fifth and closing with birdies on the par-5 eighth and par-3 ninth — making a 20-footer on 9.

Malkin hits 20 goals as Penguins win

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Evgeni Malkin scored twice to reach the 20-goal plateau for the 15th time and Pittsburgh extended their mastery over Columbus with a 3-2 win on Thursday.

The Russian became the 31st player in league history to score 20 goals in 15 seasons, doing it with a pair of power-play blasts — one from the right circle, one from the left circle — that erased one-goal deficits.

Drew O'Connor's 12th goal 35 seconds into the third period put Pittsburgh in front to stay. Sidney Crosby had two assists for the Penguins to boost his career total to 995, 11th on the NHL's career list. The longtime captain also has nine points in Pittsburgh's last three games.

Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 17 shots for the Penguins, who improved to 21-3-2 in their last 26 meetings with the Blue Jackets.

Islanders 3, Panthers 2: Semmyon Varlamov made 27 saves and Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored the go-ahead goal midway through the second period to help lift visiting New York past Florida.

Ryan Pulock and Mathew Barzal also scored and Casey Cizikas had two assists for New York.

Aleksander Barkov became the first player in Panthers history to reach 700 points with the franchise with his second-period goal. Vladimir Tarasenko and Aleksander Barkov also scored and Anthony Stolarz made 21 saves for Florida.

Canadiens 4, Flyers 1: Montreal captain Nick Suzuki reached 30 goals for the first time in his NHL career and added an assist to help the host Canadiens beat Philadelphia.

Cayden Primeau made 29 saves as Montreal won its third straight in its Bell Centre return after a five-game trip. Jesse Ylonen also scored and Joel Armia and Jake Evans added empty-netters.

Senators 2, Blackhawks 0: Claude Giroux and Parker Kelly scored, and host Ottawa beat Chicago for their fourth consecutive victory.

Anton Forsberg made 19 saves in his second shutout of the season and No. 5 for his career.

It was Ottawa's first win against Chicago since Dec. 20, 2016, snapping an 11-game skid.

Chicago goaltender Petr Mrazek made 32 saves.

Maple Leafs 5, Capitals 1: Tyler Bertuzzi scored twice to give him six goals in seven games, Joseph Woll made 24 saves in a bounce-back performance and host Toronto beat Washington.

Mark Giordano scored following a long injury absence, and Conner Dewar and Bobby McMann added goals to help Toronto improve to 41-22-9.

Nic Dowd replied for Washington, and Charlie Lindgren stopped 43 shots. The Capitals dropped to 36-27-9 as they fight for a playoff spot.

Hurricanes 4, Red Wings 0: Frederik Andersen made 24 saves, Sebastian Aho and Seth Jarvis each had a goal and two assists, and host Carolina clinched a playoff berth with a win over Detroit.

Aho and Jarvis scored 57 seconds apart in Carolina's four-goal second period, with Martin Necas and Brady Skjei adding the other goals. All four goals came in a 12-minute span. Jake Guentzel had two assists.

Wild 3, Sharks 1: Matt Boldy broke a tie 18 seconds into the third period and host Minnesota beat NHL-worst San Jose to pick up a couple points in their slim playoff bid.

Joel Eriksson Ek also scored, Ryan Hartman added an empty-net goal and Kirill Kaprizov had two assists. Filip Gustavsson made 26 saves and assisted on Hartman's goal to help Minnesota improve to 7-1-3 in its last 11 games.

Mikael Granlund scored and Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 29 shots for the Sharks.

Blues 5, Flames 3: Brandon Saad scored his sixth winning goal of the season, lifting host St. Louis to a victory over Calgary.

Jordan Binnington made 25 saves and also had a pair of assists to give him seven in his career.

Pavel Buchnevich scored two goals including an empty netter while Zack Bolduc and Jake Neighbours also scored for the Blues.

Andrei Kuzmenko scored two goals and Jonathan Huberdeau had the other for the Flames. Dustin Wolf made 14 saves.

Golden Knights 4, Jets 1: Ivan Barbashev broke a late tie and added an empty-netter, Logan Thompson made 39 saves and visiting Vegas beat Winnipeg.

Barbashev made it 2-1 with a high backhand past Connor Hellebuyck with 5:29 left, then scored into the empty net with 1:45 remaining.

Pavel Dorofeyev opened the scoring late in the first period, and Jack Eichel also had an empty-net goal.

Rangers 3, Avalanche 2 (SO): Artemi Panarin and Vincent Trocheck scored shootout goals, Igor Shesterkin made 38 saves through overtime and two more in the shootout to lead the NHL-leading New York Rangers to a win over host Colorado.

Chris Kreider and Kaapo Kakko scored in regulation for New York, which won its fourth in a row to reach 102 points, tops in the league.

Casey Mittelstadt and Devon Toews had goals for Colorado.

Oilers 4, Kings 1: Connor McDavid had a goal and two assists and host Edmonton beat Los Angeles in a matchup of teams jostling for home ice in a possible first-round playoff clash.

Leon Draisaitl had three assists, Evan Bouchard had a goal

and an assist, and Adam Henrique and Cody Ceci also scored for the Oilers.

Stuart Skinner made 32 saves, allowing only Arthur Kaliyev's goal.

Coyotes 8, Predators 4: Logan Cooley had his first NHL hat trick, Clayton Keller added a goal and three assists and host Arizona snapped Nashville's point streak at 18 games.

Nashville had been 16-0-2 since its last loss Feb. 15 at home against Dallas. It was the longest points streak in Predators history and the longest in the NHL this season.

Connor Ingram made 30 saves for the Coyotes.

Kraken 4, Ducks 2: Tye Karlye scored the go-ahead goal with 6:57 left in the third period and host Seattle rallied to beat Anaheim to sweep a two-game set.

Jaden Schwartz, Andre Burakovsky and Matty Beniers all had power-play goals for the Kraken, who overcame a 2-1 deficit after allowing two short-handed goals early in the third period. Jared McCann had three assists and Philipp Grubauer made 21 saves.

Jakob Silfverberg had a goal and an assist and Isac Lundestrom also scored for the Ducks, who are 1-9-1 in their last 11 games. Lukas Dostal stopped 24 shots.

Stars 3, Canucks 1: Roope Hintz had a goal and two assists and Western Conference-leading Dallas wrapped up a playoff spot, beating host Vancouver for their sixth straight victory.

Jake Oettinger stopped 27 shot to help Dallas improve to 46-19-9 and open a three-point lead over second-place Vancouver in the West.

Jamie Benn added a goal and an assist, Jason Robertson had an empty-netter and Joe Pavelski had two assists.

J.T. Miller scored for Vancouver, and Casey DeSmith made 31 saves.