

20K Guard forces eyed for deportation aid

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

The Department of Homeland Security said Friday that it has requested the Pentagon provide thousands of National Guard troops to bolster efforts to remove undocumented migrants from the United States.

It was not immediately clear what role those forces could play in President Donald Trump's mass deportation efforts. Officials at DHS, the Pentagon and the National Guard Bureau declined to provide any specific information about the requests or how the Guard forces could be utilized in Trump's immigration crackdown.

"DHS requested 20,000 National Guard members to help carry out the president's mandate from the American people to arrest and deport criminal illegal aliens," Tricia McLaughlin, the department's top spokeswoman, said in a statement. "The Department of Homeland Security will use every tool and resource available

to get criminal illegal aliens including gang members, murderers, pedophiles, and other violent criminals out of our country. The safety of American citizens comes first."

A Pentagon spokesperson confirmed the Defense Department had received the latest DHS request for troops but said they could not provide any further information. A National Guard spokesperson referred all questions to the Pentagon.

Since Trump's January return to the White House, his administration has made the crackdown on undocumented migrants one of its highest priorities. Under Trump's orders, the Pentagon has surged thousands of active-duty troops to the U.S. southern border and declared large swaths of border-adjacent land in New Mexico and Texas as military installations to increase its authorities to arrest and charge people caught crossing the border illegally.

However, that effort was dealt a blow this week when a

federal judge in New Mexico, U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge Gregory Wormuth, dismissed trespassing charges against dozens of migrants captured in that territory now controlled by the military.

Wormuth ordered the charges dismissed because federal attorneys could not provide him information that one could "reasonably conclude" that the migrants understood they were entering the United States on restricted military land.

There are now more than 10,000 military troops — including active-duty soldiers and Marines and National Guard forces — stationed along the border to assist Border Patrol officers.

Those troops include infantry forces with Stryker combat vehicles, troops that fly drones and helicopters, logisticians and engineering forces.

Officials have said more troops could be moved to the border, even as Homeland Security has reported sharp drops in illegal border crossings. Last

month, the department reported about 8,000 arrests of migrants crossing the border illegally, down from some 128,000 such arrests in April 2024.

Trump has long promised a massive operation to deport unauthorized immigrants from the country. Last week, he called for an influx of 20,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to boost those efforts, which appeared separate from the National Guard request.

National Guard forces have long been mobilized to conduct domestic operations, including disaster response and aiding other federal agencies, including Homeland Security — especially at the border where they have operated since 2018.

But the new request for Guard forces to help in deportation efforts appears to be a first.

It was not clear how the Guard troops could be used in those operations.

The Pentagon has not yet approved the request, an official said.

Australia-based Marines to join Philippine drills

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

A Marine Corps element visiting the Philippines from northern Australia will coordinate with a littoral regiment from Hawaii and command an Osprey squadron from California during the upcoming Kamandag exercise.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 members of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin will join 12 days of regional defense training at sites across the Philippines during the annual exercise that begins May 26.

The Americans will train alongside Philippine and South Korean marines and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, according to a Wednesday news release from the rotational force.

One hundred members of the force's command element will coordinate with Marines from Hawaii and California during the drill, Capt. Johnny Fischer, a spokesman for the force, said by email Friday.

The rotational force has had troops in the Philippines since March and in April sent com-

mand and logistics elements to the western island of Palawan for the Balikatan exercise. It will coordinate with additional formations during Kamandag, the release said.

Kamandag focuses on amphibious drills and takes place during heightened tensions between Manila and Beijing, whose coast guards have clashed over disputed territory in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

The command and logistics Marines arrived with their gear from Australia by U.S. Army

landing craft and Marine Corps C-40 Clipper airlifter, Fischer said.

The movement from Darwin to Palawan wasn't just about getting there fast, rotational force commander Col. Jason Armas said in the release.

"It was about getting there ready and able to persist where other formations cannot," he said. "This exercise validated our ability to serve as a forward headquarters, capable of command-and-control across vast maritime terrain, integrated with partner and allied forces."

Multi-domain task forces key in the Pacific

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

WAIKIKI BEACH, Hawaii — A decade ago, Navy Adm. Harry Harris challenged a roomful of Army leaders to think beyond land.

“The Army’s got to be able to sink ships, neutralize satellites, shoot down missiles and deny the enemy the ability to command and control its forces,” Harris, at the time in charge of what is now U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, said at the 2016 Land Forces Pacific symposium at Waikiki Beach.

Today, the Army’s three multi-domain task forces — with two more in the works — may be the most tangible result of Harris’ charge.

“Multi-domain task forces in the field now, as I utter these words, in commission now, rep-

resent the centerpiece of this response ... and this fundamentally alters the strategic calculus in the contested environment,” Adm. Samuel Paparo, today’s INDOPACOM commander, said Tuesday in the keynote speech opening this year’s LANPAC.

The task forces are designed to operate across land, air, sea, space and cyberspace and are key to countering China and Russia’s area denial strategy.

“The Army built these capabilities specifically in response to what was happening in the Indo-Pacific,” Brig. Gen. Mike Rose, commander of the 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force, said during an interview Wednesday on the symposium’s sidelines.

The 3rd MDTF was stood up at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, in Sep-

tember 2022.

Since then it has been building out its fires and sustainment capabilities, he said.

It is the second task force aligned with the Indo-Pacific, joining the first stood up in 2017 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Another task force was stood up in 2021 in Germany.

The 3rd MDTF has become an integral part of Operation Pathways, which is U.S. Army Pacific’s campaign to keep troops deployed across the International Date Line from spring through fall through back-to-back exercises.

The task force is adding a long-range precision fires battalion this year, armed with a battery of the Army’s long-range hypersonic weapon, a missile dubbed Dark Eagle.

The Washington-based 1st

MDTF was the first Army unit to deploy and integrate Dark Eagle, which has a range of about 1,700 miles.

The 3rd MDTF will also be fielding a Typhon battery, the Army’s mid-range missile system designed specifically for the task forces.

It launches both Tomahawk cruise missiles and the Standard Missile-6.

The U.S. deployed a Typhon missile launcher to the Philippines last year.

Typhon “gives us a pretty significant amount of range” in the hunt for “a moving maritime target,” Rose said.

Rounding out the fires battalion is a battery using the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, to launch the short-range precision strike missile, or PrSM.

Coast Guard rescues 2 mariners after 3-day search

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Coast Guard rescued two missing mariners Friday after three days of searching thanks to the men’s emergency beacon, according to Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

The mariners were found about 140 miles west of Guam; they showed no apparent inju-

ries, dehydration or illness, Sector Guam spokeswoman Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sara Muir told Stars and Stripes by phone Friday.

A U.S. Navy MH-60 Knighthawk crew from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 airlifted one of the mariners, while the other remained to assist the Coast Guard with towing their vessel.

The Coast Guard cutter Myrtle Hazard was on scene with the mariner and his boat, the 47-foot supply vessel Lucky Harvest, as of 4 p.m. Friday, Muir said.

“We’ll get him a hot shower and a hot meal,” she said, adding that the vessel would soon be returned to Guam or Saipan.

“We are relieved to have located the Lucky Harvest and to have one mariner safely res-

cued,” Cmdr. Patton Epperson, search and rescue mission coordinator, said in a Friday news release. “Our focus now is on ensuring the safety of the second mariner and securing the vessel, and we’re deeply grateful for the swift response of our Navy partners and the ongoing support from all involved.”

Muir was unable to provide identifying information.

Navy to scrap platforms used to salvage USS Arizona

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Work was to begin Monday to permanently remove a pair of dilapidated platforms that were connected to the USS Arizona during salvage operations following its sinking in the 1941 Japanese surprise attack.

Workers with the U.S. Navy

and Pearl Harbor National Memorial will place containment buoys and anchors in the waters surrounding the USS Arizona Memorial site as a precautionary measure and in preparation for removing the platforms, the Navy said in a news release Thursday.

“Ultimately, the Navy decid-

ed to remove the historic platforms to prevent possible damage to the USS Arizona, its memorial and the environment,” the release states.

The platforms were welded to the hull of the Arizona, which sits mostly below water in Pearl Harbor, during a lengthy salvage operation in the wake of

the attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

Ferries, barges and ships tethered to the platforms as workers stripped parts critical to the war effort.

In October 2023, memorial staff discovered the smaller of the two platforms had shifted, with its concrete surface now inclined diagonally in the water.

Trump budget would cut ocean observing

Associated Press

Capt. Ed Enos makes his living as a harbor pilot in Hawaii, clambering aboard arriving ships in the predawn hours and guiding them into port.

His world revolves around wind speeds, current strength and wave swells. When Enos is bobbing in dangerous waters in the dark, his cellphone is his lifeline: with a few taps he can access the Integrated Ocean Observing System and pull up the data needed to guide what are essentially floating warehouses safely to the dock.

But maybe not for much longer. President Donald Trump wants to eliminate all federal funding for the observing system's regional operations.

Scientists say the cuts could mean the end of efforts to gather

real-time data crucial to navigating treacherous harbors, plotting tsunami escape routes and predicting hurricane intensity.

"It's the last thing you should be shutting down," Enos said. "There's no money wasted. Right at a time when we should be getting more money to do more work to benefit the public, they want to turn things off. That's the wrong strategy at the wrong time for the wrong reasons."

The IOOS system launched about 20 years ago. It's made up of 11 regional associations in multiple states and territories, including the Virgin Islands, Alaska, Hawaii, Washington state, Michigan, South Carolina and Southern California.

The regional groups are networks of university research-

ers, conservation groups, businesses and anyone else gathering or using maritime data.

The associations are the Swiss army knife of oceanography, using buoys, submersible drones and radar installations to track water temperature, wind speed, atmospheric pressure, wave speeds, swell heights and current strength.

The networks monitor the Great Lakes, U.S. coastlines, the Gulf of Mexico, which Trump renamed the Gulf of America, the Gulf of Alaska, the Caribbean and the South Pacific.

Cruise ship, freighter and tanker pilots like Enos, as well as the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, use the information directly to navigate safely, plot courses and conduct search-and-rescue operations.

The associations' observations feed into National Weather Service forecasts. The Pacific Northwest association uses tsunami data to post real-time coastal escape routes on a public-facing app. And the Hawaii association not only posts data that is helpful to harbor pilots but tracks hurricane intensity and tiger sharks.

The associations also track toxic algal blooms, which can force beach closures and kill fish. The maps help commercial anglers avoid those empty regions.

Water temperature data can help identify heat layers within the ocean and, because it's harder for fish to survive in those layers, knowing hot zones helps anglers target better fishing grounds.

FBI investigating clinic explosion as terrorism

Associated Press

The FBI has identified a 25-year-old California man as the person they say is responsible for the explosion of a Palm Springs fertility clinic.

Authorities say the suspect, Guy Edward Bartkus of Twentynine Palms, is the same person who was found near a charred-out vehicle by the clinic.

Akil Davis, the head of the FBI's Los Angeles field office, said during a Sunday news conference that investigators were reviewing writings left behind by Bartkus that could shed light on his state of mind.

His writings were "anti pro-life" in nature, according to a social media post Sunday from Bilal Essayli, the U.S. attorney in Los Angeles.

The Associated Press reported Saturday night that those writings communicated a belief that the world should not be populated.

The bombing injured four other people in addition to killing Bartkus, though Davis said all embryos at the facility were saved.

Authorities were executing a search warrant in Twentynine Palms as part of the investigation.

The suspect posted writings online and attempted to record the explosion, though authorities said the video failed to upload.

An official who was not authorized to discuss details of the attack spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press to share information about the attack.

The blast gutted the single-story American Reproductive Centers clinic in upscale Palm Springs, though a doctor told the Associated Press its staff members were safe.

The clinic's IVF lab and stored embryos are offsite and were not damaged.

Mexican tall ship fatally strikes Brooklyn Bridge

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Mexican navy sailing ship on a global goodwill tour struck the Brooklyn Bridge in New York on Saturday, snapping its three masts, killing two crew members and leaving some sailors dangling from harnesses high in the air waiting for help.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams said the 142-year-old bridge was spared major damage but at least 19 people aboard the ship needed medical treatment.

Two of the four people who suffered serious injuries later died, Adams announced on social media early Sunday.

The cause of the collision was under investigation.

In a scene captured in multiple eyewitness videos, the ship, called the Cuauhtemoc, could be seen traveling swiftly in reverse toward the bridge near the Brooklyn side of the East River. Then, its three masts

struck the bridge's span and snapped, one by one, as the ship kept moving.

Videos showed heavy traffic on the span at the time of the 8:20 p.m. collision. No one on the bridge was reported injured.

The vessel, which was flying a giant Mexican flag and had 277 people aboard, then drifted into a pier on the riverbank as onlookers scrambled away.

Sailors could be seen aloft in the rigging on the damaged masts but, remarkably, no one fell into the water, officials said.

Traffic was halted after the collision but was allowed to resume after an inspection, city officials said.

It was unclear what caused the ship to veer off course. New York Police Department Special Operations Chief Wilson Arambales said the ship had just left a Manhattan pier and was supposed to have been headed out to sea, not toward the bridge.

Israel launches Gaza ground operations

Associated Press

DEIRAL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel launched “extensive” new ground operations in the Gaza Strip while airstrikes in a new offensive killed at least 103 people, including dozens of children, overnight and into Sunday, hospitals and medics said — and forced northern Gaza’s main hospital to close.

Israel on Saturday launched the offensive — the largest since it shattered a ceasefire in March — with the aims of seizing territory and displacing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Israel is pressuring Hamas to agree to a temporary ceasefire, one that would free hostages

from Gaza, but wouldn’t necessarily end the war. Hamas says it wants a full withdrawal of Israeli forces and a pathway to ending the war as part of any deal.

Israel’s military, which recently called up tens of thousands of reservists, said that the ground operations are throughout the north and south of the Palestinian territory.

Before the announcement, airstrikes killed more than 48 people in and around the southern city of Khan Younis, some hitting houses and tents sheltering displaced people, according to Nasser Hospital, which said that it struggled to count the dead because of the condition of

the bodies. Eighteen children and 13 women were among them, spokesperson Weam Fares said.

In northern Gaza, a strike on a home in the built-up Jabaliya refugee camp killed nine members of a family, according to the Gaza Health Ministry’s emergency services. Another strike on a residence in Jabaliya killed 10, including seven children and a woman, according to the civil defense, which operates under the Hamas-run government.

In Gaza City, Um Mahmoud al-Aloul lay across the shrouded body of her daughter, Nour al-Aloul.

“You took my soul with you,”

she cried. “I used to turn off my phone from how much you called.”

Israel’s military had no immediate comment. Its statement announcing the ground operations said preliminary strikes over the past week killed dozens of militants and struck more than 670 targets. Israel blames civilian casualties on Hamas because the militant group operates from civilian areas.

An Israeli blockade on food, medicine and other supplies is now in its third month, with global food security experts warning of famine across the territory of more than 2 million people.

Zelenskyy meets with US and EU leaders in Rome

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with top U.S. officials and European leaders in Rome on Sunday, part of stepped-up diplomatic efforts ahead of a high-stakes phone call Monday between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on ending the war in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy spoke with U.S. Vice President JD Vance and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the U.S. ambassador’s residence, while German Chan-

cellor Friedrich Merz said he had spoken both to Zelenskyy and to Rubio on the sidelines of the new pope’s inauguration.

Merz said that he had also agreed with the leaders of France and Britain “that we will speak again with the American president in preparation for this conversation.”

“My firm impression is that both the Europeans and the Americans are determined to work together, but now also in a goal-oriented manner, to ensure that this terrible war ends soon,” Merz told reporters in Rome.

Trump said he plans to speak by phone Monday with Putin, and will then speak to Zelenskyy and leaders of various NATO countries, about ending the war in Ukraine.

The intensified diplomacy came as Russia launched its largest drone barrage against Ukraine since the start of the full-scale invasion in 2022, after the first direct talks between Moscow and Kyiv in years failed to yield a ceasefire.

Putin spurned Zelenskyy’s offer to meet face-to-face in Turkey after he himself proposed di-

rect negotiations — although not at the presidential level — as an alternative to a 30-day ceasefire urged by Ukraine and its Western allies, including the U.S.

Talks in Istanbul on Friday broke up after less than two hours without a ceasefire, although both sides agreed on exchanging 1,000 prisoners of war each, according to the heads of both delegations. Ukraine’s intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, said on Ukrainian television Saturday that the exchange could happen as early as next week.

Iran says it will continue talks over nuclear program

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s president said his country will continue talks with the United States over its rapidly advancing nuclear program but will not withdraw from its rights because of U.S. threats.

“We are negotiating, and we will negotiate. We are not after war but we do not fear any threat,” President Masoud Pezeshkian said during a speech to

navy officials broadcast by state television Saturday.

“It is not like if they threaten us we will give up our human right and definite rights,” Pezeshkian said. “We will not withdraw, we will not easily lose honorable achievements in military, scientific and nuclear” fields.

The negotiations have reached the “expert” level, meaning the sides are trying to

reach agreement on the details of a possible deal. But a major sticking point remains Iran’s enrichment of uranium, which Tehran insists it must be allowed to do and the Trump administration insists the Islamic Republic must give up.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran’s program if a deal isn’t reached. Iranian officials increasingly

warn they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels.

Earlier Friday, Trump said Iran received a proposal during the talks, though he did not elaborate.

During his trip to the region last week, Trump at nearly every event insisted Iran could not be allowed to obtain a nuclear bomb.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Senator: Reimburse Texas for border costs

DC WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, introduced legislation Thursday intended to provide the state about \$11 billion to cover what it spent on border security during former President Joe Biden's administration.

Cornyn said Biden failed to keep the border secure and forced Texas to step up with what it called Operation Lone Star.

That initiative has involved sending state troopers and National Guardsmen to the border, as well as putting razor wire and other physical barriers along the Rio Grande.

"Texas did what it could, using the resources that it could, to fill the gap while the federal government whose responsibility it is to secure the border, did virtually nothing," Cornyn told reporters Thursday.

Audit says agency can't account for millions

MD BALTIMORE — A legislative audit released Thursday found that the Maryland Department of Emergency Management potentially cost the state more than \$300 million in federal COVID-19-related funds and failed to account for over \$23 million in loans to volunteer fire companies.

In MDEM's first audit since being established in 2021, the Maryland Office of Legislative Audits determined that in several instances, the department spent more than \$1.13 billion between 2022 and 2024 on CO-

VID-related grants, making up most of its funding for public assistance.

While the department was able to request federal reimbursements for much of this spending, it failed to do so on a quarterly basis, which lost the state an estimated \$19.2 million.

Man who led police on wild chase pleads guilty

CA SACRAMENTO — A California man who tried to evade arrest by jumping into a lake with an underwater scooter pleaded guilty Thursday to fraud, money laundering and witness tampering in connection with a \$35 million investment fraud scheme, federal prosecutors announced.

Prosecutors said that between 2015 and 2020, Matthew Piercey, 48, of Shasta County, solicited investor funds and used the money for various personal and business expenses, including the purchase of two residential properties.

When agents tried to arrest him in November 2020, Piercey led them on a car chase before dumping his vehicle and fleeing into frigid Lake Shasta with what was later identified as a Yamaha 350LI underwater submersible device.

He emerged from the lake after about 20 minutes and was arrested.

Guardsmen landed helo at ranch, took antlers

MT BILLINGS — Three Montana Army National Guard members face trespassing charges after authorities said they landed a Black Hawk helicopter in a

mountain pasture on a private ranch to take several elk antlers before flying away.

A witness saw the May 4 landing and the person who owns the property reported it to officials, who tracked down the three guard members, Sweet Grass County Sheriff Alan Ronneberg said Thursday.

The guardsmen had been on a training flight from the city of Billings to Helena, the state capital, said Maj. Ryan Finnegan with the Montana National Guard.

The helicopter landed briefly in the pasture located in the foothills of the Crazy Mountains, where the crew members picked up two individual antlers and an old elk skull with antlers still attached, the sheriff said.

The antlers and skull taken by the guardsmen were worth a combined \$300 to \$400, according to Ronneberg. They were later turned over to a state game warden.

Mom charged after son arrested in attack plot

TX HOUSTON — A Texas mother has been charged with a terrorism-related crime after being accused of buying her 13-year-old son ammunition and tactical gear as he allegedly planned mass violence at his middle school, authorities said Thursday.

The boy, who was also charged with terrorism, had shown up to the school earlier in the week wearing a mask and tactical gear but left shortly after, according to San Antonio police. He was later detained off campus.

Authorities in San Antonio said the boy's mother had previ-

ously been contacted by police, her son's school and Child Protective Services with concerns about her son.

"She appeared to be dismissive and unconcerned with her son's behavior," San Antonio police Chief William P. McManus said at a news conference. "Her behavior is not only dangerous, it's abhorrent, especially as a parent."

Hospital: Brain-dead woman must carry fetus

GA ATLANTA — A pregnant woman in Georgia who was declared brain dead after a medical emergency has been on life support for three months to let the fetus grow enough to be delivered, a move her family says a hospital told them was required under the state's strict anti-abortion law.

With her due date still more than three months away, it could be one of the longest such pregnancies.

Her family is upset that Georgia's law that restricts abortion once cardiac activity is detected doesn't allow relatives to have a say in whether a pregnant woman is kept on life support.

Georgia's so-called "heart-beat law" is among the restrictive abortion statutes that have been put in place in many conservative states since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* three years ago.

Adriana Smith, a 30-year-old mother and nurse, was declared brain-dead — meaning she is legally dead — in February, her mother, April Newkirk, told Atlanta TV station WXIA.

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Journalism rallies to win Preakness

BYLINE TAG WITH DUMMY

BALTIMORE — Journalism jostled with horses down the stretch, shrugged off the contact, burst through the lane and came from behind to win the 150th running of the Preakness Stakes on Saturday.

The odds-on favorite was bumped by Goal Oriented near the quarter pole, and it looked like another second-place finish was coming two weeks after being the runner-up to Sovereignty in the Kentucky Derby. Journalism instead ran right by Gosger to give trainer Michael McCarthy his second win in a Triple Crown race.

“A lot of bouncing around there,” McCarthy said. “When I saw that, I kind of resigned myself to the fact it was another fantastic effort and maybe come up a little bit short. But it just goes to show the testament that this horse has. Couldn’t be prouder of him.”

Gosger was second by a half-length. Sandman was third and Bob Baffert-trained Goal Ori-

ented fourth. Journalism went $1\frac{1}{16}$ miles in 1:55.37.

Umberto Rispoli became the first jockey from Italy to win any of the Triple Crown races.

“When I crossed the wire, the first things that comes up to my mind, it’s all of the 20 years of my career that pass in front of me,” Rispoli said. “I had to wait so long to be on a champion like that.”

Journalism handled the adversity and thrived on a warm day that dried out the track after torrential rain fell at Pimlico Race Course for much of the past week. Those conditions suited him better than the slop at Churchill Downs.

“This victory symbolizes so much about life,” co-owner Aaron Wellman said. “It took guts for Umberto Rispoli to power his way through a seemingly impossible hole getting side-swiped and threading the needle and powering on through. And it took guts from an incredible horse to somehow will his way to victory.”

Journalism paid \$4 to win, \$2.80 to place and \$2.40 to show.

“He’s a remarkable horse,” Baffert said of Journalism. “I wanted to be on the lead and was behind horses. I knew (Goal Oriented) was intimidated. He’s never run that way. He ran well, but he’s still too green for that.”

Sovereignty did not take part after his owners and trainer Bill Mott decided to skip the Preakness, citing the two-week turnaround, and aimed for the Belmont on June 7. That made this the fifth time in seven years that the Preakness, for various reasons, was contested without a Triple Crown bid at stake.

But Journalism staked his claim for 3-year-old horse of the year by winning the \$2 million American classic race run at the old Pimlico Race Course for the last time before it’s torn down and rebuilt. While work went on around him before the post-race news conference, Wellman asked, “Are they already tearing this place down?”

Not yet, and not before Jour-

nalism could add a memorable chapter by squeezing through the space he had to win.

“I still can’t realize what this horse did,” Rispoli said. “It’s all about him. It’s a pleasure and privilege to ride a horse like him.”

The Preakness is set to be held at nearby Laurel Park, between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., next year before a planned return to the new Pimlico in 2027. McCarthy raved about the history at the place known as “Old Hilltop” and still remembers where he was when Sunday Silence beat Easy Goer at the wire in 1989 in a fashion similar to how Journalism won this time.

“Things kind of come full circle,” McCarthy said. “I’m sad to see this place go, but we’ll try to get back here next year, whichever locale it’s at.”

Journalism is the first horse to win the Preakness after running in the Kentucky Derby since Mark Casse-trained War of Will in 2019.

Last-place O’s fire manager Hyde after dismal start

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles fired manager Brandon Hyde, then needed less than an inning to show they have far deeper problems.

Kyle Gibson allowed six runs, failing to make it out of the top of the first, and the Orioles lost 10-6 to the Washington Nationals on Saturday. Baltimore, which is in last place in the AL East, fell to 15-29.

Before the game, the Orioles relieved Hyde of his duties. He guided the team through an extensive rebuild and won AL Manager of the Year in 2023, but Baltimore’s performance slipped during the second half of last season, and the Orioles have put themselves in a significant hole in 2025.

“As the head of baseball operations, the poor start to our season is ultimately my responsibility,” Orioles executive vice president and general manager Mike Elias said. “Part of that responsibility is pursuing difficult changes in order to set a different course for the future. I want to thank Brandon for his hard work, dedication and passion all these years, and for returning the team to the playoffs and winning an AL East championship.”

Third base coach Tony Mansolino was named interim manager.

Hyde is the third major league manager fired in the last 10 days, joining Pittsburgh’s Derek Shelton and Colorado’s Bud Black.

“Brandon and I are close. I love the guy,” said Nationals manager Dave Martinez, who once served

with Hyde on the Cubs’ staff. “We all know what we sign up for when we take this job. It really just stinks. He’s a good man. I know he’ll land on his feet. I wish him all the best, but it’s a tough gig.”

Mansolino, who had never been a major league manager, would have preferred getting his first shot under different circumstances.

“Not excited. This isn’t a good thing for us,” Mansolino said after the loss. “We’re going to miss Brandon in a lot of ways. To me, he did a great job here. ... To get to this point where a change is made, it’s not something any of us wanted, by any means.”

Baltimore players were informed of Hyde’s dismissal during a team meeting headed by Elias, about four hours before the

start of the Orioles’ game against Washington.

“Pretty surprised, honestly,” starting pitcher Cade Povich said. “It’s not something you expect to come in the morning and hear.”

“That’s unfortunate because Brandon Hyde is a great guy,” Baltimore outfielder Ramón Laureano added. “We, as players, have got to play better. The players are the ones with the bats and gloves.”

Hyde was in his seventh season as O’s manager. He endured seasons of 108 and 110 losses early on, but by 2023, Baltimore won the AL East with 101 victories — and the future looked bright thanks to young standouts like infielder Gunnar Henderson, catcher Adley Rutschman and right-hander Grayson Rodriguez.

Twins blank Brewers for 13th straight

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Pablo López combined with three relievers on a three-hitter as the Minnesota Twins beat the Milwaukee Brewers 7-0 on Saturday for their third straight shutout and 13th consecutive victory.

The Twins haven't allowed a run since giving up six of them in the third inning of an 8-6 victory at Baltimore in the second game of a doubleheader Wednesday.

Milwaukee has been shut out in four of its last five games, the first time that's happened in franchise history, according to Sportradar. According to Sportradar, the last team to get shut out four times in a five-game stretch was the Miami Marlins in July 2022.

Ryan Jeffers went 4 for 5 with a homer and double, and Kody Clemens went 3 for 5 with a homer as the Twins collected 18 hits.

López (4-2) struck out six and allowed two hits and two walks in six innings. Justin Topa, Jorge Alcala and Kody Funderburk each pitched one inning of relief.

Jeffers opened the scoring by hitting a 420-foot shot to left-center with one out in the first inning. He also doubled and scored in the third, singled in the fourth and singled in the eighth.

Myers (1-1) allowed 11 hits over 3⅓ innings while striking out four and walking nobody.

Mets 3, Yankees 2: Francisco Lindor hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the ninth inning as the New York Mets beat the Yankees in the Subway Series.

Juan Soto went 1 for 4 with a walk and is 1 for 6 in his first two games back in the Bronx in a matchup between division leaders since leaving the Yankees for a record \$765 million, 15-year contract with the Mets.

Cubs 7, White Sox 3: Dansby Swanson homered and Pete Crow-Armstrong drove in two

more runs to help the Chicago Cubs beat the Chicago White Sox.

Miguel Amaya also had two RBIs as the NL Central-leading Cubs improved to 4-1 on a six-game homestand. Matthew Boyd (4-2) struck out eight while pitching six innings of three-run ball.

Blue Jays 2, Tigers 1: Ernie Clement hit a game-winning single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning as Toronto rallied to beat visiting Detroit.

Jeff Hoffman (4-2) worked one inning for the win as Toronto stopped Detroit's winning streak at four.

Nationals 10, Orioles 6: Luis Garcia Jr. had two RBIs to fuel a six-run first inning, and Washington won, hours after host Baltimore fired manager Brandon Hyde.

Soon after arriving at the ballpark, the Orioles learned the team dismissed Hyde and made third base coach Tony Mansolino the interim manager. This year the Orioles started 15-28 and were mired in last place in the AL East when general manager Mike Elias decided to make a change.

Rays 4, Marlins 0: Drew Rasmussen threw a season-high six innings of four-hit ball, Yandy Díaz had two hits and two RBIs and Tampa Bay beat host Miami.

Jonathan Aranda and Chandler Simpson singled twice and drove in a run each for the Rays, who scored their runs in the fifth inning against Marlins starter Sandy Alcantara.

Reds 4, Guardians 1: Will Benson and Rece Hinds hit solo home runs as Cincinnati beat visiting Cleveland.

Brent Suter allowed four hits in three innings before five relievers combined to allow a run on four hits for the Reds, including a 1-2-3 sixth inning by Luis Mey (1-0).

Phillies 5, Pirates 2: Zack

Wheeler pitched six shutout innings, Bryson Stott homered and drove in three runs, and host Philadelphia defeated Pittsburgh.

Stott launched his fourth homer of the season off starter Carmen Mlodzinski (1-4) in the third and knocked in two runs an inning later with an opposite-field single.

Rangers 5, Astros 1: Joc Pederson broke a tie with a two-run home run in the sixth inning, Wyatt Langford hit a solo shot in a two-run seventh and Texas beat visiting Houston.

Tyler Mahle (5-1) allowed the one run over six innings, keeping his ERA at 1.47 — ranking third in the AL. Pederson, hitting .123 with four RBI to that point as Texas' primary DH this season, followed Marcus Semien's one-out single off Ronel Blanco (3-4) with a drive to right-center.

Cardinals 1, Royals 0: Jordan Walker homered and Miles Mikolas pitched six sharp innings to lead surging St. Louis at Kansas City.

Mikolas (3-2) allowed two hits with four strikeouts and two walks for the Cardinals, who have won three straight and 12 of 13. St. Louis is 7-1 on a nine-game trip to three cities, winning all three series.

Red Sox 7, Braves 6: Rafael Devers homered leading off the bottom of the ninth inning against Pierce Johnson, sending Boston to a comeback win over visiting Atlanta that snapped its four-game losing streak.

Jarren Duran had a two-run homer and a tying two-run single for the Red Sox, who had dropped 10 of 15.

Rockies 14, Diamondbacks 12: Jordan Beck hit two homers and a triple, driving in three runs and scoring four to rally Colorado from a five-run deficit to a victory at Arizona.

Ezequiel Tovar had five hits, including his first homer this season, and the major league-

worst Rockies (8-37) snapped a four-game losing streak by handing the Diamondbacks (24-22) their first loss in 152 games when scoring at least 12 runs.

Mariners 4, Padres 1: Cal Raleigh led off the seventh inning with his 15th home run to break a tie, Dylan Moore had a two-run single in the ninth and Seattle won at San Diego.

Andrés Muñoz got the final four outs for his league-leading 14th save after Raleigh tied the Yankees' Aaron Judge for the AL homer lead. Raleigh's homer was the first allowed by reliever Adrian Morejon (1-2) this season.

Giants 1, Athletics 0 (10): Wilmer Flores drew a bases-loaded walk on the ninth pitch from Mason Miller with two outs in the 10th inning to score Willy Adames and send San Francisco to a win against the visiting Athletics.

Miller (0-2) intentionally walked Mike Yastrzemski to bring up Flores with the game on the line a night after the Giants slugger hit three homers with a grand slam and drove in eight runs in a 9-1 win. Miller walked LaMonte Wade Jr. to start the inning with Adames as the automatic baserunner at second.

Angels 11, Dodgers 9: Logan O'Hoppe, Taylor Ward and Matthew Lugo homered and the Los Angeles Angels spoiled Clayton Kershaw's season debut, beating the Dodgers to take the first two games of the three-game series at Dodger Stadium.

Kershaw allowed three runs and threw 38 pitches in the first inning. The three-time National League Cy Young Award winner lasted four innings, giving up five runs on five hits with three walks and two strikeouts.

Shoulder, toe and knee injuries limited Kershaw to seven games last season, and his 2025 debut was delayed as he recovered from multiple offseason surgeries.

Stars top Jets in OT for repeat West final trip

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Stars avoided another Game 7, and are again headed to the Western Conference final after having an advantage in overtime.

Defenseman Thomas Harley scored from the top of the slot on a pass from Tyler Seguin for a power-play goal 1:33 into overtime, and the Stars beat the top-seeded Winnipeg Jets 2-1 in Game 6 on Saturday night.

“Obviously, it’s a huge advantage. Clean sheet of ice and a chance to win a series. The guys did just that,” said Sam Steel, who had the other Dallas goal and drew the game-changing penalty. “Tom does what he does all year long, put it in the back of the net. It’s a big one.”

Mark Scheifele scored for the Jets hours after the death of his father, but also had the tripping penalty with 14.8 seconds left in regulation that set up the Stars to start overtime with a

man advantage.

Steel was on a break when Scheifele lunged forward desperately trying to make a play when he tripped up the forward at the blue line — an infraction that could have resulted in a penalty shot. Dallas called a timeout, but missed a shot and had another one blocked before the end of regulation.

“Heartbreaking. ... Felt like we had a team that could go on a run. For it to end the way it did and everything else surrounding the day, it’s just a lot of emotion,” Winnipeg captain Adam Lowry said. “It’s tough to put into words what Mark went through today. Gets a huge goal for us, plays a heck of a game, and it ends the way it does. Just emotional, heavy.”

The Stars, who have already played Game 7s in three consecutive postseasons after beating the Colorado Avalanche in a full first-round series, move on to face the Edmonton Oilers

in the West final for the second year in a row. They host Game 1 on Wednesday night.

Dallas goalie Jake Oettinger made 22 saves to wrap up his sixth playoff series win over the past three seasons. Oettinger made an incredible diving save with 8½ minutes left in regulation, leaning to the right before having to lunge back across his body toward the left post to knock down a shot by Mason Appleton.

Hellebuyck, the two-time Vezina Trophy who is the odds-on favorite to win that top goalie award again this season, stopped 18 shots.

The Stars have won all three of their overtime games this postseason. It was only the second OT game for the Jets, who scored twice in the final two minutes of regulation in Game 7 of the first round and then beat the St. Louis Blues.

Steel got his first goal of the playoffs midway through the

second period. He shot a long rebound from the top of the right circle, sending the puck into the upper right corner of the net just above Hellebuyck’s glove.

Scheifele got his fifth goal of the playoffs when he gathered the rebound of Kyle Connor’s shot and scored from just outside the crease 5½ minutes into the second period. That score came before a whistle blew for a delayed penalty, a high stick by Oettinger into the face of Gabriel Vilardi, who got the secondary assist for his pass to Connor.

That was all set up after Nikolaj Ehlers had a breakaway shot that was knocked away by Oettinger and retrieved by Scheifele.

Hellebuyck withstood a 46-second flurry late in the first period when Dallas had eight shots — three that were on goal, along with four misses and one that was blocked.

With drought over, Knicks set for rematch vs. Pacers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Knicks nearly ended their lengthy Eastern Conference finals drought last year, only to lose on their home floor to the Indiana Pacers in Game 7 of the second round.

With two new starters and much better health, the Knicks finally made it this season for the first time in 25 years.

The opponents will be those same Pacers, who return to Madison Square Garden for a series that begins Wednesday night.

“More to go,” New York guard Mikal Bridges said. “We’re not done.”

Since their last trip to the conference finals in 2000 — another loss to Indiana — the Knicks had reached the second round only one time until doing it each of the last two years following the arrival of Jalen Brunson.

So finally getting over that hump with their 119-81 victory over the Boston Celtics in Game 6 on Friday was a significant step, but it wasn’t one that New York cared to celebrate.

“The goal is always to win a champion-

ship and so we’ve got eight wins. You need 16, right? And each one gets harder and harder, so you’ve got to keep fighting,” Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said.

New York had a 2-0 lead in the series against the Pacers last year before it was decimated with injuries, and Indiana ran it off the floor in Game 7.

The Knicks then traded for Bridges shortly after the season and made a blockbuster move to acquire Karl-Anthony Towns from Minnesota just before the start of this one. It didn’t appear those were going to be the final moves that built a championship team, as New York finished 51-31, well behind Cleveland and Boston, and went a combined 0-8 against those teams.

But they won’t have to worry about the Cavaliers, who lost in five games to the Pacers, and completely turned things around against the Celtics. The Knicks overcame 20-point deficits in the second halves of both games in Boston to open the series.

The resolve New York showed in those comebacks wasn’t there during the regular-season matchups against the Celtics, when

the first three were blowouts. But maybe the Knicks have found it just in time.

“When you’re in these situations, especially in the playoffs, we talk about that New York grit, that unrelentless belief that we will never lose,” Towns said. “And I think that this series, when you want to go deeper into the playoffs, you have to have that and we showed it this series and I think that was really special for us.”

The Knicks were decided underdogs going into the series after the ease with which Boston handled them in the regular season. The Celtics obviously weren’t quite the same team after Jayson Tatum’s ruptured Achilles tendon late in Game 4, but they were still the defending champions and felt they had enough to win even without their leading scorer.

Instead, New York was so dominant in Game 6 that Brunson was asked afterward if the series win felt like an upset.

“Regardless of what anyone thinks, upset or not, we’re just happy to come out of this series with a win and moving on we’ve got to prepare for another team,” he said.