

## Bar is high for enacting police reforms

*Los Angeles Times*

WASHINGTON — Soon after the police officer who killed George Floyd was convicted of murder, President Joe Biden called Floyd's relatives with a promise: Once he could sign legislation named for Floyd to change policing nationwide, he would fly them to Washington for the occasion.

Floyd's family arrives at the White House on Tuesday, the anniversary of his death, but there will be no bill-signing ceremony. Bipartisan negotiations on Capitol Hill have yet to produce a breakthrough, a reminder of the steep hurdles that Biden faces confronting the country's entrenched racial problems and its political polarization.

"If we cannot make progress on this issue in this environment, I question when we ever will be" able to, said Rep. Jim Clyburn, of South Carolina, a close Biden ally and the highest ranking Black member of Congress as the No. 3 House Democratic leader.

When Biden declared victory over President Donald Trump after November's elec-

tion, he said he had won a mandate "to achieve racial justice and root out systemic racism in this country." He marked a rare moment of progress last week when he signed legislation to address hate crimes against Asian Americans, which have increased during the pandemic because the coronavirus originated in China.

"Every time we're silent, every time we let hate flourish, you make a lie of who we are as a nation," Biden said at last week's bill-signing event. He said the law, which passed with bipartisan support, was the "the first significant break" since he took office in a racially fraught moment for the nation.

But getting the next break is proving difficult. Lawmakers are struggling to agree on legislation for nationwide policing changes that could ban chokeholds, set standards for using force and withhold federal funding to local law enforcement agencies that don't comply.

The sticking point remains "qualified immunity," a legal precedent that generally in-

sulates police from civil lawsuits for their actions on the job. Republicans have resisted sweeping away or altering that protection.

Biden set Tuesday as a goal for passing legislation, to mark the one-year anniversary of the killing of Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man who died in a Minneapolis street, his neck pinned for nine-and-a-half minutes under the knee of Derek Chauvin, a white police officer.

Although Congress won't meet that deadline, signs suggest a deal could be reached in the near future.

"While we are still working through our differences on key issues, we continue to make progress toward a compromise and remain optimistic about the prospects of achieving that goal," said a joint statement from the three leading negotiators — Democrats Sen. Cory Booker, of New Jersey, and Rep. Karen Bass, of California, and Sen. Tim Scott, of South Carolina, the only Black Republican in the Senate.

## Nonpartisan budget report: Future nuke costs rising

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The projected cost of modernizing the U.S. nuclear force is rising, including billions of dollars more for nuclear-armed submarines and to update Energy Department nuclear weapons laboratories and production facilities, according to a new analysis by the Congressional Budget Office.

Critics of nuclear modernization are likely to seize on the new figures to bolster their argument for more modest upgrades.

The nonpartisan CBO said Monday that operating and modernizing the nuclear force will cost \$634 billion in the 2021-2030 period. That is an update to CBO's previous estimate of \$494 billion, which covered a different 10-year period — 2019 to 2028. Most of the \$140 billion increase reflects the fact that the new estimate covers a different, more expensive period in the development and fielding of a new generation of nuclear weapons, as well as inflation.

The effort to modernize the nuclear force, which began under the Obama administra-

tion and was advanced by the Trump administration, is generally supported by Congress, although some lawmakers are critical of the enormous costs.

The extent of President Joe Biden's commitment to the nuclear modernization project that began during his time as vice president may be reflected in the 2022 budget his administration is scheduled to send to the Congress on Friday.

Sen. Edward J. Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat who is a long-standing critic of nuclear weapons modernization, said in a statement Monday that Biden has an opportunity to scale back the program and save billions.

"The United States can deter our adversaries and reassure our allies without making an insane investment in nuclear weapons overkill, including capabilities that may invite rather than prevent a nuclear exchange," he said.

The new Congressional Budget Office estimate includes significantly higher costs for modernizing the Energy Department's out-

dated laboratories and production plants, which are central to the broader plan for replacing current nuclear weapons and warheads. CBO projected a \$23 billion increase in those costs for the eight-year period from 2021 to 2028.

Similarly, it projected a \$15 billion increase in the cost of operating the current fleet of Ohio-class nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarines over the next eight years. It said this mainly reflects the Navy's plan to operate some submarines longer than previously planned. Those submarines will eventually be replaced with a new fleet of Columbia-class vessels.

In addition to modernizing nuclear warheads, which is done under the purview of the Energy Department, the Defense Department is planning to replace each of the three "legs" of the nuclear triad — the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, the Air Force long-range nuclear bombers and the Minuteman 3 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs.

# Clashes over military justice erupt in Senate

BY JOHN M. DONNELLY

*CQ-Roll Call*

WASHINGTON — Until Monday evening, by most public appearances, a growing consensus in Congress favored stripping military commanders of authority to decide which sexual crimes in the ranks should be prosecuted and instead empowering independent prosecutors to make those calls.

The reality, senators showed on the floor Monday night, is far more complicated and contentious.

Inside congressional offices, tense disagreements have erupted in recent weeks over whether to authorize military officials outside the chain of command to make prosecution decisions over not just sexual offenses but also nearly all major crimes.

On Sunday, Senate Armed Services Chairman Jack Reed issued a statement saying he plans to include in the fiscal 2022 defense authorization bill a provision moving to independent prosecutors' offices decisions on prosecuting sexual crimes. Such a move was recently endorsed by a so-called Independent Review Commission in the Pentagon, Reed said.

Reed's Sunday morning statement showed that the Rhode Island Democrat and former Army captain, who completely opposed such a change until now, has altered his position, as have many military leaders and dozens of lawmakers.

But Reed endorsed a proposal that would limit the change to covering just sexual crimes. He did not endorse a measure by New York Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand, who chairs the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, that would move prosecution decisions on all major crimes outside the chain of command.

Gillibrand's bill would set up a special office to make such decisions about rape, murder, child pornography and more, with an exception for crimes like desertion that are military-unique.

Reed's statement was widely seen as the latest endorsement for changing how sexual assault is prosecuted in the military.

However, to supporters of Gillibrand's

bill, Reed's move represented an attempt to limit the bill's applicability, in line with Defense Department wishes — and to limit Gillibrand's options.

On Monday, those tensions went public when Gillibrand tried to get unanimous consent to bring her bill up for a vote, and Reed blocked it.

Reed contended that the best way to build legislation is through the committee's input.

"If we want to go ahead and make fundamental change, committee consideration can only assist that change," Reed said.

Gillibrand shot back that the committee has squandered its chance over eight years and has already fully considered the issues. It is time, Gillibrand said, for the Senate to just vote.

Gillibrand's bill, which has been stymied for nearly a decade, this year has garnered at least 63 Senate supporters, enough to overcome a filibuster. Support for her bill and a comparable one in the House by California Democrat Jackie Speier swelled after last April's murder at Fort Hood, Texas, of 20-year-old Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen.

Guillen's alleged killer was another soldier, Spc. Aaron Robinson, who killed himself a few days before the charge was announced. Guillen's family said she had been sexually harassed prior to her killing.

While the difference between Reed's approach and Gillibrand's may not appear major to most observers, Guillen's murder might not be covered by the more limited sex-crimes-only approach endorsed by Reed, supporters of Gillibrand's measure say.

Last April, President Joe Biden signed on to Gillibrand's wider approach to the problem without naming her legislation.

He was asked at a town hall whether he supported "empowering experienced military prosecutors to make prosecution decisions for non-military crimes — serious felonies like rape, murder, and child abuse."

The answer, Biden said, is "yes, yes, yes."

"When I was vice president, that was my position as well," he said. "Look, we have to change the culture of abuse in this country, especially in the armed services."

## Court allows Guam to sue Navy over dump

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

A unanimous Supreme Court decision Monday allows Guam to pursue its lawsuit seeking to force the Navy to contribute toward the roughly \$160 million needed to clean up the toxic Ordot Dump on the island territory.

The decision, written by Justice Clarence Thomas, overturned an appellate ruling that Guam was barred from suing because of a statutory time limit. The case goes back to a lower court where the island will continue litigating the case.

"We are thrilled with the Court's decision in favor of Guam today, which paves the way for the United States to pay its fair share for the cleanup of the Ordot Dump," the attorney representing Guam, Gregory Garre, said in a statement Monday to The Associated Press.

The Supreme Court scrutinized the Clean Water Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act — or Superfund Act — both administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

At issue is the cleanup of the 23-acre Ordot landfill, which the Navy created during World War II for the vast amount of refuse generated during that conflict and later during the Cold War. It also became the primary dump used by Guam residents for decades.

Ordot has leached toxic waste into the Lonfit River and two of its tributaries. Guam faces more than \$160 million in cleanup costs for the site, according to court documents the territory filed.

Guam and the U.S. entered into a consent decree under the Clean Water Act in 2004, which required the island to stop toxic waste from leaching to adjoining waters.

Guam sued the Navy in 2017 under the Superfund Act, whose provisions could force the federal government to contribute to cleanup costs.

The Supreme Court said Monday that only settlements specifically under the Superfund Act can be used to initiate contributions — not settlements under other environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act.

# Australia cites security in closing Kabul embassy

*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Australia is shutting its embassy in the Afghan capital later this week, citing security concerns ahead of the final withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops in what U.S. President Joe Biden has called the end of America's "forever war."

Australia announced the temporary closure on Tuesday, and it is to take effect at the end of the week. A number of other embassies in the beleaguered Afghan capital have sent home nonessential personnel, warned their nationals against traveling to Afghanistan and urged those already in the country to consider leaving.

Several embassies contacted by The Associated Press declined to give details of their plans, but many are reported to have scaled back nonessential personnel. That includes the U.S. Embassy,

which last month ordered home its nonessential workers.

The last of the 2,500 to 3,500 U.S. troops and 7,000 NATO allied troops will be gone by Sept. 11, generating fears that their departures could increase the chaos and insecurity already plaguing the capital. Violent attacks, many of them unclaimed, have targeted journalists and in many cases the country's minority Shiite Muslims. The U.S. blames those attacks on an upstart Islamic State affiliate.

Embassies in the Afghan capital are located in a so-called Green Zone, considered the most heavily protected. Giant blast walls, barbed wire and steel gates hide the embassies from public view. Streets in the capital have been closed to traffic to protect the buildings.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry said in a statement Tuesday it was committed to providing the

embassies with security. But there is a widespread concern about the ability of the government to provide that protection in a city overwhelmed by lawlessness, criminal gangs and insurgent activity.

Australian government lawmaker Dave Sharma, a former diplomat, said the reasons for the embassy's closure were "temporary and really related to the ability to secure our staff and personnel when our defense contingent leaves."

"Whatever we need to do in the short term to protect our people, of course I support, but longer term I think this is a relationship we should and must be in for the long haul," he said in an interview with Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Australia has 80 soldiers still in the country but at its peak there were 15,000 Australian troops deployed to Afghanistan. Australia's military has been embroiled in allegations of war crimes in Afghanistan and Australia has established an investigative agency to build criminal cases against special forces suspected of committing crimes from 2005 until 2016.

Obaidullah Baheer, a political analyst in Kabul, was critical of Australia's decision to close and of other embassies to scale back, saying it undermined faith in the abilities of the Afghan government to provide security.

"Such a move will be seen as a sign of the Australian government's lack of faith in the republic to defend itself against the Taliban," he said.

However Taliban's political spokesman Suhail Shaheen told The Associated Press it would not harm diplomats and would cooperate to ensure their security.

"They should not have any concerns," he said.

## Concern grows over possible energy attacks on Americans

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is facing new pressure to resolve a mystery that has vexed its predecessors: Is an adversary using a microwave or radio wave weapon to attack the brains of U.S. diplomats, spies and military personnel?

The number of reported cases of possible attacks is sharply growing and lawmakers from both parties, as well as those believed to be affected, are demanding answers. But scientists and government officials aren't yet certain about who might have been behind any attacks, if the symptoms could have been caused inadvertently by surveillance equipment — or if the incidents were actually attacks.

Whatever an official review concludes could have enormous consequences. Confirmation that a U.S. adversary has been conducting damaging attacks against U.S. personnel would unleash

calls for a forceful response by the United States.

For now, the administration is providing assurances that it takes the matter seriously, is investigating aggressively and will make sure those affected have good medical care.

The problem has been labeled the "Havana Syndrome," because the first cases affected personnel in 2016 at the U.S. Embassy in Cuba. At least 130 cases across the government are now under investigation, up from several dozen last year, according to a U.S. defense official who was not authorized to discuss details publicly. The National Security Council is leading the investigation.

People who are believed to have been affected have reported headaches, dizziness and symptoms consistent with concussions, with some requiring months of medical treatment. Some have reported hearing a loud noise before the sudden onset of symptoms.

## Mysterious air base being built on island off of Yemen

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A mysterious air base is being built on a volcanic island off Yemen that sits in one of the world's crucial maritime chokepoints for both energy shipments and commercial cargo.

While no country has claimed the Mayun Island air base in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, shipping traffic associated with a prior attempt to build a massive runway across the 3.5 mile-long island years ago links back to the United Arab Emirates.

Officials in Yemen's internationally recognized government now say the Emiratis are behind this latest effort as well, even though the UAE announced in 2019 it was withdrawing its troops from a Saudi-led military campaign battling Yemen's Houthi rebels.

"This does seem to be a longer-term strategic aim to establish a relatively permanent presence," said Jeremy Binnie, the Mideast

editor at the open-source intelligence company Janes who has followed construction on Mayun for years. It's "possibly not just about the Yemen war and you've got to see the shipping situation as fairly key there."

Emirati officials in Abu Dhabi and the UAE's Embassy in Washington did not respond to requests for comment.

The runway on Mayun Island allows whoever controls it to project power into the strait and easily launch airstrikes into mainland Yemen, convulsed by a yearslong bloody war. It also provides a base for any operations into the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and nearby East Africa.

Satellite images from Planet Labs Inc. obtained by The Associated Press showed dump trucks and graders building a 6,070-foot runway on the island on April 11. By May 18, that work appeared complete, with three hangars constructed on a tarmac just south of the runway.

# Biden, Putin to meet for Geneva summit

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will hold a summit with Vladimir Putin next month in Geneva, a face-to-face meeting between the two leaders that comes amid escalating tensions between the United States and Russia in the first months of the Biden administration.

The White House confirmed details of the summit Tuesday. The two leaders' scheduled meeting, set for June 16, is being tacked on to the end of Biden's

first international trip as president next month when he visits Britain for a meeting of Group of Seven leaders and Brussels for the NATO summit.

Biden first proposed a summit in a call with Putin in April as his administration prepared to levy sanctions against Russian officials for the second time during the first three months of his presidency.

White House officials said earlier this week that they were ironing out details for the sum-

mit. National security adviser Jake Sullivan discussed details of the meeting when he met with his Russian counterpart, Nikolay Patrushev.

The White House has repeatedly said it is seeking a "stable and predictable" relationship with the Russians, while also calling out Putin on allegations that the Russians interfered in last year's U.S. presidential election and that the Kremlin was behind a hacking campaign — commonly referred to as the

SolarWinds breach — in which Russian hackers infected widely used software with malicious code, enabling them to access the networks of at least nine U.S. agencies.

The Biden administration has also criticized Russia for the arrest and jailing of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and publicly acknowledged that it has low to moderate confidence that Russian agents were offering bounties to the Taliban to attack U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

## US will provide aid to Gaza without also helping Hamas

*Associated Press*

JERUSALEM — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken vowed Tuesday to "rally international support" to aid Gaza following a devastating war there while keeping any assistance out of the hands of its militant Hamas rulers, as he began a regional tour to shore up last week's cease-fire.

The 11-day war between Israel and Hamas killed more than 250 people, mostly Palestinians, and caused widespread destruction in the impoverished coastal territory. The truce that came into effect Friday has so far held, but it did not address any of the underlying issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, something Blinken acknowledged after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"We know that to prevent a return to violence, we have to use the space created to address a larger set of underlying issues and challenges. And that begins with tackling the grave humanitarian situation in Gaza and starting to rebuild," he said.

"The United States will work to rally international support around that effort while also making our own significant contributions."

He added that the U.S. would work with its partners "to ensure that Hamas does not benefit from the reconstruction assistance."

Blinken will not be meeting with Hamas, which does not recognize Israel's right to exist and which Israel and the U.S. consider a terrorist organization.

Blinken addressed the larger conflict,

saying "we believe that Palestinians and Israelis equally deserve to live safely and securely, to enjoy equal measures of freedom, opportunity and democracy, to be treated with dignity."

But the top U.S. diplomat faces the same obstacles that have stifled a wider peace process for more than a decade, including a hawkish Israeli leadership, Palestinian divisions and deeply rooted tensions surrounding Jerusalem and its holy sites. The Biden administration had initially hoped to avoid being drawn into the intractable conflict and focus on other foreign policy priorities before the violence broke out.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, is fighting for his political life after a fourth inconclusive election in two years. He faces mounting criticism from Israelis who say he ended the offensive prematurely, without forcibly halting rocket attacks or dealing a heavier blow to Hamas.

Netanyahu hardly mentioned the Palestinians in his remarks, in which he warned of a "very powerful" response if Hamas breaks the cease-fire.

Netanyahu spoke of "building economic growth" in the occupied West Bank, but said there will be no peace until the Palestinians recognize Israel as a "Jewish state." The Palestinians have long objected to that language, saying it undermines the rights of Israel's own Palestinian minority.

The truce remains tenuous since tensions are still high in Jerusalem, and the fate of the Palestinian families is not yet resolved.

## Biden set to double emergency extreme weather spending

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden announced Monday that he's doubling U.S. emergency spending to help communities prepare for hurricanes and other extreme weather events, while launching a new effort at NASA to better understand and track the impact of climate change.

The \$1 billion in spending is a small fraction of what the United States spends on weather-related disasters. Last year alone, the nation endured 22 weather and climate-related disasters with losses greater than \$1 billion each. The disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and snowstorms, had a cumulative price tag of nearly \$100 billion.

2021 has already had significant winter storms that caused a deadly blackout in Texas and other states, and officials expect an ongoing severe drought in the West to fuel another destructive summer of wildfires following one of the worst fire years on record in 2020.

FEMA will provide \$1 billion for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, or BRIC program, which helps states, local communities, tribes and territories to develop projects to prepare for and reduce risks from natural disasters.

The White House also said it will develop a new NASA mission concept for an Earth System Observatory that will forecast and monitor natural disasters. The Earth System Observatory will deploy advanced technology in space to improve understanding of interactions between Earth's atmosphere, land, ocean and ice, helping determine how climate change will play out in the near and long term.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man accused of sending road flare to bank teller

**GA** THOMASVILLE — A south Georgia man faces criminal charges after police said he sent a road flare to a drive-through bank teller through a pneumatic tube.

Michael Aaron Bass was arrested in Thomasville after the flare set off a panic when a bank teller concluded it was a stick of dynamite, police said.

The building was evacuated and police responded.

Police Sgt. Scott Newberry said the road flare resembled a destructive device.

### Man, kids poisoned by carbon monoxide at sea

**WA** SEATTLE — A man and his two daughters were hospitalized in Seattle after suffering symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning aboard a boat.

The family was offshore when the father called for help because his daughters were experiencing symptoms common to carbon monoxide poisoning, the U.S. Coast Guard told KOMO-TV.

The father was complaining of dizziness, a young teenage daughter had delirium and loss of motor function and the youngest daughter was unconscious, the Coast Guard reported.

Crews got the family into fresh air and performed first aid. The cause wasn't immediately clear, but the Coast Guard said crews could smell significant exhaust on the family's boat.

### Last cats removed from famed Tiger King Park

**OK** THACKERVILLE — Federal officials have removed the last of the 68 big cats from the private zoo in Oklahoma

that had been the center of the "Tiger King" saga.

A jaguar was among the last cat removed from Tiger King Park in Thackerville, a few miles north of Oklahoma's border with Texas, The Oklahoman reported.

The turbulent beginnings of the zoo were the subject of the final episode of the Netflix true-crime series "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness."

Zookeeper Jeff Lowe moved the cats to a Thackerville property after the August shutdown of the Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park.

The U.S. Justice Department announced the seizure of the federally protected lions, tigers, lion-tiger hybrids and a jaguar as part of a court-approved agreement to resolve a federal complaint against Lowe and his wife, Lauren Lowe, over the animals' care.

### Man threatened cops, drove car into station

**MD** HAVRE DE GRACE — A man drove his car through the Havre de Grace police station after threatening police officers, authorities said.

WMAR-TV reported that police said the man called the police department threatening to go to the station to kill an officer. Officers found the man parked in a car just a mile from the station, but police said when they approached the car, the man tried to run them over.

The man then headed to the police station, where he drove his car through the front lobby, police said.

The man got out and tried to attack officers, but police said they stunned him and he was taken to the hospital.

No officers were hurt.

### Ex-boyfriend shot while breaking into home

**WA** OLYMPIA — The Thurston County Sheriff's office said a 32-year-old Olympia man was shot while breaking into his ex-girlfriend's house.

The sheriff's office said the man had forced his way into his ex-girlfriend's home armed with a metal pipe.

The woman, her children, and her current boyfriend were inside the home at the time.

Police said the woman's boyfriend allegedly shot the man as he was breaking into her home.

The 32-year-old was taken to Harborview Medical Center where he is expected to survive his injuries.

### Animal rescue owners charged with neglect

**OR** PORTLAND — Two Portland residents have been charged with criminal animal neglect after investigators said they mistreated and neglected animals at their pet facility.

Tori Head and Samantha Miller both face 157 counts of second-degree animal neglect, 13 counts of identity theft and 15 counts of second-degree forgery, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

They own Woofin Palooza. Court documents describe it as a training, boarding, rescue and daycare for pets in Northeast Portland.

Investigators found unsanitary and overcrowded conditions in the facility, as well as evidence that the owners gave false documentation of animals' vaccines, according to court documents. Many animals from the facility also got sick and died, court documents said.

### Earthquake hits under south flank of volcano

**HI** HONOLULU — A magnitude 4.2 earthquake struck beneath the south flank of Kilauea Volcano on the island of Hawaii, the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reported.

The earthquake was centered about 9 miles south of the volcano, at a depth of about 5 miles, the observatory said.

Weak to light shaking was reported on the island, according to the observatory.

Ken Hon, the observatory scientist in charge, said the quake had no apparent effect on the Kilauea or Mauna Loa volcanoes.

### Inmates' fight to wed ends after one dies

**NE** LINCOLN — Two convicted murderers who fought Nebraska officials in court for years for the right to marry each other will never have the chance to wed after one of their deaths earlier this year.

The death of Nicole Wetherell, 40, in February also ended the court case she and Paul Gillpatrick, 49, had waged since 2014 before any precedent could be established. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed their case before deciding the state's appeal, according to the Omaha World-Herald.

Gillpatrick and Wetherell had been engaged since 2011, but officials consistently denied their request to marry because the corrections department was unwilling to transport either of them to the other's prison for a wedding ceremony, or allow them to marry via video.

The two met through a mutual friend in the 1990s.

— From wire reports

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# Injuries have limited some elite stars

Associated Press

For the first few weeks of the 2021 season, Mike Trout looked as impressive as ever, and Jacob deGrom was dominant on the mound.

It would have been something to see what they could have done over a full season, but that won't happen now because both are sidelined with injuries.

Availability could play a major role in this year's award races. Trout is hitting .333 with eight home runs and an OPS of 1.090, but he went on the injured list Tuesday with a strained calf. In New York, deGrom has an 0.68 ERA through six starts, but he has pitched only once in May because of side tightness. He's expected back Tuesday.

Aside from Trout, several other recent MVPs have spent time on the IL this season,

including Jose Altuve, Cody Bellinger, Christian Yelich and Giancarlo Stanton. Young stars Fernando Tatis Jr. and Juan Soto have also missed time.

The good news is that it doesn't necessarily take these players long to find their rhythm when they return. In four games since returning from COVID-19, Tatis has 11 hits, four homers and 12 RBIs.

Tatis, who also dealt with shoulder problems earlier in the year, has 13 home runs, just two behind major league leader Ronald Acuña Jr.

## Routs

Amid all the talk about dominant pitching and low hit totals, there were actually a handful of offensive breakouts over the past week.

The White Sox beat the Twins 16-4 on Monday, the Rays beat the Orioles 13-6 on Tuesday and the Giants beat the Reds 19-4 on Thursday. Then on Friday, the Braves hammered the Pirates 20-1 and the Padres beat the Mariners 16-1.

## Line of the week

There were two more no-hitters this week — ho hum — by Spencer Turnbull of the Tigers and Corey Kluber of the Yankees. With all due respect to them, let's focus on some batting exploits. Miguel Sanó and Jesse Winker each had a three-homer game.

Winker's performance gets the nod because he added in additional hit as well, going 4-for-4 with a walk in Cincinnati's 9-4 victory over Milwaukee on Friday night.

# Rays score 7 in 11th, defeat Blue Jays

Associated Press

DUNEDIN, Fla. — Francisco Mejía hit a tiebreaking, two-run single during a seven-run burst in the 11th inning and the Tampa Bay Rays won their 11th straight game, outlasting the Toronto Blue Jays 14-8 on Monday.

Tampa Bay moved within one win of the team record for consecutive victories. In 2004, playing as the Devil Rays, they won 12 in a row under manager Lou Piniella.

After both teams scored twice in the 10th to make it 7-all, the Rays broke loose.

Mejía's hit came off Joel Payamps (0-2) with the bases loaded. Randy Arozarena doubled home a run, Austin Meadows had an RBI grounder, Manuel Margot knocked in two with a triple and Mike Brosseau added an RBI single against Tim Lincecum.

Joey Wendle hit a grand slam as Tampa Bay took a 5-0 lead in the first. The Rays wound up with a four-game sweep and took over sole possession of first place in the AL East.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit two of Toronto's five home runs. The Blue Jays lost their sixth in a

row.

Tampa Bay scored twice in the 10th, but Marcus Semien tied it with a two-run homer off Jeffrey Springs (4-1).

Guerrero's second shot was a two-run drive in the eighth off Ryan Thompson to tie it at 5.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Teoscar Hernández also homered for Toronto, which played its final game at TD Ballpark. The Blue Jays dropped seven of 10 on the final homestand and finished 10-11 at its spring training facility.

The team will now relocate to Buffalo, N.Y., as COVID-19 restrictions in Canada prevent them from playing in Toronto.

**Brewers 5, Padres 3:** Milwaukee closer Josh Hader stopped San Diego's rally in the ninth inning, and ended the Padres' nine-game winning streak.

Fresh off sweeping a nine-game homestand, visiting San Diego trailed 5-0 going into the ninth.

**White Sox 5, Cardinals 1:** Manager Tony La Russa wound up a winner in his first game against the team that ensured his Hall of Fame induction as

host Chicago beat St. Louis behind Lance Lynn's arm and Andrew Vaughn's bat.

The victory ended a three-game skid for the AL Central leaders, who were swept at Yankee Stadium after winning 10 of 13. The NL Central-leading Cardinals dropped their second straight.

**Indians 6, Tigers 5:** Jordan Luplow made a diving catch on Eric Haase's sinking liner to right field with the bases loaded, preserving Cleveland's win at Detroit.

Luplow, who entered as a defensive replacement an inning earlier, made the clutch grab for the final out to help closer Emmanuel Clase escape with his eighth save in nine chances.

**Marlins 9, Phillies 6:** Adam Duvall hit a three-run homer and Jesús Aguilar drove in two runs with a double and a single to help host Miami beat Philadelphia.

Corey Dickerson hit a tiebreaking two-run triple in the sixth, and Garrett Cooper had two hits and an RBI off the bench for the Marlins. They've won five of their past six to close within one game of the NL East-

leading New York Mets.

**Rockies 3, Mets 2:** Austin Gomber pitched two-hit ball through eight innings, Ryan McMahon and Elias Díaz hit second-inning home runs off David Peterson (1-4) and Colorado beat the banged-up New York squad for just its third win in 20 road games this year.

Garrett Hampson boosted the lead to 3-0 with an RBI triple in the fourth that sent rookie Johneshwy Fargas crashing into the outfield wall in an unsuccessful attempt to make the catch. Fargas, the Mets' fourth-string center fielder after injuries to Brandon Nimmo, Kevin Pillar and Albert Almora Jr., sprained the AC joint in his left shoulder.

**Twins 8, Orioles 3:** Mitch Garver hit a two-run double and short-handed Minnesota used a six-run eighth inning to beat visiting Baltimore.

**Mariners 4, Athletics 2:** Kyle Lewis homered and made a diving catch in center field, Yusei Kikuchi pitched six smooth innings before leaving with a possible back injury and Seattle ended a six-game losing streak by winning at Oakland.

# Islanders down Penguins in 2OT for 3-2 series lead

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The New York Islanders spent the better part of four periods hanging on thanks largely to the sheer brilliance of rookie goaltender Ilya Sorokin.

They needed just 51 seconds of the fifth to stun the Penguins, with a major assist from Pittsburgh netminder Tristan Jarry.

Jarry's ill-advised clearing attempt early in the second overtime went right to New York forward Josh Bailey, who raced in to score the winner and give the Islanders a 3-2 victory in Game 5 and a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

"At first, I was just trying to settle (the puck) down and wanted to get a good shot off," Bailey said. "Ultimately, I ran out of time and tried to let one go and was happy to see it go in."

New York can close out the East Division champions on Wednesday night in Long Island, a prospect that seemed improbable for long stretches of a regulation the Penguins dominated.

Sorokin, the 25-year-old Russian, is now 3-0 in the series and hardly seems rattled by the stage. Steady throughout and spectacular when the moment required, Sorokin kept Pittsburgh at bay long enough for his teammates to find a way.

"It all goes on Ilya," Islanders coach Barry Trotz said. "We don't have a chance if he

doesn't have an outstanding game in the first two periods, either."

Sorokin stopped 48 shots, a franchise play-off record for a rookie goaltender, and appears to have New York's goalie situation settled for however long the Islanders last. He started Game 1 when veteran Semyon Varlamov was unavailable, then took a seat as Varlamov took the loss in Games 2 and 3. Trotz turned to Sorokin for Game 4 and he has responded by allowing just three goals over the last seven-plus periods.

"Ilya was playing great and a real backbone for us," Bailey said. "(He) gave us confidence we were going to get the job done."

Anthony Beauvillier scored in the first period on a brilliant rush and Jordan Eberle beat an out-of-position Jarry midway through the third period to pull New York even. Bailey's third — and quite possibly easiest — goal of the playoffs allowed the Islanders to take control of the series.

"As far as character, if you don't have it, you're not going to find a way to win," Bailey said. "We have lots in that room."

Evgeni Malkin scored his first postseason goal in more than two years for the Penguins. Bryan Rust added his second of the series. Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby picked up an assist on Rust's tally to move past Hall of Famer Brett Hull and into seventh-place on the NHL's career playoff scoring list.

# Rookie goalie Knight keeps Panthers in it

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — The Florida Panthers entrusted their season to a rookie goalie making his playoff debut.

Spencer Knight delivered, in a huge way. The 20-year-old Knight stopped 36 shots, MacKenzie Weegar and Patrick Hornqvist each had a goal and an assist, and the Panthers beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-1 on Monday night in Game 5 of their Central Division playoff series.

The Lightning still lead the best-of-seven series 3-2 and host Game 6 on Wednesday night. But Knight — the third different goalie to start for Florida in this series — stymied the reigning Stanley Cup champions.

"I was just trying to have fun," Knight said. "You know, it's still hockey, right? I'm on this ice every single day. It's just a different setting."

Mason Marchment also scored for the Panthers, and Frank Vatrano added an empty-netter with 14.6 seconds left. Aleksander Barkov and Jonathan Huberdeau each had two assists.

Ross Colton had Tampa Bay's goal, and Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 34 shots.

Knight was 4-0-0 after turning pro following his sophomore season at Boston College and signing with the Panthers. And following the struggles of Sergei Bobrovsky and Chris Driedger in the first four games of the series — they gave up a combined 19 goals — the Panthers began dropping hints on Sunday that it would be Knight's turn.

# Wild make most of just 14 shots against Knights

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Minnesota Wild scored four goals in the first four games of their opening-round playoff series with the Vegas Golden Knights and fell behind 3-1 in the series.

On Monday night, they matched that to stave off elimination, despite having only 14 shots on goal in Game 5.

Cam Talbot made 37 saves and the Wild beat the Golden Knights 4-2 in front of 12,156 raucous fans, the largest crowd in Vegas this season.

Jordan Greenway's second-period goal was the winner for Minnesota, which also got goals from Kirill Kaprizov, Zach Parise and Nico Sturm.

Vegas, which was looking to close out a playoff series at home for the first time, leads the series 3-2. Game 6 is scheduled for Wednesday

in St. Paul, Minn.

The road team is 4-1 in the series.

"Guys are committed," Wild coach Dean Evason said. "They're committed to each other. The vibe that they had and the feeling they had toward each other, we knew we were going to have the effort we had."

Mark Stone and Alec Martinez scored for the Golden Knights. Marc-Andre Fleury, who allowed four goals in the first four games, made 10 saves. It marked the first time Fleury allowed more than two goals in a game in 14 contests.

Vegas dropped to 2-3 in Game 4 situations when leading a series 3-1.

**Maple Leafs 2, Canadiens 1:** Morgan Rielly scored the go-ahead goal in the second period, Jack Campbell made 28 saves and visiting Toronto edged Montreal to take a 2-1 lead in their

first-round playoff series.

William Nylander scored his third goal in as many games for the Maple Leafs, who haven't won a playoff series since 2004 and can go up 3-1 in Game 4 back at the Bell Centre on Tuesday night.

Toronto remained without captain John Tavares, who's expected to miss at least two weeks with a concussion and knee injury suffered in Game 1. Nick Foligno also sat out the game with a lower-body injury.

**Jets 4, Oilers 3 (3 OT):** Kyle Connor scored 6:52 into the third overtime period, lifting host Winnipeg to a first-round series sweep of Edmonton.

Mark Scheifele scored twice and Mason Appleton added a goal for the Jets, who eliminated the Oilers in the playoffs for the first time. It was the longest game in Winnipeg's history.

# Jokic scores 38, Nuggets even series

*Associated Press*

DENVER — Nikola Jokic and the Denver Nuggets played with an unspoken sense of urgency.

“Because if you’re going to talk about it, you’re not going to do it,” the big man reasoned.

So no talk, just a much more physical mentality.

Jokic scored 38 points to overcome a three-point shooting barrage from Damian Lillard and the Nuggets evened the first-round series by beating the Portland Trail Blazers 128-109 on Monday night in a chip-py Game 2.

“They picked up the aggressiveness and we did it, too,” Jokic said. “We met their aggressiveness, maybe even a little bit higher.”

Jokic also had eight rebounds and five assists, which was four more than he dished out in Game 1 when the Blazers made sure the big man didn’t beat him with his pinpoint passing.

The third-seeded Nuggets had few answers for Lillard early on as the dynamic playmaker scored 32 of his 42 points in the

first half. His eight three-pointers before intermission tied an NBA playoff record for most in a half. Lillard finished 9 of 16 from three-point range.

A change of plans at halftime helped slow down Lillard. Denver put the 6-foot-9 Aaron Gordon on the 6-2 guard.

“I looked at the coaching staff and said, ‘I got him,’” said Gordon, who was acquired from Orlando in late March. “It could be a point guard or it could be a center — I’m there for it all.”

Lillard’s already thinking ahead to Game 3 in Portland on Thursday and what he will do to counteract Gordon’s defensive tenacity.

“Just moving around more off the ball, getting some more off-ball sets,” Lillard said. “Things like that, you can typically get a little bit of space.”

It was a physical affair, with four technical fouls being issued (three on the Nuggets, including one on Jokic) and two flagrant-1 calls (CJ McCollum and Carmelo Anthony).

“It was chippy and that’s the way it should be,” Denver coach Michael Malone said. “I loved it. That’s my kind of game right

there.” Up by 20 points midway through the fourth quarter, the Nuggets withstood a mini-rally from Portland before Facundo Campazzo sealed the win with a three-pointer. Monte Morris also had a big block on Lillard.

Michael Porter Jr. found his rhythm and finished with 18 points. He was 3-for-6 from three-point range after going 1-of-10 from long distance in Game 1.

The usually sure-handed Blazers committed 21 turnovers. They also were outscored 54-32 in the paint, 16-4 in fast-break points and 21-4 in second-chance points.

“They outplayed us top to bottom — other than Dame’s (42),” Portland coach Terry Stotts said. “We have to be more aggressive, there’s no question.”

While Lillard lit it up — and McCollum added 21 — Denver kept Anthony (five points) and Anfernee Simons (three) in check. They hurt the Nuggets coming off the bench in the series opener with a combined 32 points.

The game turned physical early in the first, with Jusuf Nurkic and Jokic getting tangled up and Jokic falling to the floor.

## Bucks start quickly, take 2-0 series lead over Heat

*Associated Press*

MILWAUKEE — When the Milwaukee Bucks conducted a roster makeover in the wake of an early playoff exit, the addition of Bryn Forbes didn’t earn nearly as much notice as some other moves.

Looks pretty good right now.

Forbes made six three-pointers on his way to 22 points, and the Milwaukee Bucks routed the Miami Heat 132-98 on Monday night for a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

The 27-year-old Forbes spent his first four seasons with San Antonio, but he signed with Milwaukee in free agency in November.

“That was a huge part in me coming here,” Forbes said. “You know that there would be these opportunities and we would be in the playoffs. ... It’s just great to be in this position, be in the playoffs again and have an opportu-

nity and stage.”

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 31 points, 13 rebounds and six assists for the Bucks, who were eliminated by the Heat in the second round of last year’s playoffs.

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Thursday in Miami.

Milwaukee shot 22-for-53 from three-point range — including 15-for-29 in the first half — and never trailed while leading by as many as 36 points. The Bucks’ 22 three-pointers were their highest total ever in a playoff game.

“I don’t think we need to give ourselves a pep talk,” said the Heat’s Bam Adebayo, who scored 16 points. “We’re grown men. At the end of the day, we are down 2-0. We know what we’ve got to do.”

Milwaukee’s two victories in this series couldn’t have looked more different.

The Bucks needed Khris Middleton’s tiebreaking jumper with 0.5 seconds left in overtime to pull out a 109-107 victory in Game 1. Milwaukee essentially put away Game 2 in the first quarter when its three-point attack went from fizzling to sizzling.

“They made a lot of shots, but we didn’t make anything difficult on them or take anything away,” said Miami’s Jimmy Butler, who scored 10 points.

The Bucks shot 5-for-31 from behind the arc and made their fewest three-pointers of the season Saturday. Milwaukee was 10-for-15 on three-point attempts in the first quarter alone Monday.

The Bucks led 46-20 at the end of the opening period and 78-51 at the break, posting the highest first-half point total in their playoff history.

“It’s just how the game goes,”

Forbes said. “It’s ebbs and flows. Some games you’re open a lot more. Some games you aren’t. Tonight I think we moved the ball great and had a lot of open shots.”

Forbes came off the bench to score 14 points in the first quarter while shooting 5-of-6 overall and 4-for-5 on three-pointers.

Middleton added 17 points and Pat Connaughton had 15 while shooting 5-for-9 from beyond the arc.

Jrue Holiday’s 15 assists were one off Milwaukee’s playoff record shared by Paul Pressey and Oscar Robertson. Holiday also had 11 points and seven rebounds.

Miami’s Dewayne Dedmon had 19 points and nine rebounds. Goran Dragic had 18 points.

Miami’s Trevor Ariza and Kendrick Nunn picked up flagrant-one fouls on separate plays in the third quarter.