

Iran vows wide retaliation to renewed attacks

Bloomberg News

Iran warned it would retaliate beyond the Middle East if the U.S. or Israel attacks it again, following renewed threats from President Donald Trump.

Meanwhile, U.S. Central Command said it boarded an Iranian-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman on Wednesday, The Associated Press reported.

The M/T Celestial Sea was suspected of trying to violate the American blockade, CENTCOM said on social media. The ship was searched and redirected after being suspected of trying to head to an Iranian port.

It's at least the fifth vessel to be boarded since the Trump administration began the blockade of Iranian shipping.

The U.S. and Iran seem deadlocked over how to turn their fragile ceasefire into a more permanent peace, with neither side toning down its belligerent rhetoric in recent days.

Trump said late Tuesday he might order a new round of strikes in the coming days as he tries to force Iran to make concessions over its nuclear program and reopen the Strait of Hormuz to lower energy prices.

"If aggression against Iran is repeated, the regional war that had been promised will this time extend beyond the region," the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said on Wednesday, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency. The IRGC, which has gained even more in-

fluence over Iranian decision-making since the war erupted in late February, vowed "crushing blows in places you do not expect."

Iran fired drones and missiles at several countries when the U.S. and Israel began the war. As well as Israel and Gulf Arab states, they included Turkey and Cyprus. While Tehran's military was battered by airstrikes until a truce was agreed on April 8, it still has the ability to attack other countries.

Iran's speaker of parliament, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said the country made the "best use of the ceasefire opportunity" to rebuild its capabilities, according to the semi-official Fars news agency. Iran must

"strengthen readiness" for possible attacks, while also boosting economic resilience, he said.

"I hope we don't have to do the war, but we may have to give them another big hit," Trump told reporters.

When asked how long he would wait, he said: "Two or three days, maybe Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Something maybe early next week."

On Wednesday, he said he was "in no hurry" to reach a deal with Iran.

With regards to Israel, which has signaled it wants another round of attacks on the Islamic Republic at some stage, Trump said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would "do whatever I want him to do."

Navy officials tout 'generational' spending plan to panel

By GARY WARNER

Stars and Stripes

Navy officials told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday that their service's share of the Pentagon's \$1.5 trillion budget request was an attempt to counter what they described as decades of under-spending while adversaries escalated challenges around the world.

"While our industrial base atrophied, America's peer competitors grew stronger and threatened our sovereignty," Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao said.

"Their 100-year plan has one goal: total global domination. But one thing stands in their way, and that is the United States of America. The Navy and Marine Corps are America's 9-1-1 force, capable of being anywhere as a carrier strike group or Marine Air-Ground Task Force with over-

whelming firepower."

Cao, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle, and Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Eric Smith appeared at the hearing to support the Department of the Navy's \$377.5 billion budget request.

Cao said the budget includes \$68.5 billion for 34 new ships and five unmanned ships, with plans to add 122 manned and 63 unmanned ships over the next 5 years. The plan calls for spending \$50 billion annually to offset the effects of slower ship construction over the past 25 years.

Cao announced the Pentagon on Tuesday had approved initial production and deployment of the uncrewed MQ-25A Stingray to be used for aerial refueling tasks now done by manned F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft.

Sen. Jack Reed, of Rhode Island, the ranking Democrat on the committee, cautioned Cao

and the service leaders about spreading military funding across a defense budget and additional reconciliation legislation.

"Everything is a priority, because we need unmanned systems, we need submarines, we need ships, we now need auxiliary ships," Cao said. "We also need quality of life for our sailors and Marines, and this is why we need this whole bill, sir, whether you pay it as one bill or two separate bills."

Cao said he was "agnostic" about how the money was divided among the overall \$1.5 trillion in defense spending requests.

"Reconciliation doesn't always become reality," Reed cautioned.

Caudle said he was pleased with what is "baked into the bill."

"I think this budget goes a long way — it's generational in what it's trying to do — to ensure we don't have a hollow Navy," Caudle said. "We'll have a ready Navy

vy."

Smith said keeping three Amphibious Ready Groups is "our North Star." Shortages of deployable ships, equipment and personnel are "what keeps me up at night," he said.

"The ARG, the amphibious ready group with Marine Expeditionary Units embarked, is the most agile, versatile, and responsive formation of the joint force, hands down," Caudle said.

Republican and Democratic senators said their concern included ensuring large sums of public funds are spent on programs that are ready to perform.

Faster design, streamlined construction, a stable workforce, and a consistent, high demand for new ships are key ways for the United States to dig "out of the hole" of delayed and overpriced Navy ship programs, said Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., chairman of the committee.

42 aircraft lost or damaged in Iran war

By LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

At least 42 U.S. military aircraft have been lost or damaged since the start of the war with Iran, according to a recent analysis that compiled news reports and officials' statements to tally losses.

The Congressional Research Service report comes as lawmakers push Pentagon leaders for more clarity on timelines, costs and outcomes pertaining to Operation Epic Fury.

Pentagon acting comptroller Jules Hurst testified to Congress this month that the estimated cost of military operations in

Iran had reached \$29 billion.

The figure includes equipment repair and replacement costs but does not account for damage to U.S. military bases in the Middle East that came under retaliatory attack by Iran, Hurst said. Joint American-Israeli strikes Feb. 28 against Tehran started the war.

During the conflict, the U.S. has lost 24 MQ-9 Reaper drones, according to the Congressional Research Service. The drones cost about \$30 million apiece and can carry as many as 16 Hellfire missiles.

The report also noted that several U.S. aircraft were lost or

damaged during search-and-rescue operations after an F-15E fighter jet was shot down over Iran in April.

In addition to the fighter jet, the U.S. lost an A-10 Thunderbolt II and two MC-130J Commando II special operations aircraft, which were intentionally destroyed on the ground in Iran during the operation.

One search-and-rescue helicopter, an HH-60W Jolly Green II, also sustained damage from small-arms fire in the mission.

Early in the war, a KC-135 refueling tanker flying in friendly airspace in Iraq crashed, killing all six crew members aboard.

Another tanker was involved and made an emergency landing, according to the report.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation, but initial intelligence reports suggested that the pilots may have been trying to evade anti-aircraft fire from Iran-backed militias, according to recent reporting from The Atlantic.

U.S. Central Command has disputed those early intelligence reports, and the Air Force-led investigation is likely to conclude that the crash was an "avoidable mishap" in congested airspace, The Atlantic said.

Senate votes to halt Iran conflict as more GOP defect

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate advanced legislation Tuesday to halt the conflict with Iran as a growing number of Republicans supported Democrats in their eighth attempt to place limits on President Donald Trump's ability to wage war.

A fourth Republican who had previously opposed such efforts, as well as the absence of several Republicans, allowed the resolution to be discharged from committee and advanced to the floor for a formal vote.

The procedural vote to move forward with the measure was 50-47, with Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana breaking with his party for the first time following his loss in a primary this week-end.

Cassidy joined Republicans Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Rand Paul of Kentucky in voting with Democrats. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania again voted against the measure.

Republicans John Cornyn of Texas, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Tommy Tuberville of Alabama did not vote.

The vote came a day after Trump said he had called off a plan to launch a new wave of attacks on Iran after three Persian Gulf nations requested additional time for "serious negotiations."

Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, a Democrat who has led the effort to assert congressional powers on Iran, said the push for diplomacy presented an opportune window for lawmakers to weigh in.

"This is exactly the time where Congress should be having a debate about the rationale for the war, the status of the war, the plans to reopen the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

Republicans have so far resisted challenging the president's authority to use military force abroad, arguing in the case of Iran that it would put troops at risk to suddenly pull them from the conflict.

Pentagon offers details on troop cuts in Europe

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Pentagon's decision to cut the number of Army brigades in Europe reflects a broader reassessment of U.S. force posture on the Continent, a top Pentagon official said Tuesday, as Washington weighs additional adjustments.

The move cancels the planned nine-month deployment of a Fort Hood, Texas-based armored brigade to Poland, reducing the number of Army brigade combat teams in Europe from four to three.

In a statement, chief Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell described the change as a "temporary delay" in deployments to Poland, which he called a "model U.S. ally."

The reduction returns U.S. brigade combat team levels in Europe to where they stood in 2021, Parnell pointed out. That was before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine prompted a larger American military

presence in Europe.

The U.S. now has two permanently stationed brigades on the Continent: the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck, Germany, and the 173rd Airborne in Vicenza, Italy. A third brigade still operates on a rotational basis, mostly in Poland.

While Poland is bearing the brunt of the 5,000-troop reduction, Parnell's characterization of the move as temporary suggests that the Pentagon has not ruled out future deployments to Poland.

"The Department will determine the final disposition of these and other U.S. forces in Europe based on further analysis of U.S. strategic and operational requirements, as well as our allies' own ability to contribute forces toward Europe's defense," Parnell said.

The U.S. will remain in close contact with Poland, "including to ensure that the United States retains a strong military presence" there, he added.

Rubio offers Cubans path out of crisis in recording

Miami Herald

Speaking to Cubans directly in a recorded video message in Spanish to mark the anniversary of Cuba's Independence Day on Wednesday, Secretary of State Marco Rubio offered a "new relationship" between the United States and the Cuban people that could open up the way to a future in which Cubans could freely elect their leaders and be successful business owners.

"We are ready to open a new chapter in the relationship between our people and our countries," he said. "And currently, the only thing standing in the way of a better future are those who control your country."

At the center of its message was the role that GAESA, the military conglomerate that controls much of the country's economy, has played in funneling most of the country's foreign

revenue to its hotels and businesses.

"Today, Cuba is not controlled by any revolution," he said. "Cuba is controlled by GAESA, a state within a state that is accountable to no one and hoards the profits of its businesses for the benefit of a small elite.

Rubio said President Donald Trump is offering "a new path" for a "new Cuba" where ordinary Cubans, not just those with links to GAESA, could be business owners and "complain about a failing system without fear of going to jail or being forced to leave your island; a new Cuba where you have a real opportunity to choose who governs your country and vote to replace them if they are not doing a good job.

A 2025 Miami Herald investigation based on secret GAESA financial statements revealed

that the conglomerate, owned and operated by the Cuban revolutionary armed forces, reported \$18 billion in current assets in March 2024, while the government was cutting spending on health care, education and Cubans were enduring shortages of food and medicine that the island's authorities blamed solely on U.S. sanctions.

The Associated Press reported that federal prosecutors on Wednesday announced charges against former Cuban President Raúl Castro in the 1996 downing of civilian planes operated by Miami-based exiles.

The indictment was related to Castro's alleged role in the shootdown of two small planes operated by the exile group Brothers to the Rescue. Castro, now 94, was Cuba's defense minister at the time.

The charges included murder and destruction of an airplane.

Trump won't attend Naval Academy graduation

The Capital, Annapolis, Md.

President Donald Trump will not speak at the Naval Academy's graduation Friday because of a scheduling conflict, according to academy officials.

Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will instead address midshipmen at Friday morning's commissioning ceremony.

Adm. Mike Mullen was the last chairman to speak at the Naval Academy graduation, delivering the keynote address in 2008.

Some observers have described the decision as a breaking of tradition, but the Naval Academy says that the tradition is anything but.

Since 2000, every president has spoken at the Naval Academy within the first two years of each of their terms.

Trump followed suit, speaking in 2018, but his absence this year breaks that pattern.

Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama addressed midshipmen in the first year of each of their two terms, while presidents Joe Biden and Trump spoke during the second year of theirs.

A spokesperson said the academy generally schedules one of four national leaders to speak at graduation.

"Speaker participation at U.S. service academy graduation and commissioning ceremonies has traditionally included senior national leaders such as the United States President, Vice President, Secretary of War, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Ashley Hockycko said in a statement to the Capital Gazette.

The academy said the rotation has never been a hard rule.

Vice President JD Vance addressed the midshipmen last year.

San Diego shooting suspects left manifesto behind, officials say

Los Angeles Times

SAN DIEGO — The two gunmen who opened fire at a San Diego mosque on Monday, killing three people, had met online, where they were radicalized and left behind a hate-filled manifesto, authorities revealed Tuesday.

According to a witness, the pair were "fully armored" and rushed toward the entrance with handguns and rifles before a security guard shot at and struck one of them.

Now, authorities are investigating if the attack was live-streamed after receiving reports their self-inflicted demise streamed online.

At a news conference Tuesday afternoon, authorities revealed more details they had learned about Monday's violent attack on the Islamic Center of San Diego by two teenagers, who were then found dead by police in a vehicle some distance away.

The two suspects met and were radicalized online, said Mark Remily, FBI special agent in charge of the San Diego office. They left behind a manifesto, as well as writings "outlining religious and racial beliefs about how the world they envision should look like."

But officials didn't provide any details about the writings or

ideology, adding that they were still going through electronic devices and examining the teens' online presence to determine how they were radicalized.

San Diego police Chief Scott Wahl said the actions of the security guard, as well as the two other victims who were killed in the parking lot of the center, distracted and delayed the two suspects, who scoured the mosque only to find empty rooms.

During the gunfight, Wahl said, the security guard had called out on his walkie talkie for the school to be locked down, giving those inside a chance to seek shelter.

Trump grip over GOP continues in Ky. primary

Bloomberg News

Donald Trump's handpicked candidate for a congressional seat in Northern Kentucky, Ed Gallrein, defeated the president's nemesis and longtime GOP House member Thomas Massie in one of the most expensive primaries on record.

With 72% of the vote counted, Gallrein had about 54% to Massie's 46%, Decision Desk HQ reported.

Gallrein's victory is the clearest sign yet of Trump's grip over his Make America Great Again base in solid Republican states even as national surveys show the broader electorate souring on the president's handling of the economy and war in Iran.

A former Navy SEAL and

farmer, Gallrein, 68, is a relative newcomer to politics. He ran a low-key campaign by refusing to debate Massie and generally avoiding the press.

His chief selling points were his military service, his endorsement by Trump and his promise to be a reliable vote for the president's policies.

At his victory speech, Gallrein first thanked Trump.

"The winner of the race is not so much Ed Gallrein, but it is for the Republicans of Kentucky District Four, who I will be a champion for in Washington," Gallrein told supporters.

Massie, addressing supporters, said he conceded the race. He then criticized his opponents for buying the seat and

making it one of the most expensive races in history. He also lashed out at Trump for focusing on construction of a new White House ballroom when he said gas prices are approaching \$5 a gallon and "people are just trying to make ends meet."

There is little doubt Republicans will hold the seat in the November midterm elections — they've won Kentucky's fourth district almost uninterrupted since the 1960s.

But the primary was the latest test of whether GOP candidates could defy the president on high-profile issues and still get reelected.

Massie, a libertarian and fiscal hawk, became one of Trump's biggest critics, work-

ing alongside a handful of Republican female lawmakers and Democrats to demand the release of the Epstein files. He also refused to vote for the Republicans' sweeping and signature tax and health care bill in 2025, citing his concerns about its cost.

"We stirred up something," Massie told his supporters Tuesday night. "There is a yearning in this country for someone who will vote for principles over party."

All this made him a persona non grata to Trump, who used his social media account to call him a "lowlife," "moron" and "the Worst 'Republican' Congressman we have had in many years."

Blanche questioned over 'anti-weaponization' fund

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche offered a staunch defense of a new \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization fund" Tuesday, while Democrats condemned the effort as a slush fund aimed at funneling taxpayer money to supporters of President Donald Trump.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers during a budget hearing on Capitol Hill pressed the head

of the Justice Department for details on the fund, its scope and who would be eligible for compensation under its structure.

The questions from lawmakers came one day after the department announced the fund as part of a settlement of the unprecedented \$10 billion lawsuit Trump brought against the IRS earlier this year — a scenario where Trump sued the same government he oversees.

The fund will consist of a five-

member commission appointed by the attorney general, the Justice Department said. It also said the president can remove any member.

Under repeated questioning from lawmakers, Blanche stopped short of guaranteeing that the settlement funds would not go to people who have assaulted police officers or committed any kind of violent crime, or to Trump donors.

Instead, Blanche said he ex-

pects that the commissioners will set up rules over eligibility and establish procedures for applying for compensation.

"Anybody can apply," Blanche told lawmakers on the Senate Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Subcommittee during the hearing.

Eligibility for the fund would only be limited by "weaponization," he said, a broad criterion opponents have latched onto for its lack of specificity.

IRS settlement drops Trump tax cases, audits

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump scored a major legal victory over the Internal Revenue Service on Tuesday as the agency he has long reviled was barred by the Justice Department from continuing any "known and unknown" probes into his tax returns.

The one-page agreement signed Tuesday by acting Attorney General Todd Blanche adds to a controversial settlement

struck a day earlier in which Trump agreed to drop a \$10 billion lawsuit he filed against the IRS in January over a 2019 leak of his tax records to the press.

Under the deal, the IRS is "forever barred" from pursuing "any and all claims" or demands for damages that have been or could have been filed against Trump before the agreement was reached. The accord represents a major triumph by Trump over an agency

he has criticized for years for auditing his finances, but it's opened up criticism from Democrats and ethics groups.

"The settlement and general release of claims is a breathtaking abuse of the tax and legal system," Brandon DeBot, policy director of New York University's Tax Law Center, said.

On Monday evening, hours after the settlement was announced, U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams, who over-

saw the lawsuit, issued an order closing the case and questioning whether the government was being transparent.

Williams expressed frustration with how the settlement was handled, saying that the United States has an "obligation" to uphold the "public's strong interest in knowing about the conduct of its government and expenditure of its resources" and the "fair administration of justice."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sheriff urges calm after Cuban drones report

FL KEY WEST — It's just another day in paradise for the sheriff in the Florida Keys.

Despite a report about Cuba discussing plans to use drones to attack U.S. targets, including Key West, Sheriff Rick Ramsey says he wasn't told a thing — and urged calm among Keys people who are usually pretty calm about all sorts of things.

Axios reported Sunday that Cuba has acquired 300 military drones and could use them to target Guantanamo Bay, U.S. military ships and the Southernmost City, just 90 miles away. Axios reported that U.S. officials don't believe there is any imminent threat, and that Cuba isn't capable of closing the Florida Straits with drones like Iran has with the Strait of Hormuz.

Ramsay was quick to issue a statement saying he has not been contacted by federal or state authorities regarding the reported development, and that Keys residents and tourists have no reason to be alarmed.

Administration readying Colorado River plan

CA LOS ANGELES — After months of pressing Western states to come to their own agreement, the Trump administration told their leaders it's drawing up a 10-year plan for dealing with water shortages on the Colorado River.

The river is a major water source for Southern California and much of the Southwest, but its largest reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, are severely depleted and their levels

continue to drop.

Tom Buschatzke, director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, said federal officials informed state water managers they are developing a "10-year framework" with specific rules requiring water reductions that would be reassessed every two years.

Buschatzke said the Trump administration's plan would allow for mandatory cutbacks of up to 3 million acre-feet per year in the three states — as much as 40% of their combined allotments.

Judge denies move to dismiss collusion lawsuit

CA LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles judge has denied a petition by State Farm and other insurers to dismiss two lawsuits accusing them of colluding to drive homeowners onto California's FAIR Plan.

The lawsuits, which accuse the insurers of violating the state's antitrust and unfair competition laws, were largely upheld in a decision last week by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Samantha Jessner.

The judge struck two less significant claims from the lawsuits filed last year, but allowed the case to proceed against more than a dozen major California insurers, led by State Farm General, the state's largest.

One lawsuit led by Todd and Kimberley Ferrier — whose Pacific Palisades home burned down — seeks to compensate 60 homeowners who experienced fire losses exacerbated by the FAIR Plan's limited coverage.

The other case is a proposed class action that would compen-

sate policyholders for the higher premiums they paid to the plan.

Prosecutors seek 50-year sentence in fraud case

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Aimee Bock should spend 50 years in prison for coordinating the biggest pandemic-era fraud in the U.S., according to a court filing made by Minnesota U.S. Attorney Daniel Rosen.

Bock was convicted last year of using her nonprofit, Feeding Our Future, to help steal \$250 million from a federally funded program aimed at providing meals to poor children. Her sentencing is set for Thursday.

Prosecutors said some of the nonprofit's employees, food sites and vendors were involved in an extraordinary pay-for-play scheme of kickbacks and bribes, relying on fake attendance sheets and phony invoices to inflate the number of meals they claimed to serve and raking in millions of dollars.

Feds: Homeless people paid to register to vote

CA LOS ANGELES — A longtime signature gatherer will plead guilty to paying homeless people on Skid Row to help get initiatives on the ballot, federal prosecutors said Monday, part of an effort to crack down on what they claim is widespread voter fraud across the state.

Brenda Lee Brown Armstrong, 64, of Marina del Rey, agreed to plead guilty to one felony count of paying a person to register to vote, prosecutors announced Monday. She faces up to five years in prison.

Armstrong, who worked for

20 years gathering signatures for ballot initiatives, would give people on Skid Row two to three dollars — or, sometimes, a cigarette or a phone cord — in exchange for their signature to help qualify a measure for the ballot, according to her plea agreement.

Starting in 2025, Armstrong would also register neighborhood residents to vote, sometimes using her former home address, according to court records.

Woman steps into open manhole, dies in fall

NY NEW YORK — A 56-year-old woman died after she stepped out of an SUV and abruptly fell into an open manhole on a Midtown Manhattan street, police said Tuesday.

Donike Gocaj, from Briarcliff Manor, had just parked her Mercedes-Benz SUV on East 52nd Street near the corner of Fifth Avenue before stepping out of her vehicle at about 11:20 p.m. and into the open manhole a moment later, police said.

Con Edison said in a statement that it was still investigating, but that it appears a heavy truck rolling over the manhole cover may have dislodged it.

"We have reviewed video footage from the area which suggests that the cover was dislodged after a multi-axle truck turning onto 52nd Street from 5th Avenue drove over it," a spokesperson for the utility said.

Gocaj fell about 10 feet, police said. Firefighters quickly removed her from the hole and EMS rushed her to Cornell Weill Medical Center, where she died, police said.

— From wire reports

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Brunson, Knicks rally from 22 down for OT win

Associated Press

NEW YORK—Jalen Brunson sparked one of the NBA's greatest postseason comebacks, a rally from a 22-point deficit in the fourth quarter, and finished with 38 points as the New York Knicks beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 115-104 in overtime on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

After a record-setting run through the first two rounds, New York was going nowhere for 40 minutes against Cleveland, trailing 93-71 with 7:52 to play.

But Brunson relentlessly attacked James Harden to spark an 18-1 run that made it a ballgame, and he tied it at 101-all on a basket with 19 seconds remaining in regulation.

Before that, Brunson said the message for the Knicks was just to finish strong so they would have momentum for Game 2, even if they lost the opener.

"Just keep fighting," he said.

"Keep chipping away. We're not going to get it back in one possession."

New York then opened overtime with a 9-0 run as a delirious crowd in Madison Square Garden danced and screamed in the aisles. The Knicks moved within three wins of their first NBA Finals appearance since 1999.

Mikal Bridges added 18 points and three New York players scored 13, including OG Anunoby, who came on late after struggling most of the way in his return after missing two games with a strained right hamstring.

Donovan Mitchell scored 29 points for the Cavaliers, who seemed well on their way to a third straight road win before their late collapse. The Knicks outscored them 44-11 after their 93-71 lead.

"We played great basketball tonight for three quarters. Unfortunately, the fourth quarter — they dominated us in the fourth quarter," Cleveland

coach Kenny Atkinson said.

New York won its eighth straight game and will host Game 2 on Thursday.

The Knicks had outscored Atlanta and Philadelphia by a combined 194 points, the largest margin ever through a team's first 10 postseason games. But after not playing since May 10, when they finished their second-round sweep of the 76ers, New York misfired most of the night, looking like the rust hurt more than the rest helped.

They were 4 for 23 on 3-pointers through three quarters and then had a horrible start to the fourth. But a year after coughing up a 14-point lead in the final minutes of regulation and losing to Indiana in OT in Game 1 of the conference finals on their home court, the Knicks found their offense just in time.

"But it was our defense that has always been special in these playoffs and that has carried us in this playoffs, that showed up

in the fourth quarter and in overtime," Karl-Anthony Towns said. "It allowed us to be sitting here with a win against a really great team."

The only bigger fourth-quarter playoff comeback in the last 30 years was when the Los Angeles Clippers rallied from 24 down to beat the Memphis Grizzlies in Game 1 in 2012.

"That can't happen. But it did," Mitchell said. "We play in two days. We can't sit here and let it kill our momentum, kill what we've been doing. It's not a good loss."

New York came from 20 points behind three times last year in the postseason. Those were its largest comebacks on record since 1969-70, when it won its first of two NBA titles.

Evan Mobley had 15 points and 14 rebounds for the Cavs. Harden also scored 15 points, but was just 1 for 8 on 3-pointers and had more turnovers (six) than field goals (five).

Mavericks fire Kidd as coach 2 years after making Finals

Associated Press

DALLAS—Jason Kidd is out as coach of the Dallas Mavericks after five seasons, and two weeks after the club hired former Toronto Raptors executive Masai Ujiri as team president and governor.

The team said Tuesday that it was parting ways with Kidd, describing the move as a mutual decision. The Hall of Fame point guard led the franchise to its only championship as a player in 2011.

When asked about the future of Kidd at his introduction on May 5, Ujiri was noncommittal, saying he would talk to Kidd while evaluating all aspects of the team.

"As we evaluate the future of our basketball program, we believe this is the right moment for a new direction for our team," Ujiri said in a statement. "We have high expectations for this franchise and a responsibility to build a basketball organization capable of sustained championship contention."

Kidd, who didn't respond to a request for comment, made two deep playoff runs with Luka Doncic, reaching the NBA Finals in 2024, two years after a loss to Golden State in

the Western Conference finals.

Dallas traded Doncic to the Los Angeles Lakers during the 2024-25 season, getting Anthony Davis as the centerpiece in a deal that backfired badly on the franchise. The Mavericks missed the playoffs that season and again in 2025-26.

The 53-year-old Kidd had said he was looking forward to developing 2025 No. 1 overall pick Cooper Flagg, who won Rookie of the Year. Instead, that task will fall to someone else.

Kidd finished with a .500 regular-season record (205-205) with Dallas, an appropriate illustration of the up-and-down nature of his tenure.

The run to the West finals came in his first season, when the Mavs stunned favored Phoenix in Game 7 on the road in the second round. Dallas lost in five games to Golden State, which won the title.

Then-general manager Nico Harrison traded for Kyrie Irving the next season, but injuries to him and Doncic limited their chances to be an elite scoring pair. The Mavericks missed the playoffs.

In their only healthy season together in

2023-24, Doncic and Irving led Dallas to the Finals for the first time since Kidd helped the Mavs win it all.

Nine months later, Harrison shocked the NBA with the trade of Doncic. Because of injuries, Irving and Davis played together for just 2½ quarters.

Harrison was fired early in the 2025-26 season, after a slow start and with Davis injured again. Davis was later traded to Washington, and despite plenty of brilliant play from Flagg, Dallas finished 26-56.

The Mavericks became the fourth team with a coaching vacancy, joining Orlando, Chicago and Portland. The Trail Blazers were led by Tiago Splitter in an interim role this season. Since the regular season ended, Milwaukee has hired Taylor Jenkins and New Orleans brought in Jamahl Mosley.

Ujiri told reporters not to read anything into him being noncommittal about Kidd's return, saying the incumbent lasted several years as coach in each of the previous times he was hired to run basketball operations, with Toronto and Denver.

This time, however, Ujiri is starting fresh.

Nationals rally from down 5 to beat Mets

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — James Wood hit the majors' first inside-the-park grand slam since 2022, and the Washington Nationals rallied from an early five-run deficit Tuesday night to defeat the New York Mets 9-6.

José Tena also homered for Washington, which avoided its first three-game skid since April 22-24.

Down 5-0, the Nationals loaded the bases with two outs in the second inning. Mets starter Nolan McLean (2-3) threw a first-pitch sweeper to Wood, who lofted it to deep left. It glanced off the arm of the leaping Nick Morabito and caromed into center. Wood scampered around the bases in 15.15 seconds and dove into the plate well ahead of the throw for his first career grand slam.

It was the ninth inside-the-park grand slam since 1994 and the first since Toronto's Raimel Tapia did it July 22, 2022.

Bo Bichette homered twice and drove in four runs and Juan Soto also went deep for New York, which had won six of seven.

Cardinals 9, Pirates 6 (10): Iván Herrera hit a three-run, walk-off home run in the bottom of the 10th inning — one of four homers by host St. Louis — as the Cardinals rallied to beat Pittsburgh.

JJ Wetherholt, Nolan Gorman and Alec Burleson also homered as St. Louis improved to 5-0 this season against its Central Division rivals and 7-1 in extra-inning games.

Spencer Horwitz's pinch-hit single off Riley O'Brien in the ninth capped a two-run rally by the Pirates, tying the game at 6.

Brewers 5, Cubs 2: Jacob Misiorowski pitched six scoreless innings, Brice Turang was 3 for 4 with a two-run homer and visiting Milwaukee topped Chicago to move into first place in the NL Central.

Jake Bauers had two hits and

an RBI and Garrett Mitchell drove in a run to help the Brewers win for the 10th time in their last 12 games.

Misiorowski (4-2) allowed three singles and extended his scoreless streak to 24½ innings, while striking out eight and walking one.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 2: Ben Rice hit a two-run homer that broke a fifth-inning tie and host New York held off Toronto.

Ryan McMahon pulled the Yankees even with a three-run shot off Dylan Cease following two walks in the fourth. Will Warren (6-1) went five innings for the win, and New York got excellent relief from a bullpen that's been shaky of late.

Tim Hill, Jake Bird and Brent Headrick combined to allow just one hit over three scoreless innings. With closer David Bednar receiving a rest, Camilo Doval allowed a sacrifice fly by Vladimir Guerrero Jr. before getting the save.

Rangers 10, Rockies 0: Kumar Rocker tossed a career-high 7½ innings, Brandon Nimmo homered and visiting Texas beat Colorado.

Ezequiel Duran hit two doubles and a single, while Joc Pederson had four of Texas' season-high 16 hits.

Rocker (2-4) entered in the second inning and held the Rockies down while his offense built a lead. The third overall pick in the 2022 draft, Rocker fanned seven on a career-high 103 pitches.

Braves 8, Marlins 4: Ronald Acuña Jr. doubled, walked twice and scored three times in his return and visiting Atlanta beat Miami.

It was Acuña's first game since being sidelined May 2 because of a left hamstring strain. He batted leadoff as the designated hitter.

Mauricio Dubón had three hits, including a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning. Matt Olson walked twice, had two hits and drove in three runs,

while Michael Harris II homered and singled for the NL East-leading Braves.

Guardians 4, Tigers 3: Travis Bazzana hit a two-run homer, Cade Smith pitched out of a jam in the ninth inning, and visiting Cleveland held off Detroit for its fourth straight victory.

Brayan Rocchio drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning with a groundout that allowed Steven Kwan to score.

Smith got into trouble in the ninth when Matt Vierling and Kevin McGonigle hit one-out singles to put runners on first and second. But Smith struck out Jahmal Jones looking and Dillon Dingler swinging for his 15th save in 17 opportunities, handing the Tigers a fourth straight loss.

Rays 4, Orioles 1: Yandy Díaz went 2-for-3 with a home run and an RBI double, Griffin Jax allowed one run and had six strikeouts in five innings, and host Tampa Bay beat Baltimore for its third consecutive win.

The Rays have won 20 of 24 and have the best record in MLB at 32-15.

Reds 4, Phillies 1: Chase Burns struck out nine in six innings and lowered his ERA to 1.83 in another terrific start for visiting Cincinnati in a win over Philadelphia.

Burns (6-1) allowed only Trea Turner's solo shot in the third as he helped the Reds end a three-game losing streak and move back above .500 (25-24).

Red Sox 7, Royals 1: Jarren Duran hit a home run, doubled and drove in three runs, Willson Contreras added two hits and three RBIs, and visiting Boston beat Kansas City.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa went 3-for-3 with a walk, and Cedanne Rafaela and Wilyer Abreu had two hits apiece.

Astros 2, Twins 1: Isaac Paredes hit a two-run homer in the first inning, Jason Alexander (1-0) scattered four hits over six scoreless innings and visiting Houston beat Minnesota.

Jeremy Peña singled off Zebby Matthews (1-1) to open the game and Paredes followed with his fifth home run — on a 3-2 pitch — for a 2-0 lead.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 3: Ketel Marte hit a game-winning three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning to lead host Arizona over San Francisco.

The Diamondbacks trailed 3-1 going into the ninth but Adrian Del Castillo hit a two-out RBI single that cut the deficit to 3-2. Ryan Waldschmidt then reached on catcher's interference before Marte stepped up.

Dodgers 5, Padres 4: Alex Call slid home with the tie-breaking run on Andy Pages' sacrifice fly off Mason Miller in the ninth inning, and visiting Los Angeles hung on for a victory over San Diego.

Freddie Freeman hit two homers for the Dodgers before they manufactured an unearned run off Miller (1-1), the Padres' vaunted closer who had held opponents scoreless in 20 of his first 21 appearances this season.

White Sox 2, Mariners 1: Andrew Benintendi drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single in the ninth inning, four Chicago pitchers held Seattle to one hit and the visiting White Sox beat the Mariners.

Chase Meidroth tied the game with a single to right field off Mariners closer Andrés Muñoz, and Benintendi put Chicago ahead with a single that ricocheted off the glove of Mariners first baseman Josh Naylor to score Manuel Vargas from third.

Athletics 14, Angels 6: Nick Kurtz had three hits and five RBIs, Brent Rooker and Zack Gelof homered and drove in three runs apiece as the visiting Athletics beat Los Angeles.

Kurtz sparked a six-run third inning with an RBI single, keyed a two-run sixth with a two-run single and added a two-run double in a four-run eighth.

Wait over: Canadiens rebuild looks complete

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Canadiens defenseman Mike Matheson was no different than any Montreal hockey fan, increasingly impatient over talk of the team's promising potential.

Turns out, the future has arrived perhaps a little ahead of schedule, and propelled by forward Alex Newhook's knack for scoring Game 7 playoff series-clinching goals.

"It means a lot," Matheson said after Montreal advanced to the Eastern Conference finals courtesy of Newhook's goal 11:22 into overtime of a 3-2 win over the Buffalo Sabres on Monday night.

"For a long time it's been talking about the rebuild and re-

build. I think as a group we're a little tired of that whole kind of viewpoint, as if we have to keep being patient and wait, and our time will come," he said. "So I feel it's exciting for us and motivating for us to see that we're at this stage already."

The win was Montreal's second in a Game 7 this postseason, with both coming on the road and both decided by Newhook. The second-line forward also scored the tie-breaking goal 11:07 into the third period in Game 7 of Montreal's 2-1 first-round series-clinching win over Tampa Bay.

Next up are the well-rested Hurricanes in a series that opens at Carolina on Thursday night. The Hurricanes have swept each of their first two rounds, and

been off since a 3-2 overtime win against Philadelphia on May 9.

The Canadiens reached the NHL's semifinal round for the first time since the 2021 COVID-altered playoffs, in which a veteran-laden Montreal team beat Vegas before losing to Tampa Bay in the Stanley Cup Final in five games. Though there are a few holdovers, such as captain Nick Suzuki and linemate Cole Caufield, both now in their mid-20s, this group has essentially been rebuilt from scratch in three-plus seasons under general manager Kent Hughes and coach Martin St. Louis. Among the newcomers are draft picks such as defenseman Lane Hutson, forwards Juraj Slafkovsky and Ivan Demidov, and goalie

Jakub Dobes. Then there's the key pieces Hughes acquired through trades, including Newhook, Matheson, Noah Dobson, Alexandre Carrier and Phillip Danault, who is back for a second stint.

"We built it since I've been here, and we built it all season long," said Newhook, who won the Stanley Cup in 2022 with Colorado, and now is in his second season in Montreal.

Montreal is in the playoffs for just the fourth time in nine years. And the team's upward trajectory is apparent a year after being knocked out in the first round by Washington, and following a season in which Montreal's 48 wins and 106 points were the most since 2014-15.

Chiefs' Rice ordered to jail after violating his probation

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chiefs wide receiver Rashee Rice was ordered to serve 30 days in jail Tuesday after testing positive for marijuana, which violated the terms of his probation for his role in a crash that left multiple people injured on a Dallas highway two years ago.

The Texas State Attorney's Office said Rice was to report to jail immediately as part of his original sentence last July, when he pleaded guilty to third-degree felony charges of collision involving serious bodily injury and racing on a highway causing bodily injury.

As part of his plea agreement last summer, Rice was sentenced to five years of deferred probation and 30 days in jail as a condition of his probation, prosecutors said. The agreement had given him flexibility on the timeframe for serving that jail sentence.

"We are aware of the reports and have been in touch with the league office," a Kansas City spokesman told The Associated Press, declining further comment. NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy likewise said the league was "aware of the report" and declined to comment.

Messages left with Rice's attorney were not immediately returned.

The timing coincides with the NFL's offseason workout phase, which means

Rice will miss valuable work with the team. The Chiefs are due to start voluntary workouts May 26 and they have a mandatory three-day minicamp beginning June 9.

The case stems from an accident in March 2024, when the 26-year-old Rice was driving a Lamborghini Urus SUV at 119 mph, made "multiple aggressive maneuvers around traffic" and struck other vehicles, prosecutors said. The prosecutors also said that after that crash on North Central Expressway that Rice failed to check on the welfare of those in the other vehicles and fled on foot.

Canucks fire Foote

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Adam Foote is out as coach of the Vancouver Canucks, fired Tuesday as part of the organization's latest purge of staff following a last-place finish in the NHL this season.

Foote lasted just one year in the role after being promoted from an assistant to succeed Rick Tocchet, who decided to leave when his contract was up.

Vancouver lost 57 of 82 games to end up 14 points lower than the next-closest team in the league standings.

French Open players' protest

PARIS — Players at the French Open

are planning to reduce media appearances ahead of the start of the Grand Slam to complain about their share of the prize money.

A group has already targeted the upcoming clay-court tournament for reducing players' share of revenue to an alleged 14.3%.

The French tennis federation (FFT), which organizes the French Open, said in a statement to The Associated Press that it regrets the players' initiative "which penalizes all stakeholders involved in the tournament: the media, broadcasters, federation staff and the entire tennis community that enthusiastically follows each edition of Roland Garros."

Congo cancels training camp

Congo's soccer team has canceled a three-day World Cup preparation training camp and a planned farewell to fans in the capital Kinshasa because of an outbreak of Ebola in the east of the country.

Preparations will take place elsewhere after an outbreak of a rare type of Ebola known as Bundibugyo, which is thought to have killed more than 130 people and caused nearly 600 suspected cases.

The World Health Organization has declared it a public health emergency of international concern.