

## Official: US intel helped sink Russian ship

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. says it shared intelligence with Ukraine about the location of the Russian missile cruiser Moskva before the strike that sank the warship, a high-profile embarrassment for Russia's military, but the Pentagon denied Friday that it played a direct role in the strike.

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said in a statement that the U.S. "did not provide Ukraine with specific targeting information for the Moskva," although he acknowledged that the U.S. and allies routinely share intelligence with Ukraine.

"We were not involved in the Ukrainians' decision to strike the ship or in the operation they carried out," he added. "We had no prior knowledge of Ukraine's intent to target the ship."

An American official said Thursday that Ukraine alone decided to target and sink the flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet using its own anti-ship missiles. But given Russia's attacks on the Ukrainian coastline from the sea, the U.S. has provided "a range of intelligence" that includes locations of those ships, said the

official, who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Biden administration has ramped up intelligence sharing with Ukraine alongside the shipment of arms and missiles to help it repel Russia's invasion. The disclosure of U.S. support in the Moskva strike comes as the White House is under pressure from Republicans to do more to support Ukraine's resistance and as polls suggest some Americans question whether President Joe Biden is being tough enough on Russia.

Speaking to CNN Friday, Kirby said "the intelligence that we provide to Ukraine is legal. It's lawful, it's legitimate, and it's limited." He acknowledged that the U.S. is always concerned about the potential for escalation in the conflict with nuclear-armed Russia.

As its offensive has largely stalled, Russia has issued increasingly menacing warnings to the U.S. and its NATO allies that it may attempt to strike arms shipments that are bolstering Ukraine's defenses.

Since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion in February, the White House has tried to balance supporting Uk-

raine, a democratic ally, against not doing anything that would seem to provoke a direct war between Putin and the U.S. and NATO allies. As the war has gone on, the White House has ramped up its military and intelligence support, removing some time and geographic limits on what it will tell Ukraine about potential Russian targets.

The official who spoke Thursday said the U.S. was not aware that Ukraine planned to strike the Moskva until after they conducted the operation. NBC News first reported on the American role in the sinking of the ship.

Speaking earlier Thursday after a New York Times report about the U.S. role in supporting Ukraine's killing of Russian generals, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said American agencies "do not provide intelligence on the location of senior military leaders on the battlefield or participate in the targeting decisions of the Ukrainian military."

"Ukraine combines information that we and other partners provide with the intel that they themselves are gathering and then they make their own decisions and they take their own actions," Kirby said.

## UN races to save more civilians from Mariupol plant

*Associated Press*

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine — The United Nations raced Friday to rescue more civilians from the tunnels under a besieged steel plant in Mariupol and the city at large, even as fighters holed up at the sprawling complex made their last stand to prevent Moscow's complete takeover of the strategic port.

The fight for the last Ukrainian stronghold in a city reduced to ruins by the Russian onslaught appeared increasingly desperate amid growing speculation that President Vladimir Putin wants to finish the battle for Mariupol so he can present a triumph to the Russian people in time for Monday's Victory Day, the biggest patriotic holiday on the Russian calendar.

Some 2,000 Ukrainian fighters, by Russia's most recent estimate, are holed up in the vast maze of tunnels and bunkers beneath the Azovstal steelworks, and they have repeatedly refused to surrender. Uk-

raine has said a few hundred civilians were also trapped there, and fears for their safety has grown as the battle has grown fiercer in recent days.

Officials said Thursday that the U.N. was launching a third effort to evacuate citizens from the plant and the city. But on Friday, the organization did not divulge any new details of the operation; it has been similarly quiet about previous ones while they were ongoing.

Kateryna Prokopenko, whose husband, Denys Prokopenko, commands the Azov Regiment troops inside the plant, issued a desperate plea to save the regiment, saying they'd be willing to go to a third country to wait out the war but would never surrender to Russia because that would mean "filtration camps, prison, torture, and death."

If nothing is done to save them, her husband and his men will "stand to the end without surrender," she told The Associated Press by phone Friday as she and rela-

tives of some of the other members of the regiment drove from Italy to Poland.

"We just need to save everyone's life," she said.

It could take days to know whether the latest U.N. effort succeeded, since people escaping Mariupol typically have to pass through contested areas and many checkpoints before reaching relative safety in the Ukrainian-controlled city of Zaporizhzhia, about 140 miles to the northwest, where many have gathered.

Andriy Yermak, head of Ukraine's presidential office, said Friday on the Telegram messaging app that another "complex operation to evacuate people from Mariupol and Azovstal" was conducted and that nearly 500 civilians were rescued. Two previous evacuations negotiated by the U.N. and the Red Cross brought roughly 500 people from the steel plant and elsewhere in Mariupol. It was not clear if Yermak was saying more people had since been rescued.

# Calif. aims to be refuge with Roe at risk

*Associated Press*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California Democrats have accelerated their plan to make the nation's most populous state a sanctuary for women seeking abortions, propelled by the release this week of an early draft of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that has ignited a surge of activism among the state's vast network of providers and advocacy groups.

The draft — which could change when a final ruling is issued, likely next month — would end nearly 50 years of federal abortion protections. Just hours after a leaked copy was published, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state's top legislative leaders said they would seek voter approval to make abortions a constitutional right in California, a move designed to shield the state from future court rulings and a potential federal

abortion ban should Republicans win control of Congress.

On Thursday, Democrats in the state Legislature fast-tracked a bill that would block other states' laws from imposing civil or criminal penalties on people who provide or aid abortions in California, setting up another likely prolonged legal fight over state sovereignty.

The California Legislative Women's Caucus has asked Newsom for \$20 million to help pay for women from other states where abortion would be outlawed to come to California for the procedure — a sum the governor could announce in his revised budget proposal next week.

In just 48 hours after the draft ruling became public, California's only statewide nonprofit that helps women travel to and

within the state to get abortions raised \$25,000 — a quarter of its normal annual spending — while fielding a flood of calls from people volunteering to give free rides or a place to stay to women looking to end their pregnancies.

Democratic-led states like California, meanwhile, are passing laws to expand abortion access.

The Democrats who control all levers of power in state government have written 13 bills that would authorize more medical providers to perform abortions, create scholarships for reproductive care doctors, block other states from accessing some California medical records, and create a fund for taxpayer money to help pay for women in states where abortion is illegal to come to California to get the procedure.

## 1st Black woman, LGBTQ tapped as press secretary

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Thursday named Karine Jean-Pierre to be the next White House press secretary, the first Black woman and openly LGBTQ person to serve in the role. Incumbent Jen Psaki is set to leave the post next week.

Jean-Pierre takes on the role as the White House faces an uphill battle to help Democrats hold onto the House and Senate in this fall's midterm elections, and as the administration struggles to address Americans' concerns about soaring inflation and the state of the economy. She also comes into the job as Biden faces a daunting array of foreign policy challenges, including the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine and North Korea's escalating nuclear testing program.

Biden is also bringing back longtime Democratic strategist Anita Dunn as his senior adviser. She had served in the Biden White House last year for sever-

al months after Biden was sworn into office.

"Karine not only brings the experience, talent and integrity needed for this difficult job, but she will continue to lead the way in communicating about the work of the Biden-Harris administration on behalf of the American people," Biden said in a statement praising Jean-Pierre, who has served as his principal deputy press secretary.

Psaki, who leaves the White House on May 13, praised her successor as a "partner in truth," noting the significance of the history-making appointment.

Taking the lectern briefly while Psaki briefed the press Thursday, Jean-Pierre said she was "still processing" the significance of her hire, calling it "an honor and privilege to be behind this podium."

"This is a historic moment, and it's not lost on me," she said. "It's a very emotional day."

## Firefighters close in around massive NM fire

*Associated Press*

LAS VEGAS, N.M. — Firefighters in New Mexico took advantage of diminished winds Thursday to build more fire lines and clear combustible brush near homes close to the fringes of the largest wildfire burning in the U.S. They did so ahead of what is expected to be several consecutive days of intense hot, dry and extremely windy weather that could fan the blaze.

"Today, the conditions were kind of moderated," Dan Pearson, a fire behavior analyst, said during a largely hopeful evening update by the U.S. Forest Service and law enforcement officials. "And tomorrow is going to be another good day."

But Pearson warned that starting Saturday, clear skies will bring more intense solar heat accompanied by 30 mph winds with days of high winds to follow.

The fire has marched across 258 square miles of high alpine

forest and grasslands at the southern tip of the Rocky Mountains, destroying dozens of homes and prompting evacuations for thousands of families, many of whom have called the Sangre de Cristo Mountains home since their Spanish ancestors first settled the region centuries ago.

President Joe Biden approved a disaster declaration that brings new financial resources to the areas devastated by fire since early April.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham traveled through northern New Mexico Wednesday and Thursday to survey the damage and chat with affected residents at a humanitarian kitchen, an evacuation shelter and an elementary school.

The start of the conflagration has been traced in part to a preventive fire initiated by the U.S. Forest Service to reduce flammable vegetation. The blaze escaped control, merging with another fire of unknown origin.

# SpaceX caps busy month with return of 4 astronauts

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX brought four astronauts home with a mid-night splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico on Friday, marking the busiest month yet for Elon Musk's taxi service.

The three U.S. astronauts and one German in the capsule were bobbing off the Florida coast, near Tampa, less than 24 hours after leaving the International Space Station. NASA expected to have them back in Houston later in the morning.

"That was a great ride," said Raja Chari, the capsule commander. As for the reintroduction to gravity, he noted: "Only one complaint. These water bottles are super heavy."

NASA's Chari, Tom Marshburn and Kayla Barron, and the European Space Agency's Matthias Maurer, were out of the capsule within an hour of splashdown, waving and giving thumbs-up as they were hustled away on rolling chaises for medical checks.

Their departure from the space station Thursday was bittersweet, as they embraced the seven astronauts remaining there.

"It's the end of a six-month mission, but I think the space dream lives on," Maurer

said.

SpaceX brought up their U.S. and Italian replacements last week, after completing a charter trip to the station for a trio of businessmen.

That amounts to two crew launches and two splashdowns in barely a month.

Musk's company has now launched 26 people into orbit in less than two years, since it started ferrying astronauts for NASA. Eight of those 26 were space tourists.

SpaceX's William Gerstenmaier, a vice president, acknowledges it's "a pretty exciting time."

Barely five hours after splashdown, the company founded by Musk in 2002 launched a fresh batch of its own internet satellites known as Starlinks from Cape Canaveral.

There were 53 of the mini flat-panel satellites in this predawn load.

"Satellites are nice, but flying people are a little special and a little bit different, and the team here sure understands that," he told reporters. "There's a sense of relief and a sense of accomplishment that you know you've done something good."

Three Russians, three Americans and one Italian are at the space station now.

# FDA restricts J&J vaccine due to blood clot risk

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. regulators on Thursday strictly limited who can receive Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine due to the ongoing risk of rare but serious blood clots.

The Food and Drug Administration said the shot should only be given to adults who cannot receive a different vaccine or specifically request J&J's vaccine. U.S. authorities for months have recommended that Americans get Pfizer or Moderna shots instead of J&J's vaccine.

FDA's vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks said the agency decided to restrict the vaccine after taking another look at the data on the risks of life-threatening blood clots and concluding that they are limited to J&J's vaccine.

"If there's an alternative that appears to be equally effective in preventing severe outcomes from COVID-19, we'd rather see people opting for that," Marks said. "But we've been careful to say that— compared to no vaccine— this is still a better option."

The problem occurs in the first two weeks after vaccination, he added: "So if you had the vaccine six months ago you can sleep soundly tonight knowing this isn't an issue."

The FDA authorized J&J's shot in February last year for adults 18 and up.

The vaccine was initially considered an important tool in fighting the pandemic because it required only one shot. But the single-dose option proved less effective than two doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

In December, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended Moderna and Pfizer shots over J&J's because of its safety issues.

As of mid-March, federal scientists had identified 60 cases of the side effect, including nine that were fatal. That amounts to 3.23 blood clot cases per 1 million J&J shots. The problem is more common in women under 50, where the death rate was roughly 1 per million shots, according to Marks.

Marks said the FDA spent extra time analyzing the problem to be sure it wasn't connected to a separate issue, such as women taking birth control medications that raise their risk of clotting.

The J&J vaccine will carry a starker warning about potential "long-term and debilitating health consequences" of the side effect.

# Researchers find virus in pig heart used in human transplant

Associated Press

Researchers trying to learn what killed the first person to receive a heart transplant from a pig have discovered the organ harbored an animal virus but cannot yet say if it played any role in the man's death.

A Maryland man, David Bennett Sr., 57, died in March, two months after the groundbreaking experimental transplant. University of Maryland doctors said Thursday they found an unwelcome surprise — viral DNA inside the pig heart. They did not find signs that this bug, called porcine cytomegalovirus, was causing an active infection.

But a major worry about animal-to-human transplants is the risk that it could introduce new kinds of infections to people.

Because some viruses are "latent," meaning they lurk without causing disease, "it could be a hitchhiker," Dr. Bartlett Griffith,

the surgeon who performed Bennett's transplant, told The Associated Press.

Still, development is under way of more sophisticated tests to "make sure that we don't miss these kinds of viruses," added Dr. Muhammad Mohiuddin, scientific director of the university's xenotransplant program.

Bennett, who was dying and ineligible for a human heart transplant, underwent the last-ditch operation using a heart from a pig genetically modified to lower the risk that his immune system would rapidly reject such a foreign organ.

The Maryland team said the donor pig was healthy, had passed testing required by the Food and Drug Administration to check for infections and was raised in a facility designed to prevent animals from spreading infections.

# Report: US adds 428,000 jobs in April

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — America's employers added 428,000 jobs in April, extending a streak of solid hiring that has defied punishing inflation, chronic supply shortages, the Russian war against Ukraine and much higher borrowing costs.

Friday's jobs report from the Labor Department showed that last month's hiring kept the unemployment rate at 3.6%, just above the lowest level in a half-century. The economy's hiring gains have been strikingly consistent in the face of the worst inflation in four decades. Employers have added at least 400,000 jobs for 12 straight months.

At the same time, the April job growth,

along with steady wage gains, will help fuel consumer spending and likely keep the Federal Reserve on track to raise borrowing rates sharply to fight inflation. Early trading Friday in the financial markets reflected concern that the strength of the job market will keep wages and inflation high and lead to increasingly heavy borrowing costs for consumers and businesses. Higher loan rates could, in turn, weigh down corporate profits.

The latest employment figures contained a few cautionary notes about the job market. The government revised down its estimate of job gains for February and March by a combined 39,000.

And the number of people in the labor force

declined in April by 363,000, the first drop since September. Their exit slightly reduced the proportion of Americans who are either working or looking for work from 62.4% to 62.2%. Many industries have been slowed by labor shortages. The nation remains 1.2 million jobs shy of the number it had in early 2020, just before the pandemic hammered the economy.

It's unclear how long the jobs boom will continue. The Fed this week raised its key rate by a half-percentage point — its most aggressive move since 2000 — and signaled further large rate hikes to come. As the Fed's rate hikes take effect, they will make it increasingly expensive to spend and hire.

## Israeli forces search for attackers who killed 3

*Associated Press*

JERUSALEM — Israeli security forces took part in a massive manhunt Friday for two Palestinians suspected of carrying out a stabbing rampage near Tel Aviv that left three Israelis dead.

The stabbing on Thursday, Israel's Independence Day, was the latest in a series of deadly assaults deep inside the country in recent weeks. It came as Israeli-Palestinian tensions were already heightened by violence at a major holy site in Jerusalem sacred to Jews and Muslims.

Police said they were searching for two suspects, 19 and 20 years old, from the town of Jenin in the occupied West Bank, which has re-emerged as a militant bastion in the

latest wave of violence — the worst Israel has seen in years. Several attackers have come from in or around Jenin, and Israeli forces have launched arrest raids that have ignited gunbattles there.

"We will get our hands on the terrorists and their supportive environment, and they will pay the price," Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said after huddling with senior security officials late Thursday. Authorities said the attackers fled in a vehicle.

Medics described a horrific scene in Elad, an ultra-Orthodox town near Tel Aviv. In addition to the three killed, four others were wounded, one of them critically.

Israeli media identified those killed as

Yonatan Havakuk, Boaz Gol and Oren Ben Yiftah, three fathers in their 30s and 40s who together are survived by 16 children.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz extended a closure on the West Bank, imposed ahead of the holiday to prevent Palestinians from entering Israel, to remain in effect until Sunday.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose government administers autonomous zones in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and cooperates with Israel on security, condemned the attack.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, praised the attack and linked it to violence at the Jerusalem holy site.

## Possible tornado flattens Family Dollar store in Alabama

*Associated Press*

MOBILE, Ala. — A possible tornado flattened a downtown store and ripped the front off a metal building across Mobile Bay early Friday, and forecasters said more storms could hit an area stretching from south Alabama to coastal Virginia.

Violent winds ripped open a Family Dollar store in a heavily populated neighborhood in Mobile and damaged an adjacent supermarket before dawn, around the time tornado warnings covered the area, news outlets reported. Another building was badly damaged to the east across the bay in Daphne, where trees were splintered.

No injuries were reported, and the Storm

Prediction Center said a tornado may have caused the damage in Mobile.

Mobile was near the southwestern end of a front stretching to the Virginia coast where forecasters said severe thunderstorms were possible. Some 24 million people live in the region, which includes Atlanta; Raleigh and Charlotte in North Carolina; and Norfolk, Va.

Earlier storms spawned several tornadoes that ripped through Texas and Oklahoma, causing damage to a school, a marijuana farm and other structures.

There were no reports of serious injuries following the Wednesday night tornadoes, but the system caused flooding in parts of

Oklahoma and Arkansas, and more stormy weather took place Thursday.

Significant damage was reported in the Oklahoma city of Seminole, about 60 miles southeast of Oklahoma City, where Gov. Kevin Stitt said damage assessments were underway after he toured the area Thursday.

The National Weather Service said it found damage in Seminole from an EF2 tornado, which has wind speeds of up to 135 mph.

After the threat to the Southeast passes, more storms will continue over the weekend in the central Plains and Midwest, the weather service said.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Sheriff deputy runs over beachgoer lying on sand

**FL** ST. PETE BEACH — A sheriff deputy ran over a beachgoer who was lying on the sand in a Florida beach as he was trying to drive away to check on a 911 hangup call.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office says the call came as Deputy Todd Brien was on patrol at St. Pete Beach on Wednesday.

Brien got into his Chevrolet Tahoe sheriff's vehicle and ran over a 23-year-old woman who was lying on her back, driving over her right side and mid to upper back area. She was hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries. The sheriff's office is investigating.

### Company indicted for illegally smuggling eels

**NY** NEW YORK — The federal government has indicted a seafood distributor and eight of its employees and associates on charges of smuggling valuable eels.

The company, American Eel Depot of Totowa, N.J., is the biggest importer and wholesale distributor of eel meat in the country. The Justice Department said on April 29 that the defendants in the case conspired to unlawfully smuggle large numbers of baby European eels out of Europe to a factory in China.

The department said the eels were reared to maturity, slaughtered and processed for shipping to the U.S. for sale as sushi. The defendants in the case are charged with violating the Lacey Act, which bans illegal trafficking in wildlife, and

conspiracy to violate the Endangered Species Act, the department said.

### Mushroom hunters find body in rural water well

**MO** SPRINGFIELD — Police were investigating after mushroom hunters discovered a body in a rural, hand-dug water well in south-central Missouri.

The discovery was made near the unincorporated community of Long Lane, about 35 miles northeast of Springfield.

The mushroom hunters were using a long branch to determine the well's depth when "what appeared to be a human body emerged," the Dallas County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post.

Authorities removed the body, drained the well and searched the bottom for evidence, officials said. An autopsy was scheduled to try to determine a cause of death and the person's identity.

### Woman dies after arm trapped in machine

**NC** SELMA — An employee of restaurant in North Carolina has died after she got her arm trapped in an industrial bread machine for almost 90 minutes, officials said.

A spokeswoman for the state Occupational Safety and Health Division confirmed Wednesday that Vicky Lopez, 44, died Tuesday evening after she was taken by helicopter to Duke University Hospital.

WRAL reported Lopez was cleaning the machine when she became trapped. Selma Fire Chief Phillip McDaniel said

small tools were needed to free the woman from the machine. McDaniel said it appeared the machine remained on while Lopez tried to clean it.

### Fox kills 25 flamingos at National Zoo

**DC** WASHINGTON — Foxes are known to raid henhouses. But this raid, on an outdoor zoo yard housing dozens of bright pink flamingos unable to fly away, was many times worse.

Zookeepers at the National Zoo made a macabre discovery this week when they entered the outdoor enclosure that housed 74 flamingos. A wild fox from neighboring Rock Creek Park had apparently chewed a hole in the metal mesh fencing and wreaked havoc, killing 25 flamingos and injuring three others. One Northern pintail duck was also killed.

It's the latest fox-related disruption in the nation's capital, where just last month a rabid red fox attacked a congressman, who fought it off with an umbrella and had to get rabies shots. Capitol Police received multiple reports of "aggressive fox encounters on or near the grounds of the U.S. Capitol," including at the nearby U.S. Botanic Garden. The captured fox was euthanized, along with its kits.

The zoo attack is the worst such incident at the zoo in 20 years.

### Lawsuit against school system dismissed

**TN** CHATTANOOGA — A federal lawsuit filed against a Tennessee school

system and school officials alleging a student was repeatedly sexually assaulted has been dismissed.

The dismissal came after the student's attorney missed deadlines and didn't provide case information to school system lawyers, the Chattanooga Times Free Press reported Wednesday.

The \$15 million lawsuit was filed against Cleveland schools and school officials in December 2020. It was dismissed without prejudice, meaning the plaintiffs can file the suit again.

The student's attorney, J. Taylor Thomas, argued against a default judgment, saying the problems were his fault. He did not respond to the paper's request for comment but said in court filings he had been unable to gather the requested information in time.

### State employees getting day off for booster

**NC** RALEIGH — North Carolina state employees will get an extra day of vacation for receiving a COVID-19 booster, Gov. Roy Cooper announced Wednesday as state government uses a new incentive to increase vaccination rates.

Cooper signed an executive order that provides the leave to permanent, probationary or time-limited workers whose Cabinet-level agencies report to him.

The extra time off will be given to those who have already received the first COVID-19 booster or those who show documentation by Aug. 31 of receiving one.

— From Associated Press

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# Makar's OT goal lifts Avs over Preds

*Associated Press*

DENVER — Cale Makar sent a low liner through traffic and then quickly found himself surrounded by happy teammates.

Maybe the happiest of all was at the other end. After all, it was goaltender Darcy Kuemper's 32nd birthday. The goal made for quite a present.

Makar scored 8:31 into overtime, Kuemper made 25 saves and the Colorado Avalanche beat the Nashville Predators 2-1 on Thursday night to take a 2-0 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Makar got the rebound in the middle of the offensive zone and blasted the puck right on target — just like he was all night. His 12 shots on goal was a new franchise playoff record.

"It just felt like the puck was finding us up top tonight," the humble Makar explained. "Not even me, specifically. We were just trying to work it around."

Nathan MacKinnon also scored for Colorado, which faced a more intense Nashville

defense after winning 7-2 in Game 1. The Predators blocked 34 shots.

"We felt like we were on them the whole third period, and eventually most of the time, the hockey gods are going to reward you for that hard work," Makar said. "For us, we were able to get a lucky one in overtime."

The series moves to Nashville for Game 3 on Saturday.

Yakov Trenin scored for Nashville.

Connor Ingram stepped in and stepped up in stopping 49 shots as he made his first post-season start. He allowed MacKinnon's goal on the first shot of the game and turned back everything until Makar's goal.

The 25-year-old Ingram relieved David Rittich in the first game after the Avalanche scored five first-period goals. The Predators remain without top goaltender Juuse Saros, who is sidelined by a lower-body injury but could be back later in the series.

"This is what you dream about as a kid, to get the chance to do it and play in front of a crowd like that," said Ingram, whose parents attended the game. "It's a lot of fun."

Since moving to Denver, the Avalanche are 14-2 in a best-of-seven playoff series when they capture the opening two games.

Colorado had a goal disallowed in the closing seconds of the second period for goaltender interference. Artturi Lehkonen fell on top of Ingram before a shot from Valeri Nichushkin went in. The Avalanche challenged the play and the officials confirmed the call on replay.

It put Nashville on the power play to start the third. Shortly after, the Predators had a 5-on-3 advantage for 1:52 when Nichushkin went to the penalty box for a high-stick. But they couldn't capitalize. The best scoring chance was Makar on a breakaway, only to have his shot land in the glove of Ingram.

Ingram was at his finest in the

third period when he stopped a point-blank shot from Nazem Kadri with his left pad. Ingram spent most of the season with the Milwaukee Admirals of the American Hockey League, where he went 30-17-9. He appeared in three regular-season games for Nashville this season.

His counterpart applauded Ingram's effort.

"He played great," Kuemper said. "Stepping in with not a ton of experience, he was definitely ready to go. Made it tough on our shooters."

Both teams struggled on the power play, going a combined 0-for-8. There were a combined 110 hits.

"They're a top offensive team in the league. They do this to a lot of teams," Predators coach John Hynes said. "If you're going to beat them, you have to have strong goaltending. I thought the way that our guys defended and the way that they played when they were under duress was at the level that you need tonight."

## Panthers rout Capitals in Game 2 to even series

*Associated Press*

SUNRISE, Fla. — The bounce-back game that the Florida Panthers needed started, perhaps fittingly, with a puck that took a fortuitous bounce.

A burst here. A burst there. And just like that, series tied.

Aleksander Barkov and Carter Verhaeghe each had a goal and an assist and the Panthers beat the Washington Capitals 5-1 on Thursday night to even the Eastern Conference first-round series at a game apiece.

"It's nice. It's nice to win. That's all we want to do," Barkov said. "Obviously, we didn't play the right way in the first game. This game, we kept building and we got better as the game went on."

Aaron Ekblad, Anton Lundell and Mason Marchment also scored for Florida, the top overall seed in the Stanley Cup playoffs. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 26 shots.

"Bob kept us in the game, gave us a chance to win," Barkov said.

Nicklas Backstrom scored for Washington. Vitek Vanecek gave up five goals on 19 shots in the first two periods, and Ilya Samsonov went into the Capitals' net for the third period — stopping all 17 shots he faced in the final 20 minutes.

The series shifts to Washington, with Game 3 on Saturday.

It was just Florida's sixth win in its last 19 home playoff games going back to 1996, and matched the biggest victory margin in franchise playoff history. Florida beat Boston 6-2 in Game 2 of the first round of the 1996 playoffs, the season in which the Panthers went to the Stanley Cup final, and won 5-1 in Pittsburgh later that season in the East finals.

**Rangers 5, Penguins 2:** Artemi Panarin and Frank Vatrano each had a goal and two assists and host New York beat Pittsburgh in Game 2 to tie the series.

Chris Kreider, Andrew Copp and Ryan Strome also scored for the Rangers. Igor Shesterkin made 39 saves two nights after

stopping 79 shots in a triple-overtime loss in Game 1.

Sidney Crosby had a goal and an assist, and Jake Guentzel also scored for the Penguins. Louis Domingue, getting the start after replacing the injured Casey DeSmith in the second overtime of Game 1, finished with 34 saves.

Game 3 is Saturday night in Pittsburgh.

**Stars 2, Flames 0:** Jake Oettinger made 29 saves and got his first postseason shutout in his second career playoff start to lift visiting Dallas over Calgary and even their first-round series at a game each.

Joe Pavelski scored and Michael Raffl added an empty-net goal for the Stars.

The best-of-seven conference quarterfinal series heads to Dallas for Saturday's Game 3 and Monday's Game 4 at American Airlines Arena. The Flames opened the series with a 1-0 win Tuesday.

Calgary's Jacob Markstrom stopped 21 of 22 shots.

# Ohtani Ks 11 in Fenway pitching debut

Associated Press

BOSTON — Shohei Ohtani left his mark on Fenway Park with the finest two-way performance since Babe Ruth.

Pitching at the historic ballpark for the first time, Ohtani struck out 11 in seven shutout innings and added two hits — one of them a 109 mph line drive that banged off the Green Monster so hard that it knocked his No. 17 out of the pitcher's slot on the manual scoreboard.

"I hope you don't start taking that for granted. Like it's old hat," Angels manager Joe Maddon said of Ohtani's skills. "It's just so unusual. It's otherworldly, on this level of this game."

The display came during Los Angeles' 8-0 victory over Boston on Thursday that included a five-run eighth inning in the ballpark where Ruth debuted in 1914 and played six seasons before the Red Sox sold him to the Yankees.

In the fourth, Ohtani hit a 389-foot single that was about a foot shy of being a home run. In the eighth, he singled off the left-field wall to drive in a run, then scored as the Angels turned a 2-0 game into a blowout.

Ohtani (3-2) also induced 29 swings and misses from Boston batters — a career high, and the most for any pitcher this year. He threw 81 of his 99 pitches for

strikes, also a career high.

"It's one of my favorite ballparks," said Ohtani, who has batted .302 with two homers in 10 games at Fenway. "I was looking forward to pitching here."

Ohtani's start was pushed back two days because of groin tightness and came about 14 hours after the Angels scored six times in the 10th inning to beat the Red Sox 10-5. As the designated hitter in that contest, Ohtani walked in the ninth and walked and scored in the 10th.

"To be honest, I was pretty fatigued," he said. "My body was pretty tired. I tried to get to sleep as early as possible and get

enough sleep and rest. I think I was able to do that."

Jared Walsh had four RBIs, curling a two-run homer around the left-field foul pole in the seventh to break a scoreless tie. Anthony Rendon followed with an RBI single to chase Tanner Houck (2-2), and Walsh added a two-run dribbler through the shifted infield to make it 7-0.

Houck gave up seven runs on five hits and a walk, striking out four in 2½ innings.

Brandon Marsh added a solo homer in the ninth.

Ohtani allowed six hits and no walks. He threw a wild pitch that allowed Rafael Devers to reach base on a strikeout in the first.

# Mets stun Phillies with seven-run rally in ninth

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The New York Mets erased a six-run deficit with seven runs in the ninth inning, capping the rally with Starling Marte's double to beat the flabbergasted Philadelphia Phillies 8-7 Thursday night.

With the Mets trailing 7-1, Marte led off the inning with an infield single against James Norwood and scored on Francisco Lindor's two-run homer. Mark Canha added an RBI infield single that clanked off pitcher Corey Knebel (0-2), and J.D. Davis had a pinch-hit RBI double to rally the NL East-leading Mets.

Brandon Nimmo then lined a tying, two-run single to center off Knebel. He came around to score when Marte ripped a double off the wall in center field.

It's the first time New York trailed by at least six runs in the ninth and won since Sept. 13, 1997, when Carl Everett hit a tying grand slam with two outs in the ninth and the Mets went on to beat the Montreal Expos in extra innings.

Adonis Medina (1-0) got the

win for the Mets and Edwin Diaz was credited with the save.

**Guardians 6, Blue Jays 5:** Steven Kwan hit the first homer of his breakout rookie season and Franmil Reyes had three hits and an RBI in host Cleveland's victory over Toronto.

Guardians right-hander Aaron Civale (1-2) struck out eight in 5½ innings, surrendering four runs on six hits. Emmanuel Clase worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his fifth save in six chances.

**Cardinals 7, Giants 1:** Yadier Molina homered leading off the third inning for his first RBI of the season, Tommy Edman hit a two-run single and another RBI single, and St. Louis beat stumbling San Francisco.

The reigning NL West champion Giants lost their fourth straight and sixth of seven while opening a seven-game homestand.

**Padres 2, Marlins 1:** Manny Machado, one of the hottest hitters in the majors, had two impressive home runs and Nick Martinez (2-2) threw seven strong innings to lead host San Diego over Miami.

Machado took over the team

lead with seven homers. It was his first multi-homer game of the season and 31st of his career.

**Orioles 5, Twins 3:** Ryan Mountcastle homered twice, Austin Hays hit a home run and saved a run with his arm to help Baltimore beat visiting Minnesota.

Hays hit a tiebreaking homer with one out in the eighth off Jhoan Duran (0-1), and Mountcastle followed with a solo shot of his own. Mountcastle had homered in the second, and Cedric Mullins and Jorge Mateo went deep as well for Baltimore. Hays also threw Max Kepler out at the plate in the fourth.

**Rays 4, Mariners 3:** Mike Zunino hit a three-run homer against his former team, Shane Bieber held host Seattle hitless into the fifth and Tampa Bay won its fourth straight.

McClanahan (2-2) has allowed three earned runs or fewer in all six of his starts. He struck out five and walked two.

**Astros 3, Tigers 2:** Kyle Tucker delivered a game-ending single in the ninth inning, Jose Altuve and rookie Jeremy

Peña hit solo homers, and Houston beat visiting Detroit.

Yordan Alvarez singled off Gregory Soto (1-2) with no outs in the ninth and was replaced by pinch-runner Chas McCormick. Yuli Gurriel walked before Tucker singled on a groundball to center field to score McCormick and give Houston its fourth straight victory.

**Rockies 9, Nationals 7:** Garrett Hampson and Brendan Rodgers each hit their first home runs of the season — both three-run shots — for host Colorado in a win over Washington.

Randal Grichuk also homered for the Rockies, who took two of three in the series.

**Brewers 10, Reds 5:** Willy Adames hit two of Milwaukee's six homers in a victory over visiting Cincinnati, which has dropped 20 of 21.

Cincinnati couldn't overcome another shaky performance by hard-throwing rookie Hunter Greene (1-4). He struck out seven and walked one, but was tagged for eight runs and nine hits in 2½ innings in his fourth consecutive loss.

# New body overseeing horse racing

*Associated Press*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — With interest among the general public at its highest with the 148th Kentucky Derby coming up Saturday, horse racing is once again under intense scrutiny.

The industry has been rocked by scandal in recent years, including the disqualification of last year's Kentucky Derby winner, a horse doping conspiracy involving trainers and veterinarians, and the punishment of its highest-profile trainer.

The sport's seeming inability to police itself drew the attention of the federal government in 2020. The result is the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act set to go into effect July 1.

The act will be implemented in stages, with the racetrack safety program starting immediately. The antidoping and medication rules aren't expected to begin until early 2023, leaving states in charge for now.

"We have to do it," said Tom Rooney, new president and

CEO of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. "We have to have the same standards in every jurisdiction."

Unlike the central offices that govern the NFL, NBA, MLB and NHL, the 38 U.S. racing states operate under patchwork rules that vary from track to track. Horses, owners, trainers and jockeys move frequently between states to compete. Locales honor punishments meted out elsewhere, but inconsistencies can create confusion and make it possible to game the system.

Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert is serving a 90-day suspension imposed by Kentucky racing officials that will keep him out of Saturday's running of the Derby, a race he's won six times. The punishment came after 2021 Derby winner Medina Spirit failed a post-race drug test. The colt was later disqualified.

East Coast trainer Jorge Navarro is serving five years in prison for his role in a horse

doping conspiracy. He also was fined \$25.8 million.

Trainer Jason Servis is set for trial next year as part of the same case. He has declared his innocence. Servis trained 2019 Kentucky Derby winner Maximum Security, who was disqualified for interference during the race.

Navarro and Servis were among over two dozen people indicted after a lengthy FBI investigation.

Despite such hits to the sport's reputation, there appears to be growing trepidation in the industry over the prospect of sweeping change brought by HISA.

The program has already been challenged in the courts, with two lawsuits seeking to kill it.

In late March, a lawsuit filed by the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and a group of its affiliates questioned HISA's constitutionality. It was dismissed by a federal judge in Texas and

is being appealed.

The second suit filed in Kentucky by Oklahoma and eight other states is similar to the NHBPA's suit. It has yet to be heard.

Whether the implementation of HISA is a reaction to placate vocal critics or representative of meaningful change is an ongoing debate within the industry.

"As trainers, we have mixed emotions because we're going to have people making decisions that aren't very educated in our sport," said D. Wayne Lukas, a Hall of Fame trainer. "It just seems hard to tell where they're going to go."

Rooney, a former Republican congressman from Florida, believes training fresh eyes on the sport is crucial.

"Having a large group of people who are not horse people is a positive as long as they're not out to hurt the industry," he said. "They've agreed to sign on to this board to help horse racing succeed."

## Report: Mickelson had \$40 million in gambling losses

*Associated Press*

Federal auditors investigating Phil Mickelson's role in an insider trading scheme found his gambling losses totaled more than \$40 million from 2010 to 2014, according to an excerpt from Alan Shipnuck's forthcoming biography.

Shipnuck posted the excerpt on his "Firepit Collective" site Thursday. His unauthorized biography on Mickelson is to be released May 17 during the PGA Championship. Mickelson is the defending champion. He has not said if he will be playing.

Mickelson has been out of public view since the final round of the Saudi International on Feb. 6. A short time later, Shipnuck posted explosive comments from Mickelson on

his involvement in Greg Norman's Saudi-backed golf venture.

Mickelson dismissed Saudi Arabia's human rights record, including the killing of Washington Post reporter Jamal Khashoggi, by saying it was worth getting involved with the Saudis if it meant gaining leverage over the PGA Tour.

### Cowboys owner Jones 'fine' after crash

DALLAS — Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones was "home and fine" on Thursday, one day after a report that he was involved in a traffic accident and taken to a hospital as a precaution.

Stephen Jones, the owner's

son and an executive vice president for the Cowboys, updated his father's condition to The Associated Press.

Citing unidentified police sources, Dallas TV station WFAA reported that Jerry Jones, 79, was involved in a crash Wednesday night near downtown Dallas. The station reported emergency crews were summoned, and Jones sustained minor injuries.

In other NFL news:

■ The Los Angeles Chargers added another veteran to their defense, signing outside linebacker Kyle Van Noy.

Van Noy will be going into his ninth season. He had 66 tackles for the New England Patriots last season and was second on the team with five sacks. He also

returned an interception for a touchdown.

### Twins say Correa may have broken finger

BALTIMORE — Minnesota Twins star Carlos Correa may have a broken finger after he was struck by a pitch Thursday night in Baltimore.

The Twins said after the game that preliminary imaging showed the potential for a non-displaced fracture of Correa's right middle finger. Correa was expected to have a CT scan Friday.

Correa left Minnesota's 5-3 loss to the Orioles in the seventh inning after a pitch hit his hand while he was still holding the handle of the bat.