

US campuses see clashes, crackdowns

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Dueling groups of protesters clashed overnight at the University of California, Los Angeles, shoving, kicking and beating each other with sticks after pro-Israel demonstrators tried to pull down barricades surrounding a pro-Palestinian encampment. Hours earlier, police burst into a building occupied by anti-war protesters at Columbia University, breaking up a demonstration that had paralyzed the school.

After a couple of hours of scuffles between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli demonstrators at UCLA, police wearing helmets and face shields slowly separated the groups and quelled the violence. The scene was calm as day broke.

UCLA canceled classes Wednesday and urged people to avoid the area where the fighting broke out. The school's library won't reopen until Monday and Royce Hall, which authorities

said was vandalized, is closed through Friday. UCLA stationed law enforcement officers throughout campus.

Tent encampments of protesters calling on universities to stop doing business with Israel or companies that support the war in Gaza have spread across campuses nationwide in a student movement unlike any other this century.

There have been confrontations with law enforcement and more than 1,000 arrests. In rare instances, university officials and protest leaders struck agreements to restrict the disruption to campus life and upcoming commencement ceremonies.

The clashes at UCLA erupted as counter-protesters tried to pull down parade barricades, plywood and wooden pallets protecting a tent encampment built by pro-Palestinian protesters. Video showed fireworks exploding over and in the encampment.

People threw chairs and other objects. A group piled on one person who lay on the ground, kicking and beating them with sticks until others pulled them from the scrum.

Later Tuesday, New York City police officers entered Columbia's campus after the university requested help. They cleared a tent encampment, along with Hamilton Hall where a stream of officers used a ladder to climb through a second-floor window. Protesters had seized the Ivy League school building about 20 hours earlier.

A few dozen protesters at Columbia were arrested after shrugging off an earlier ultimatum to abandon the encampment Monday or face suspension, inspiring demonstrations on campuses elsewhere.

After police arrived, officers lowered a Palestinian flag from the City College flagpole and tossed it to the ground before raising an American flag.

Brown University, another Ivy League school, reached an agreement Tuesday with protesters on its Rhode Island campus. Demonstrators said they would close their encampment if administrators consider divestment from Israel in October — apparently the first time a U.S. college has agreed to protester demands to vote on divestment.

Meanwhile, at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, police in riot gear closed in on an encampment late Tuesday and arrested about 20 people for trespassing. University officials warned earlier that day that students would face criminal charges if they did not disperse.

Police also cleared an encampment on Wednesday at Tulane University in New Orleans and took down all but one tent at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where police with shields shoved protesters, resulting in a scrum and at least a dozen arrests.

Trump envisions expanded US military role at border

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Republican presumptive presidential nominee Donald Trump is open to using active-duty military personnel at the U.S. southern border, where he envisions carrying out the largest deportation operation in American history, he said this week.

"I can see myself using the National Guard, and if necessary, I'd have to go a step further," the former president said in an interview with Time magazine published Tuesday. "We have to do whatever we have to do to stop the problem we have."

Trump didn't detail exactly what would trigger the involvement of the military or how he would work around legal restrictions on using federal troops for law enforcement inside the United States.

But his comments during the wide-ranging interview indicated that a second Trump term would have significant implications for American service members stationed both at home and abroad.

The arrival of millions of immigrants across the southern border during President Joe Biden's tenure has been a focal point of Trump's campaign.

While the situation has strained border communities, it also has challenged faraway cities such as New York and Chicago, where immigrants have been relocated.

Trump said he intends to focus less on building detention camps to house migrants and more on using local law enforcement, the National Guard and possibly the active-duty armed forces to assist in deportation operations.

When asked about U.S. military involvement, Trump told Time, "I would have no problem using the military, per se."

Trump also reiterated longstanding criticisms of U.S. alli-

ances overseas and indicated that he could consider changes in how forces are based abroad.

"I think we have a lot of options, and I think we're in a lot of places where we shouldn't be, and we probably aren't in some places where we should be," Trump said without elaborating.

When asked whether he would pull U.S. forces out of South Korea, Trump didn't give a clear answer but said he would expect South Korea to spend more to support the personnel that are there. Regarding NATO, Trump again complained that allies don't spend enough on defense.

Cops kill ex-Navy officer in child sex sting

By GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

Bruce Coval Meneley was a teenaged seaman in Reno the year after Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese. He rose to ensign, graduated medical school, served in Operation Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan and commanded a Navy hospital at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. By the time he retired in 2016 as a Navy captain, he had earned dozens of awards and commendations, including a Bronze Star and two Legions of Merit.

His life ended on the afternoon of April 17, when he was shot multiple times by police at a DoubleTree hotel near Seattle in a child sex sting operation. Police video shows a man authorities later identified as Meneley pulling a gun on officers trying to arrest him after he showed up at a room where he planned to meet two underage girls. Police said Meneley had come to the attention of authorities in previous sex crime investigations.

The Seattle Police Department, which leads a statewide Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, said they set up a sting in Room 1513 of the DoubleTree Hotel near Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

"Officers were waiting to arrest the 67-year-old white man when he arrived at the hotel room, where he thought he was meeting two young girls, 7 and 11 years old," Seattle Police Chief Adrian Diaz said in a statement.

The three Seattle police officers waiting for the suspect in the room wore body cameras and black uniforms that clearly identified them as police.

At 3:13 p.m., a man appeared in the hallway of the atrium-style hotel, according to videos posted by police on YouTube.

The officers answered the door, and within 15 seconds, Meneley was dead, police said. One officer was wounded as guests hid from a fusillade of up to 30 bullets above the open-air lobby.

Police posted videos of the shooting on YouTube on April 19 — two days after the shooting — with an introduction by Chief Diaz.

"For our officers, these situations are dangerous, unpredictable, and can escalate rapidly," Diaz said. "We want to warn you what you're about to see is disturbing."

A few moments into the videos, the picture switches to inside the hotel room. The shooting unfolds three times from the body cams of the three officers involved.

The videos show officers opening the door to Room 1513. Outside is a man in a baseball cap, dress shirt, jeans, and a light green jacket standing in the entryway with his right hand across his chest and inside his coat. Police blurred the man's face.

Seattle police officers start to identify themselves, but the man backs up and pulls a handgun from his pocket. Officers grapple with him and grasp the pistol to turn the muzzle back toward the man.

There is a single gunshot. "Gun!" the officer shouts, holding the man's hand, then firing what appears to be two shots from his gun. Officers flanking the man pull their pistols and fire several shots — television station Fox 13 counted about 30 — that explode and echo through the high atrium.

The last video shows the third officer who unloads the full magazine of his semi-automatic pistol into the blurred body before quickly reloading. Down the hall is another offi-

cer, apparently grazed by a bullet, who seeks cover behind the wall.

An officer is heard reporting on a radio, "Shots fired, shots fired," then saying, "Suspect down, help the officer."

According to Meneley's personnel file obtained from the Navy Personnel Command, he enlisted in the Navy and served nearly seven years at the Navy Reserve Center in Reno, Nev. In 1982, he was assigned to the Naval Reserve Service until 1986, during which time he received a medical degree from the University of Nevada, Reno.

After short stints at the Naval Medicine Readiness and Training Command in Bremerton, Wash., he was transferred to Port Hueneme in California, then to Naval Support Forces at Munro Sound in Antarctica for nearly a year.

In December 1989, he reported to Long Beach, Calif., for service aboard the World War II battleship USS Missouri, which had been converted into a cruise missile launched platform. During Operation Desert Storm in 1991, Meneley served aboard the ship off the coast of Saudi Arabia.

From April 1992 to September 1998, he was assigned to medical command roles at Navy and Marine units in San Diego and Twentynine Palms in California.

Promoted to captain in July 2003, he was sent to the Naval Leadership and Ethics Center in Newport, R.I., before a three-year stint at Naval Readiness and Training Command in Quantico, Va. Meneley was then dispatched at the end of June 2007 to the high-profile job of hospital director at the Navy base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

After leaving Cuba, he was

sent to San Diego with Naval Surface Force Pacific and was later deployed to Kandahar Province in Afghanistan, commanding a new medical facility staffed by an international NATO contingent.

On June 30, 2016, he retired after just over 40 years in service.

Few records were available for Meneley's life after he retired. He was recently living in Hansville, a small town at the top of the Kitsap Peninsula on Puget Sound, about 32 miles north of Bremerton.

The peninsula is home to the carrier USS Nimitz and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Bremerton. Across the peninsula at Bangor is the submarine base where 10 Ohio-class nuclear ballistic or guided missile submarines and two Seawolf-class nuclear submarines are stationed. The Pentagon has about 15,000 active duty personnel, primarily Navy, spread around the 12,000-acre base that is the third largest Navy installation in the United States. It's also home to a large number of retired personnel.

In 2017, police records show Meneley was arrested in a Bremerton Police prostitution sting, and a telephone number connected to him was noted as having called at least two separate prostitution houses. Meneley told authorities he was married and had been arrested for soliciting prostitution in Texas, where he had retired the year before. Seattle area news agencies reported this week that Meneley was put into an offender diversion program and attended classes instead of court charges in the prostitution case.

No records of any infractions or disciplinary issues were available from his time in the Navy.

Austin: US troops working near Gaza could be shot at

BY SVETLANA
SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Troops working on the construction of a floating pier off the coast of Gaza could possibly be shot at as they build a platform to deliver humanitarian aid to the embattled territory, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Tuesday.

Austin acknowledged the danger while testifying to the House Armed Services Committee and said troops from several military vessels could face a hostile situation as they set up the pier and assist with the delivery of aid.

A scenario in which someone from the Gaza Strip, where Israel is battling Hamas militants, could shoot at U.S. service members is “possible, yes,” Austin said in response to lawmaker questioning.

About 1,000 service members have been deployed to the Mediterranean Sea to work on the \$320 million pier system, known as Joint Logistics Over the Shore, or JLOTS. It is expected to be operational by early May and begin delivering the equivalent of at least 90 trucks of aid per day.

Civilians in Gaza are facing dire conditions after months of aerial bombardment and ground operations by Israel, with the entirety of the territory’s 2.2 million population lacking enough food. About half are at imminent risk of famine, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification.

Construction of the pier to provide much-needed aid has already come under fire. Last week, a mortar attack targeted an area where the pier will

eventually touch ground. No U.S. troops were present, but a United Nations team inspecting the site was forced to take shelter.

A high-ranking Hamas official told The Associated Press last week that the group will resist any foreign military presence involved in the pier project.

Austin told lawmakers Tuesday that he is satisfied with a plan devised by top military leaders to protect American forces in the Mediterranean and said he is confident “the right measures” have been put in place.

But he added that U.S. service members will be carrying firearms and will have the ability to protect themselves “if challenged.”

“They have the right to return fire,” Austin said.

A number of lawmakers have raised concerns about the involvement of American troops in Israel’s campaign in Gaza and potential risks to service member safety.

While the U.S. military has stressed there will be no U.S. troops on the ground in Gaza, Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., argued Tuesday that American service members responding to enemy fire from Gaza would contradict that.

“When Americans think boots on the ground, they think Americans in harm’s way or engaged actively in conflict,” Gaetz told Austin. “You guys seem to be sort of saying that boots on a pier connected to the ground, connected to service members shooting into Gaza doesn’t count as boots on the ground.”

Blinken urges Israel and Hamas on cease-fire deal

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Israeli leaders Wednesday in his push for a cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas, saying “the time is now” for an agreement that would free hostages and bring a pause in the nearly seven months of war in Gaza.

Blinken is on his seventh visit to the region since the war erupted in October, aiming to secure what’s been an elusive deal between Israel and Hamas that could avert an Israeli incursion into the southern Gaza town of Rafah, where some 1.4 million Palestinians are sheltering.

The current round of talks appears to be serious, but the sides remain far apart on one key issue — whether the war should end as part of an emerging deal.

Before agreeing to an initial, short-term cease-fire and partial hostage release, Hamas wants assurances that the eventual freeing of all the hostages will bring the end of Israel’s offensive and its full withdrawal

from Gaza. Israel has offered only a pause after which it would resume its offensives until Hamas is destroyed. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu repeated his determination to attack Rafah in talks with Blinken on Wednesday.

Blinken put pressure on Hamas, saying it would bear the blame for any failure to get a deal. Hamas said in a statement it would likely reply to the latest proposal on Thursday.

“We are determined to get a cease-fire that brings the hostages home and to get it now, and the only reason that that wouldn’t be achieved is because of Hamas,” Blinken told Israel’s ceremonial President Isaac Herzog at a meeting in Tel Aviv.

“There is a proposal on the table, and as we’ve said, no delays, no excuses. The time is now,” he said.

Blinken said the deal would allow much needed food, medicine and water to get into Gaza, where the war has sparked a humanitarian crisis and displaced much of the population.

Kremlin parades Western gear captured from Ukraine

Associated Press

MOSCOW — An exhibition of Western military equipment captured from Kyiv forces during the fighting in Ukraine opened Wednesday in the Russian capital.

The exhibit organized by the Russian Defense Ministry features more than 30 pieces of Western-made heavy equipment, including a U.S.-made M1 Abrams battle tank and a Bradley armored fighting vehicle, a Leopard 2 tank and a Marder armored infantry vehicle from Germany, and a French-made AMX-10RC armored vehicle.

The exhibition, which will remain open for a month at a

World War II memorial venue in western Moscow, also displays firearms, military papers and other documents.

Russian authorities have criticized supplies of Western weapons and military equipment to Ukraine, casting them as evidence of NATO’s direct involvement in the fighting.

The exhibition comes as Russian forces have grabbed more land in eastern Ukraine, taking advantage of delays in U.S. military assistance to push back the under-gunned Kyiv forces.

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, has hailed the Moscow exhibition as a “brilliant idea.”

US to ease pot rules, keep controlled status

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will move to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug, The Associated Press has learned, a historic shift to generations of American drug policy that could have wide ripple effects across the country.

The proposal, which still must be reviewed by the White House Office of Management and Budget, would recognize the medical uses of cannabis and acknowledge it has less potential for abuse than some of the nation's most dangerous drugs. However, it would not legalize marijuana outright for recreational use.

The agency's move, confirmed to the AP on Tuesday by five people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the

sensitive regulatory review, clears the last significant regulatory hurdle before the agency's biggest policy change in more than 50 years can take effect.

Once OMB signs off, the DEA will take public comment on the plan to move marijuana from its current classification as a Schedule I drug, alongside heroin and LSD. It moves pot to Schedule III, alongside ketamine and some anabolic steroids, following a recommendation from the federal Health and Human Services Department. After the public comment period and a review by an administrative judge, the agency would eventually publish the final rule.

"Today, the Attorney General circulated a proposal to reclassify marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III," Justice Department director of public affairs

Xochitl Hinojosa said in a statement. The DEA is a component of the Department of Justice. "Once published by the Federal Register, it will initiate a formal rulemaking process as prescribed by Congress in the Controlled Substances Act."

The move comes after President Joe Biden called for a review of federal marijuana law in October 2022 and moved to pardon thousands of Americans convicted federally of simple possession of the drug. He has also called on governors and local leaders to take similar steps to erase marijuana convictions.

The election year announcement could help Biden, a Democrat, boost flagging support, particularly among younger voters. Biden and a growing number of lawmakers from both major political parties have been pushing for the DEA deci-

sion as marijuana has become increasingly decriminalized and accepted, particularly by younger people. A Gallup poll last fall found 70% of adults support legalization.

The DEA didn't respond to repeated requests for comment.

Schedule III drugs are still controlled substances and subject to rules and regulations, and people who traffic in them without permission could still face federal criminal prosecution.

Some critics argue the DEA shouldn't change course on marijuana, saying rescheduling isn't necessary and could lead to harmful side effects. Jack Riley, a former deputy administrator of the DEA, said he had concerns about the proposed change because he thinks marijuana remains a possible "gateway drug," one that may lead to the use of other drugs.

Greene vows to force a vote on ousting Speaker Johnson

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene said Wednesday she would call a vote next week on ousting House Speaker Mike Johnson, forcing her colleagues to choose sides in a difficult showdown after Democratic leaders announced they would provide the votes to save the Republican speaker's job.

Speaking outside the Capitol, Greene ranted against Republican Party leaders at the highest levels and pushed back against their public entreaties, including from Donald Trump, to avoid another messy political fight so close to the November election. With her was Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., one of the few lawmakers who have joined her effort.

"We need leaders in the House of Representatives that are going to get this done," said Greene, R-Ga., holding up a red "MAGA" hat from Trump's "Make America

Great Again" campaign movement.

"Mike Johnson is not capable of that job," she said.

The standoff with Greene, one of Trump's most enthusiastic supporters, risks throwing Republican control of the House into a fresh round of chaos as rank-and-file lawmakers will have to choose between ousting Johnson, R-La., as speaker or joining with Democrats to keep him on the job.

Democrats see in Johnson a potential partner, a hard-line conservative who nevertheless is willing to lead his party away from the far-right voices obstructing the routine business of governing, including funding the government and supporting Ukraine and other U.S. allies.

Johnson's opponents are few, at this point, and less than the eight that it took to oust now-former Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., last fall as speaker.

Florida's ban on abortions after 6 weeks now in effect

Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Florida's ban on most abortions after six weeks of pregnancy, before many women even know they are pregnant, went into effect Wednesday, and some doctors are concerned that women in the state will no longer have access to needed health care.

Dr. Leah Roberts, a reproductive endocrinologist and fertility specialist with Boca Fertility in Boca Raton, said the anti-abortion laws being enacted by Florida and other red states are being vaguely written by people who don't understand medical science. The rules are affecting not just women who want therapeutic abortions, meaning procedures to terminate viable pregnancies because of personal choice, but also nonviable pregnancies for women who want to have babies.

"We're coming in between them and their doctors and pre-

venting them from getting care until it's literally saving their lives, sometimes at the expense of their fertility," Roberts said.

The new ban has an exception for saving a woman's life, as well as in cases involving rape and incest, but Roberts said health care workers are still prevented from performing an abortion on a nonviable pregnancy that they know may become deadly — such as when the fetus is missing organs or implanted outside the uterus — until it actually becomes deadly.

"We're being told that we have to wait until the mother is septic to be able to intervene," Roberts said.

The Biden campaign quickly placed blame for the ban on former President Donald Trump.

"Trump is worried the voters will hold him accountable for the cruelty and chaos he created. He's right," President Joe Biden said in a statement about the ban.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Governor admits role in illegal cutting of trees

CT HARTFORD — Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont acknowledged Monday that he helped hire a landscaper who illegally chopped down more than 180 trees and thousands of bushes on a property behind his Greenwich home, capping off days of questions about his level of involvement.

The wealthy two-term Democrat along with one of his neighbors and a neighborhood organization have been accused of removing trees in protected wetlands — property they do not own — to get a better view of a pond. Lamont denied that charge, telling reporters on Monday the trees were damaged in previous storms and the plan was to clean up the area. Yet he admitted partial responsibility for inadvertently cutting trees on someone else's land.

Lamont said he expected the landscaping company hired by himself and the neighborhood group, known as the Ashton Drive Association, would have obtained any needed permits with the town of Greenwich. He told reporters he also didn't realize local permission was needed to remove what he considered dead trees.

Population up in 2023, halting 3 years of drops

CA SACRAMENTO — California gained population last year for the first time since 2019, according to a new estimate released Tuesday by Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration.

The net increase of just over 67,000 residents in 2023 — a

0.17% increase — stopped a three-year trend of population decline, which included the state's first-ever year-over-year loss during the pivotal census year of 2020 that later led to California losing a congressional seat. The state estimates California now has more than 39.1 million residents.

The Newsom administration had blamed the decline on a combination of increased mortality rates during the coronavirus pandemic, a declining birth rate and a slowdown in legal international immigration caused by the pandemic and stricter immigration rules during President Donald Trump's administration.

But critics have pointed to a surge of people leaving California for other states, interpreting it as residents fed up with higher taxes, a larger homeless population and a shortage of housing while Democrats have been in power.

Lincoln's first Civil War order donated to state

IL SPRINGFIELD — The document in which Abraham Lincoln set the Union's military response to the launch of the U.S. Civil War in motion is now among Illinois' prized papers of the 16th president, thanks to a donation by the state's governor and first lady.

The order to prevent the Confederacy from shipping economically vital cotton or importing critical needs was signed April 19, 1861 — one week after secessionist forces fired on Fort Sumter at the entrance to Charleston harbor in South Carolina.

An anonymous collector who owned the document put it up for auction, where Gov. J.B. Pritzker

and his wife, M.K. Pritzker, bought it. The Pritzkers were scheduled to visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, which will house the artifact, later Tuesday.

The purchase price was undisclosed, but the document is listed online as sold for \$471,000 in July 2023 by Heritage Auctions.

Iconic arch that served as Iditarod finish line topples

AK ANCHORAGE — The famed burlwood arch finish line for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race has collapsed into a wood pile in Alaska, officials said.

Nome Mayor John Handeland told Anchorage television station KTUU that wood rot was the likely cause. He found out about the collapse Saturday night and salvaged pieces of the wood for safekeeping.

The iconic arch that is moved onto Nome's Front Street every March for the Iditarod finish had been located at a city park in the middle of town when it collapsed. Mushers start the race in Willow and complete the 1,000-mile race across Alaska by guiding their dog teams under the arch.

Ex-NSA worker sold info to undercover FBI agent

CO DENVER — A former National Security Agency employee who sold classified information to an undercover FBI agent he believed to be a Russian official was sentenced Monday to nearly 22 years in prison, the penalty requested by government prosecutors.

U.S. District Judge Raymond

Moore said he could have put Jarreh Sebastian Dalke, 32, behind bars for even longer, calling the 262-month sentence "mercy" for what he saw as a calculated action to take the job at the NSA in order to be able to sell national security secrets.

Dalke's attorneys had asked for the Army veteran, who pleaded guilty to espionage charges last fall in a deal with prosecutors, to be sentenced to 14 years in prison, in part because the information he sold in 2022 did not end up in enemy hands and cause damage.

Dalke denied being motivated by ideology or earning money by agreeing to sell the secrets. He also suggested he had an idea that he was actually communicating with law enforcement but was attracted to the thrill of what he was doing.

Man jailed after kicking bison at Yellowstone Park

WY YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — A man who kicked a bison in the leg was then hurt by one of the animals in Yellowstone National Park, according to park officials.

Park rangers arrested and jailed him after he was treated for minor injuries.

Park rangers got a call about the man allegedly harassing a bison herd and kicking one of them about seven miles inside the park's west entrance on April 21.

Park officials didn't describe the 40-year-old man's injuries from the bison. He was charged with being under the influence of alcohol, disorderly conduct, and approaching and disturbing wildlife.

— From wire reports

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Maxey saves Sixers from elimination

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tyrese Maxey made his Madison Square Garden memory, engineering a season-saving comeback with a rapid-fire flurry that evoked memories of Reggie Miller.

Not that he was thinking about his own legacy as those 3-pointers fell through the net.

“Going through my mind right there was just, find a way to survive,” Maxey said.

The 76ers did. Now they’re thinking about advancing.

Maxey saved Philadelphia from elimination with seven points in the final 25 seconds of regulation, finished with 46 and led the 76ers to a 112-106 overtime victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday night in Game 5 of their first-round series.

The Sixers trailed by six points with 28 seconds left in regulation before Maxey pulled out a comeback that had team

trainer Kevin Johnson talking to him about Miller’s eight points in nine seconds for Indiana in an out-of-nowhere comeback at Madison Square Garden in 1995.

Asked to describe the feeling, Maxey settled on “mandatory.”

“Like, we had to. Our season on the line,” he said.

The All-Star guard converted a four-point play with 25 seconds remaining to cut it to two, and after Josh Hart’s free throw, pulled up from 35 feet to tie it at 97 with 8.1 seconds left in front of a stunned crowd that was set to celebrate the Knicks’ trip to the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Joel Embiid finished with 19 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists for the Sixers, who will host Game 6 on Thursday night.

Jalen Brunson scored 40 points for the Knicks, who were thinking about a possible Game 1 of the second round at MSG on Saturday night. Instead, it could be Game 7 of this series, which

seemed all but over.

“It was a tough way to lose because you get up six, eight and then we had a couple turnovers and we’ve got to just be better,” Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. “Play tougher with the lead, use good judgment. Fourth quarter is different, understand the difference. So we can do better and we will.”

It was the second desperate rally to avoid what seemed like certain defeat in what has been a razor-tight series between Atlantic Division rivals. The Knicks won Game 2 after trailing by five points with under 30 seconds remaining.

Embiid didn’t score like usual after coming into the game with an NBA-leading 35 points per game in the playoffs. But Maxey picked up the load, making seven 3-pointers while adding nine assists.

“I think that considering that our No. 1 option was struggling,

for him to say, ‘All right, I got to put this team on my back and go,’ I just kept encouraging him, like, to take his chances, take his shots, make plays,” Sixers coach Nick Nurse said. “And he certainly did it and got in a rhythm and made a whole bunch of them.”

Maxey’s last 3-pointer got the 76ers on the board in overtime after Brunson scored the first five points. That triggered a 9-0 run that Embiid capped with a three-point play with 1:40 remaining for a 106-102 lead, and after Brunson’s 3 tied it at 106, Kelly Oubre Jr. made the tie-breaking basket with 1:02 to go and Tobias Harris followed with two free throws.

Harris had 19 points and Oubre scored 14.

Hart had 18 points and OG Anunoby 17 for the Knicks, who won Game 4 at Philadelphia and didn’t appear like they were heading back there.

Short-handed Bucks stay alive with romp over Pacers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Bobby Portis apologized to his teammates for his ejection from a Game 4 loss that put the Milwaukee Bucks on the brink of playoff elimination.

Then he made amends by helping the Bucks keep their season alive.

Portis and Khris Middleton each scored 29 points and the short-handed Bucks routed the Indiana Pacers 115-92 in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series on Tuesday night.

The Pacers still lead the series 3-2 heading into Game 6 on Thursday in Indianapolis.

“Thursday will be fun,” Portis said. “I can hear some ‘Bobby Sucks!’ chants. I’m ready, man. I’m fired up. I’m already ready for it.”

Milwaukee won without in-

jured stars Giannis Antetokounmpo and Damian Lillard as the Fiserv Forum crowd chanted: “Bucks In Seven.”

Antetokounmpo has missed this entire series and hasn’t played since straining his left calf on April 9. Lillard sat out a second straight game after injuring his Achilles tendon in the Bucks’ 121-118 Game 3 loss on Friday.

Bucks coach Doc Rivers was asked after Game 5 about their potential availability for the rest of the series.

“I don’t know how to answer that,” Rivers said. “I know I hope. I think they’re very, very, very close.”

The Bucks stayed alive thanks in part to a huge performance from Portis, who had been ejected just seven minutes into Game 4 after getting into a skirmish with Indiana’s An-

drew Nembhard. Portis said he watched the rest of that game while still in uniform, wondering about all the ways in which his presence on the floor might have made a difference.

He came back Tuesday and produced the highest playoff point total of his career.

He also pulled down 10 rebounds.

“I maybe crossed the line, you feel me, and let my team down by getting ejected and not being available for my team,” Portis said. “I pride myself so much on being available.”

Middleton had his third straight game with at least 25 points, and he also had 12 rebounds and five assists.

Cavaliers 104, Magic 103: Donovan Mitchell scored 28 points, Evan Mobley blocked Franz Wagner’s layup in the final seconds and host Cleveland

held off Paolo Banchero and Orlando, surviving a scare to take a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference series.

The Cavs, who were embarrassed by the Magic while dropping two games in Orlando last week, regrouped inside roaring Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse.

It took everything they had.

After Mitchell missed a jumper with 15.7 seconds left, Wagner drove the left side for a potential game-tying layup but was denied at the rim with 6 seconds left by Mobley, who smacked the ball off the backboard.

Mitchell was fouled and made two free throws with 3.2 seconds remaining to make 104-100. There wasn’t enough time for the Magic, who got a 3-pointer in the final second from Banchero, giving him 39 points.

Twins extend winning streak to nine

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Max Kepler drove in the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning for the second straight game, this time with a sacrifice fly, and the Minnesota Twins won their ninth in a row, 6-5 over the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday night.

The Twins extended their longest winning streak since a 10-game run in June 2008. They also won their seventh in a row against the White Sox and put themselves in position to sweep Chicago again after taking four games at Target Field last week, though this one certainly wasn't easy.

"Pretty tough bunch of guys," manager Rocco Baldelli said. "I don't feel like we're one dimensional or two dimensional. I feel like we can win games in all the ways. ... It's fun to watch from the dugout right now."

Chicago's Andrew Benintendi homered leading off the eighth to tie it at 5 after Minnesota scored twice in the top half. But the Twins pulled it out in the ninth.

Byron Buxton walked leading off against Michael Kopech (0-3) and took third on Manuel Margot's one-out single. Kepler, who hit a tiebreaking single in Monday's 3-2 win, then put Minnesota on top with a sacrifice fly to center.

Jhoan Duran pitched around a leadoff single by Tommy Pham in the bottom half and picked up the save after missing the Twins' first 28 games because of a strained right oblique muscle. Caleb Thielbar (1-1) recorded the final two outs in the eighth.

Orioles 4, Yankees 2: Dean Kremer pitched seven innings of two-run ball, Adley Rutschman extended his hitting

streak to a career-best 11 games and host Baltimore defeated New York.

Cardinals 2-6, Tigers 1-11: Wenceel Pérez hit homers from both sides of the plate, including a tiebreaking blast in the fifth inning, to help host Detroit beat St. Louis to earn a split of their doubleheader.

In the opener, Jack Flaherty tied an American League record with seven straight strikeouts to start a game and struck out a career-high 14 before St. Louis rallied against a usually strong bullpen with a two-run ninth inning.

Royals 4, Blue Jays 1: Michael Massey hit a two-run home run, Cole Ragans struck out nine in 6⅓ innings, and visiting Kansas City beat Toronto to snap a three-game losing streak.

Red Sox 4, Giants 0: Rookie Wilner Abreu had a single, double and his first career triple, Cooper Criswell pitched five scoreless innings and host Boston beat San Francisco for its major league-leading sixth shutout.

Marlins 7, Rockies 6 (10): Dane Myers hit a game-winning single in the 10th inning as host Miami overcame a five-run deficit and made Colorado the first team since 1900 to trail in each of its first 29 games.

Mets 4, Cubs 2: DJ Stewart hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the sixth inning, lifting host New York to a win over Chicago.

Rangers 7, Nationals 1: Jon Gray retired 22 of the last 23 batters he faced as Texas limited Washington to three singles over eight innings and ended its four-game winning streak.

Brewers 8, Rays 2: Willy Adames hit a three-run homer and host Milwaukee beat Tampa Bay in a game that included a nasty fight between the teams.

Astros 10, Guardians 9 (10): Pinch-hitter Victor Caratini's two-run homer with two outs in the 10th inning and Josh Hader's first two-inning outing since 2019 lifted host Houston over Cleveland.

Athletics 5, Pirates 2: JJ Bleday hit a go-ahead home run with one out in the fifth and a two-run drive in the seventh for his first career multi-homer game, leading host Oakland past Pittsburgh.

Mariners 3, Braves 2: Luis Castillo threw seven shutout innings to continue his team's run of starting pitching dominance and Seattle's bullpen held on for a victory over visiting Atlanta.

Phillies 7, Angels 5: Johan Rojas hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the ninth inning moments after Nick Castellanos' tying shot, sending visiting Philadelphia to a victory over Los Angeles.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 3 (10): Christian Walker homered twice, including a two-run drive in the 10th inning that gave host Arizona a bee-delayed win over Los Angeles.

A bee swarm atop the netting behind home plate caused a delay of nearly two hours as players and fans waited for a beekeeper to remove the colony.

Padres 6, Reds 4: Yu Darvish earned his first win of the season, pitching five shutout innings after returning from the injured list, and Manny Machado hit a three-run double as host San Diego beat Cincinnati to halt a five-game slide.

Angels lose Trout indefinitely to torn meniscus

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Los Angeles Angels star Mike Trout will have surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his left knee, sidelining the three-time AL MVP indefinitely.

The Angels believe Trout will be able to return this season, general manager Perry Minasian said while announcing the injury Tuesday.

Trout is batting .220 with a major league-leading 10 homers, 14 RBIs and six stolen bases

this year, but he will be sidelined by a major injury for the fourth consecutive season. The Angels put Trout on the 10-day injured list and signed veteran outfielder Kevin Pillar to a one-year, \$740,000 contract.

Trout had an MRI after playing in the Angels' 6-5 victory over Philadelphia on Monday. The outfielder fought back tears while describing the pain that gradually crept up on him after the game.

"It's crazy, because I look

back and I don't even know when I did it," Trout said. "I was kind of telling myself, 'Maybe I just banged it on something and I didn't realize it.' And then after the game, getting treatment on it, it was really sore. The plan was just to see how I felt in the morning. If I woke up and it was sore, just get it looked at. That was the plan. Last night was tough for me to sleep. It was just aching all night."

Trout's latest injury is another major blow to the Angels,

who are off to an 11-18 start in their first season since Shohei Ohtani's free-agent departure.

Los Angeles also lost Anthony Rendon indefinitely to a torn hamstring earlier this month. The \$245 million third baseman also has been sidelined for major portions of the past four consecutive seasons by an array of injuries.

Trout and Rendon are by far the Angels' two highest-paid players, each making more than \$37 million this season.

Maple Leafs beat Bruins in OT to stay alive

Associated Press

BOSTON — Toronto didn't have its biggest scoring threat on the ice for a must-win matchup with Boston.

But the Maple Leafs did just enough to put the Bruins' latest playoff lead in jeopardy.

Matthew Knies scored less than three minutes into overtime off a feed from John Tavares, and Toronto beat Boston 2-1 on Tuesday night to stave off elimination in their first-round playoff matchup.

Jake McCabe added a goal and Joseph Woll finished with 28 saves to help Toronto cut Boston's lead in the series to 3-2. Game 6 is set for Thursday in Toronto.

Knies said Tavares' ability to fight off Bruins defenders and keep the puck alive in front of the net put him in the spot to put the game away.

"I kind of just found my stick and was fortunate to bury that one and send us back home," Knies said.

Ilya Lyubushkin, Max Domi and Mitch Marner had assists for the Maple Leafs, who outshot the Bruins 33-28.

Trent Frederic scored for

Boston, which will be trying to avoid some déjà vu after surrendering a 3-1 series lead in the first round last season to the Florida Panthers. Jeremy Swayman finished with 31 saves.

"They came and they left it all out there," Bruins captain Brad Marchand said. "We need to be better. That's all it is."

The Maple Leafs played without star Auston Matthews, who sat out with an unspecified illness after making only a brief appearance in the team's morning skate Tuesday.

Matthews had an NHL-leading 69 goals in the regular season and the winner in Game 2, but managed only four shots combined in Toronto's losses in Games 3 and 4.

Hurricanes 6, Islanders 3: Jack Drury scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period and Stefan Noesen cleaned up a fluky puck bounce off the boards for another 8 seconds later as host Carolina beat New York, clinching their first-round NHL playoff series in five games.

The Hurricanes twice blew

two-goal leads and entered the final 20 minutes in a 3-3 tie before Drury struck for his first career postseason goal, controlling a dribbling puck to zip it past Semyon Varlamov to his blocker side at 4:36 of the third.

Then, after a faceoff win, the Hurricanes dumped the puck into the Islanders end toward the corner. But as Varlamov went behind the net to play the puck, it took an unexpected bounce near the door and caromed right into the crease.

Noesen charged in to bury it as Varlamov tried desperately to get back to the netfront, pushing Carolina to a 5-3 lead at 4:44.

That was ultimately enough to help the Hurricanes finally push past the determined Islanders, earning at least one playoff series win for the sixth time in as many seasons. And that earned them a date with the Presidents' Trophy-winning New York Rangers in the second round.

Predators 2, Canucks 1: Roman Josi and Alexandre Carrier scored and visiting Nashville kept its season alive with a victory over Vancouver in

Game 5 of their first-round playoff series.

Filip Forsberg assisted on both goals and Juuse Saros made 19 saves as the Predators narrowed their deficit in the best-of-seven matchup to 3-2.

Nikita Zadorov scored for the Canucks and rookie goalie Arturs Silovs stopped 20 shots.

Vancouver was 0-for-2 on the power play. Nashville was 1-for-4.

The series returns to Nashville for Game 6 on Friday night.

Avalanche 6, Jets 3: Mikko Rantanen scored his first two goals of the playoffs in the third period, leading visiting Colorado to a victory over Winnipeg that clinched their opening-round playoff series in five games.

Rantanen, who had an assist, scored twice in a span of just under four minutes early in the third period to snap a 3-3 tie.

Valeri Nichushkin, Yakov Trenin, Artturi Lehkonen and Josh Manson also scored for the Avalanche, who will play the winner of the series between the Dallas Stars and Vegas Golden Knights.

Trainer Brown seeks first Derby win with multiple entrants

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — There was a brief moment three weeks ago when trainer Chad Brown's Kentucky Derby outlook was jolted as one of his hopefuls resisted multiple attempts to enter the gate in a major qualifying race and then started slowly.

Things turned out way better than Brown could have guessed as that testy colt, Sierra Leone, put any concerns to rest by storming from the back to win the Grade 1 Blue Grass by 1½ lengths at Keeneland. That stirring rally not only gave Brown two Derby contenders along with Domestic Product entering Saturday's milestone 150th Derby at Churchill Downs, but the points leader coming into the race.

And as Brown seeks his long-awaited Derby breakthrough in the \$5 million race, having multiple chances certainly helps against 18 other horses.

"We've come in with some good shots, but we've yet to win the race," said Brown, who is winless in seven starts with a second and third since 2018. "So, hopefully it's our year this year."

Sierra Leone, the 3-1 second choice behind Todd Pletcher-trained Fierceness (5-2), gives Brown his best chance due to uncanny closing speed. It has helped the son of Gun Runner and Heavenly Love win both starts as a 3-year-old by narrow margins after settling back early. Catching Freedom is the 8-1 third choice in the 1¼-mile first jewel in the Triple Crown.

Domestic Product enters as a 30-1 long shot, but also rested after winning the Grade 3 Tampa Bay Derby by a neck March 9 following a runner-up finish in the Grade 3 Holy Bull at Gulfstream Park in February.

A four-time Eclipse Award winner, Brown has come close to entering the win-

ner's circle, most recently with Zandon two years ago behind 80-1 long shot Rich Strike and Epicenter. Good Magic gave him his best performance in 2018, finishing second to eventual Triple Crown winner Justify. In his first Derby in 2013, Normandy Invasion was fourth.

Those close calls have fueled Brown's determination to win the Derby, no matter how low key he appears.

"It's a long walk back to the barn after you come up just short in the Derby, and you wonder if you're going to get back," Brown said. "It's just such a hard race to win."

"I've had that walk back a couple times now where I was thinking, 'You know, it's just my one shot.' But that's the great thing about the sport. You never know what the next year brings. And the next crop of horses, your next potential derby starter could be in there. Thankfully, I have two."