

Trump says Iran will not enrich uranium

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. will work closely with Iran to “dig up and remove” its remaining nuclear material, President Donald Trump said Wednesday.

In a post to Truth Social, the president also said Iran will no longer enrich uranium.

“The United States will, working with Iran, dig up and remove all of the deeply buried (B-2 Bombers) Nuclear ‘Dust.’ It is now, and has been, under very exacting Satellite Surveillance (Space Force!). Nothing has been

touched from the date of attack,” Trump wrote, appearing to refer to the U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities last summer.

Iran has not confirmed any details about Trump’s plans for the nuclear material. As part of its 10-point proposal for a ceasefire, Tehran demanded Tuesday that it be allowed to continue enriching uranium.

In a separate post minutes later, the president said any country supplying military weapons to Iran will face 50% tariffs on anything sold to the United States, effective immediately.

Speaking at a press conference early Wednesday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth reiterated Trump’s claims about Iran’s uranium.

“We’re watching it,” he said, referring to the enriched nuclear material. “We know what they have, and they will give it up, and we’ll get it. We’ll take it if we have to. We can do it by any means necessary.”

Asked about reports of continued reports of missile fire in the region, Hegseth said the U.S. is aware and monitoring the situation.

“Iran would be wise to find a way to get their carrier pigeon to troops out in remote locations to know not to shoot any longer,” Hegseth said. “It takes time, sometimes, for a ceasefire to take hold.”

Trump’s announcement comes less than 24 hours after both sides agreed to a two-week ceasefire in order to reach a final deal.

Missiles continued to fly across the region on Wednesday, with multiple Gulf countries intercepting Iranian strikes and Israel firing into Lebanon.

US military’s role in Hormuz unclear after ceasefire

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

A last-minute ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran to halt weeks of strikes eased fears of a wider conflict but leaves two key questions unresolved: Who controls the Strait of Hormuz? And what role will the U.S. military play in keeping it open?

The deal came together Tuesday evening, hours before a deadline set by President Donald Trump for potential U.S. strikes on Iranian infrastructure, with both sides agreeing to a two-week cessation of hostilities as negotiations continue.

It’s the closest the U.S. has come to ending the 40-day conflict, which has sent fuel prices skyrocketing as Iran threatened attacks against vessels transiting the strait.

Despite the ceasefire, disagreements persist over how to govern the narrow sea route between Iran and Oman that is a vital corridor for a fifth of the globe’s oil.

Trump has emphasized that any deal must include free and

open transit for oil. In a Truth Social post, he said the United States “will be helping with the traffic buildup” in the waterway but without specifying how.

He previously suggested that the U.S. Navy could escort oil tankers and other cargo ships, but such an operation could put American sailors and merchant vessels at high risk of drone, missile or mine attacks.

The U.S. has deployed a fleet of warships to the region over the last several months, including the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group in the Arabian Sea and the Ford Carrier Strike Group in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

At least 16 destroyers and potentially one submarine are in the region. The Tripoli Amphibious Ready Group, including elements of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, is also in the region.

Multiple outlets last month reported that the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group is also en route.

Iran has allowed small num-

bers of ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz since fighting began on Feb. 28, but global oil prices remain significantly higher than usual.

Part of Iran’s 10-point proposal, which Trump described as “a workable basis on which to negotiate,” included allowing Tehran to continue controlling traffic through the waterway.

Doing so would be a major departure from maritime shipping norms and would likely conflict with the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. It guarantees transit passage through international straits and generally prohibits countries from charging foreign ships for passage.

Trump on Wednesday suggested that the U.S. could launch a joint venture with Iran to charge tolls, according to ABC News.

“We’re thinking of doing it as a joint venture. It’s a way of securing it — also securing it from lots of other people,” Trump told ABC’s Jonathan Karl.

Iran has demanded that any

permanent peace deal allow it to collect fees in the Strait of Hormuz, according to Reuters. A senior Iranian official told the outlet that costs would vary depending on vessel type, cargo and prevailing conditions.

In his announcement of the ceasefire, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that for the next two weeks, safe passage through the strait will be coordinated with Iran’s military.

Last week, Iranian officials said they were discussing a system that would allow them to charge fees in coordination with Oman.

Such a proposal is likely to face global pushback, especially from countries in Europe and Asia that rely heavily on the goods passing through the strait.

Previous tactics employed by Trump, including threatening Iran with more strikes or encouraging other nations to seize the oil themselves, have yielded little in the way of opening the strait.

Hegseth deems Epic Fury a 'historic' victory

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday called Operation Epic Fury “a historic and overwhelming victory on the battlefield,” a day after the U.S. and Iran announced a two-week ceasefire.

“In less than 40 days ... (U.S.) Central Command, using less than 10% of America’s total combat power, dismantled one of the world’s largest militaries, the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism,” Hegseth said during a news conference at the Pentagon.

But even as U.S. officials highlighted the scale and speed of the campaign, questions remain about how durable the ceasefire will be and whether competing claims emerging from Washington and Tehran can be reconciled.

Hegseth and Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, both pointed out military accomplishments during the operation, saying the U.S. “devastated the regime’s ability to harm Americans and our interests for years to come.”

American forces have struck more than 13,000 targets inside Iran, decimating much of its missile stockpile, production facilities and largest naval vessels.

CENTCOM forces destroyed about 80% of Iran’s air defense systems, which includes striking more than 1,500 air defense targets, more than 450 ballistic missile storage facilities and 800 one-way attack drone storage facilities, Caine said.

The chairman added that the U.S. estimates 90% of the Iranian naval fleet has been sunk and “their missile defense industrial

base is shattered with more than 80% of their missile facilities gone.”

Trump administration officials since the launch of the war have said the objectives are to destroy Iran’s missile capabilities, destroy Iran’s navy and ensure Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon.

Hegseth said Iran appears to be letting ships go through the Strait of Hormuz. Throughout the conflict, Iran has maintained a chokehold on the strait, sharply restricting traffic and allowing only limited oil shipments through. The waterway’s closure has caused oil and gas prices to surge, sparking concerns about wider implications for the global economy. The average price of gasoline in the U.S. is \$4.16 a gallon, according to AAA.

Last week, after weeks of grumbling about NATO allies’ re-

luctance to send forces to Iran, the president urged on Truth Social that they “build some delayed courage” and “go get your own oil!” Hegseth on Wednesday echoed Trump’s comments.

“It’s time for the rest of the world to step up and ensure that stays open after President Trump and the War Department brought Iran to the place where they are voluntarily opening it right now,” Hegseth said.

The Pentagon’s top leaders said that Operation Epic Fury is finished, but American troops will remain in the region.

Caine made clear that U.S. troops would remain on standby in case the ceasefire doesn’t hold.

“A ceasefire is a pause, and the joint force remains ready if ordered or called upon to resume combat operations,” Caine said. “We hope that is not the case.”

NATO’s fate looms over Rutte’s meeting with Trump

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

NATO’s future was to be atop the agenda when Secretary-General Mark Rutte meets Wednesday with President Donald Trump, whose recent threats to quit the military bloc have raised existential questions about the nearly 80-year-old alliance.

The White House meeting amounts to a diplomatic high-wire act for Rutte, who needs to persuade Trump that NATO still serves U.S. interests while navigating possible demands that could fracture an alliance at odds over the conflict in Iran.

Ahead of the talks, Trump praised Rutte while criticizing the 32-member alliance he leads.

“He’s a wonderful guy,” Trump said of Rutte on Monday. “A great person.”

At the same time, Trump has blasted NATO for being a “paper tiger,” saying he was giving seri-

ous consideration to pulling out of the alliance. He also warned Europe that it would soon face consequences for not contributing more to the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran.

Some immediate pressure may have been relieved late Tuesday, when the U.S. and Iran agreed to a last-minute, two-week ceasefire just hours ahead of Trump’s self-imposed deadline to reach a deal. However, the U.S. and Iran appear far apart on many fundamental issues, raising the possibility of further hostilities.

Rutte also was slated to meet Wednesday with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, both of whom have strongly criticized NATO over the past week.

Some longtime NATO observers describe the situation as a state of emergency for the alliance, which was formed in 1949 to counter the Soviet Union.

“This is by far the worst crisis NATO has ever confronted,” wrote Ivo Daalder, a former U.S. ambassador to NATO, in an assessment this month on his personal website.

Daalder said NATO’s core principle — that allies will come to the defense of one another if under attack — is nearing a breaking point.

“It’s hard to see how any European country will now be able and willing to trust the United States to come to its defense,” Daalder said.

The circumstances put Rutte, known for his diplomatic touch and friendly ties with Trump, in a delicate position. As secretary-general, Rutte is responsible for managing NATO’s relationship with the United States, the alliance’s most powerful member, while also representing allies with differing views on Iran.

Rutte was criticized last month

when he expressed support for Trump’s Iran military campaign, with some allies saying he had overstepped his role as secretary-general.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said ahead of Wednesday’s meeting that some of Trump’s top advisers share blame for NATO’s limited role in the Middle East, accusing them of pushing allies to focus more on Europe’s defense.

Trump “has been badly served by senior officials’ open hostility to European allies and yearlong admonishments to Europe to focus exclusively on its affairs at home,” McConnell said in a statement, without naming specific advisers.

Despite the NATO criticism, several member countries have been key to enabling the U.S. campaign in Iran. For example, military bases in the U.K., Germany and Romania have played key roles in the U.S. effort.

Draft registration to become automatic

BY SVETLANA
SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Automatic registration of men potentially eligible for the military draft will take effect by December, according to the government agency that maintains a database of who could be called up to serve in a crisis.

A proposed rule for the Selective Service System was submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs on March 30 as part of the process of implementing the change.

Most males between the ages of 18 and 25 are required to register with the Selective Service in the event that Congress and the president authorize conscription in response to a national emergency.

The new rule, mandated by defense policy legislation passed by Congress last year, will register men automatically rather than require them to register themselves within 30 days of their 18th birthdays. Late registration is allowed until a man reaches his 26th birthday.

Failure to register is considered a crime and can lead to disqualification from student loans, most federal jobs and U.S. citizenship for immigrants.

Lawmakers who championed automatic registration said it will cut government red tape and allow the agency, which spends millions of dollars reminding eligible men that registration is required by law, to save taxpayer money.

The Selective Service System said the change will result in a

“streamlined registration process and corresponding workforce realignment,” allowing the agency to transfer responsibility from individual men by pulling data from existing databases.

Registration rates for the draft have declined in recent years but remain high, according to the agency’s most recent report to Congress. In 2024, 81% of eligible men registered — a slight decrease from the 84% of men who registered in 2023.

The strong compliance rate is driven by laws in 46 states and territories that automatically register men for the Selective Service when they obtain a driver’s license, learner’s permit or state identification card, according to the agency.

Women remain ineligible for

the draft despite repeated legislative efforts to expand the registration requirement. In 2020, a commission appointed by Congress said including women, who became eligible for all combat jobs in 2016, would be a “necessary and fair step.”

Lawmakers have been able to attach provisions adding women to the draft to various versions of annual defense policy bills in recent years, but the measures have all been scrapped before being put to a final vote.

The U.S. last activated the draft in 1973, near the end of the Vietnam War, and has since relied on an all-volunteer force. Former President Jimmy Carter reinstated the Selective Service registration requirement for men in 1980.

Navy diver earns USO honor for Lithuania bog recovery

BY KAYLYN BARNHART
BATISTA
Stars and Stripes

Crews had already spent days excavating a site in Lithuania where four soldiers and their armored vehicle sank into a bog last year. By the time Navy Chief Petty Officer Joseph Hawthorne and his dive team arrived to help with recovery efforts, the scene looked like a small pond.

Their first entry into the water was to assess the environment. Near the edge, the sediment was loose, giving the impression it would be an easy dive. But, Hawthorne said, once he passed that top layer, he sank past his knees into a dense, tangled mixture of mud, clay, grass and debris.

“It felt like trying to walk through something thick and heavy, almost like curing concrete,” Hawthorne said. “We were basically feeling our way through it blindly.”

Four soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division died on March 25, 2025, when their M88A2 Hercules armored vehicle sank into a bog during an early morning operation. All were members of the division’s 1st Brigade, based at Fort Stewart, Ga., and were deployed in the region at the time.

Hawthorne, currently stationed at Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., was named the USO’s sailor of the year for his role as the lead diver in the operation that successfully recovered the remains of all four soldiers.

“I’ve been in the Navy for almost 23 years, and it was the most meaningful mission in my life,” Hawthorne said. “Just bringing those souls home, it was all I wanted.”

Hawthorne added that he will be retiring at the end of the month and is honored to conclude his military career with this recognition.

2 Marines indicted in string of thefts all across Japan

BY HANA KUSUMOTO
AND JANIQUA ROBINSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Two Marines assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni have been indicted on charges stemming from multiple thefts over the past year in Japan, according to U.S. military and Japanese authorities.

Prosecutors in “various prefectures” have charged Cpl. Malik Lewis and Lance Cpl. Damien Helms with offenses that include trespassing, larceny, attempted larceny and being an accomplice to larceny, according to an email Tuesday from 1st Marine Aircraft Wing spokesman Maj. Joseph Butterfield.

Lewis and Helms are flight equipment technicians with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, an element of Marine Aircraft Group 12, Butterfield said.

The pair are in Marine Corps custody, he said.

Lewis, 26, and Helms, 20, were indicted in March by Tokyo District Public Prosecutors on charges of trespassing and larceny, according to a document provided by a prosecutors office spokesman on Tuesday.

He declined to provide details of the charges.

Prosecutors allege the two Marines stole about \$170 in cash by using a stolen key to enter businesses in Kabukicho, a nightlife district in Tokyo’s Shinjuku ward, according to a Feb. 17 news release from Iwakuni city. The alleged offenses took place between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. Dec. 24.

Tokyo police referred the charges to prosecutors on Feb. 13, according to the release.

The pair were also indicted March 24 in Fukuoka prefecture on charges of trespassing, larceny and attempted larceny, a spokeswoman for the Fukuoka District Public Prosecutors Office said Wednesday.

North Korea fires multiple ballistic missiles

By **SETH ROBSON**
AND **YOOJIN LEE**

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea launched multiple ballistic missiles Tuesday and Wednesday, according to U.S. and South Korean officials, the latest in a series of weapons tests this year.

The North fired an unidentified type of ballistic missile from Wonson off its eastern coast just before 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, South Korea's Ministry of National Defense reported minutes after the launch.

That morning, U.S. Indo-Pa-

cific command announced other North Korean launches had been detected early that day and Tuesday.

"We are aware of the missile launches and are consulting closely with our allies and partners," the command said in a statement Wednesday. "Based on current assessments, this event does not pose an immediate threat to U.S. personnel or territory, or to our allies."

Those launches consisted of multiple short-range ballistic missiles that traveled about 150 miles off North Korea's eastern coast, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a text

message to reporters.

"Our military is closely monitoring North Korea's various movements under a robust South Korea-U.S. combined defense posture and maintains the capabilities and posture to respond to any provocation in an overwhelming manner," the Joint Chiefs said.

INDOPACOM said the United States remains committed to the defense of the homeland and its allies in the region.

On Monday, North Korea launched an unidentified projectile from the Pyongyang area, the Joint Chiefs said that day.

That test appeared to have failed, according to a report by the Yonhap News Agency.

The launches follow reports last month that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the ground test of a solid-fuel missile engine, according to the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency.

The engine, made with carbon fiber materials, is part of an effort to strengthen the country's strategic strike capabilities, the report said.

The engine is intended for use in a new intercontinental ballistic missile under development, South Korean media reported.

Republican wins seat in Greene's former district

CQ-Roll Call

Clayton Fuller, a onetime district attorney who campaigned on his loyalty to President Donald Trump, won a special election runoff Tuesday for a House seat in Georgia but by a narrower margin than what Republicans have typically posted in the deep-red district.

Fuller turned back a challenge from Democrat Shawn Harris to claim Georgia's 14th District, which has been vacant since the Jan. 5 resignation of Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Trump ally-turned-foe.

Fuller was leading Harris, a former Army brigadier general and cattle farmer, 54% to 46% when The Associated Press called the race shortly before 8:30 p.m. Eastern time.

The district, which encompasses all or portions of 10 counties spanning from the northernmost Atlanta suburbs to the state's northwest corner, is one of the most conservative in the country — Trump carried it by 37 points in 2024.

Pro-Fuller outside groups spent heavily to boost the Republican and juice GOP turnout.

His winning margin, though, could be a warning sign to Republicans ahead of this year's midterms as Democratic candidates across the country continue to overperform in special elections since Trump's return to the White House.

Fuller will serve out the balance of Greene's term, which expires next January. He will also seek a full term during the regular primaries next month.

Fuller's win enables House Republicans to pad their thin majority. But that edge could be short-lived, with Democrats fa-

vored to win a special election in New Jersey next week.

Fuller, who spent a year in the White House as a fellow during Trump's first term, pitched himself as a "MAGA warrior" and was careful not to praise his GOP predecessor during the campaign.

Greene resigned from Congress following a public fallout with Trump over the release of files related to the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, expiring health care subsidies and what she saw as Trump's overdue focus on foreign policy.

Wireless Festival canceled after UK denies Ye visa

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Organizers canceled the popular Wireless Festival after the United Kingdom denied its headliner, the embattled rapper Ye aka Kanye West, a visa into the country.

The U.K. government cited Ye's history of antisemitic outbursts as a reason for denying him a travel permit to attend and perform at the event.

As a result, the entire summer

festival was scrapped and ticket holders were issued refunds.

"The Home Office has withdrawn YE's [electronic travel visa] ETA, denying him entry into the United Kingdom. As a result, Wireless Festival is cancelled and refunds will be issued to all ticket holders," Wireless Festival organizers said in a statement Tuesday. "As with every Wireless Festival, multiple stakeholders were consulted in advance of booking YE and no

concerns were highlighted at the time."

"Antisemitism in all its forms is abhorrent," Wireless Festival organizers said in a statement that was released on Tuesday, "and we recognise the real and personal impact these issues have had. As YE said today, he acknowledges that words alone are not enough, and in spite of this still hopes to be given the opportunity to begin a conversation with the

Jewish community in the U.K."

Ye said, in a statement reported by the BBC, that he was "following the conversation around Wireless", and that "I know words aren't enough...I'll have to show change through my actions. If you're open, I'm here."

Ye has been mounting a comeback after years of erratic and conspiratorial remarks about Judaism and Jewish people and openly embraced Nazi symbols in his merchandise.

Trump holds off on permanent DOJ pick

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is in no hurry to tap a permanent attorney general to replace Pam Bondi following her ouster, according to people familiar with the matter, allowing Todd Blanche time to settle into his role as the U.S. Justice Department’s acting chief.

Bondi was removed from her post as the nation’s top prosecutor last week after the president grew increasingly frustrated over missteps in cases targeting political rivals and her handling of files related to sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Trump, who tapped Blanche as acting attorney general, is content to leave him in that position for now and see how he performs, a White House official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to detail the president’s thinking.

Trump had initially discussed selecting Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin, among others, as a permanent replacement. For now, he has ceased discussions with other contenders, the official said.

Trump’s approach for now affords Blanche, who served as Bondi’s deputy and is one of the

president’s former defense attorneys, time to address the challenges at an agency that has been in tumult.

Blanche had already begun to assume a leading role in helping steady the Justice Department following dramatic policy changes, controversies and the departure of thousands of experienced prosecutors who were either fired or resigned.

The White House has yet to pursue conversations about whether Blanche could eventually be a permanent replacement or if he could survive a Senate confirmation hearing,

according to the official, who added that Republicans on Capitol Hill had still not been consulted on any potential nomination.

Another White House official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Blanche may be less likely to obtain Trump’s nod for the permanent job because of concern he would not be able to secure Senate confirmation.

Blanche told reporters Tuesday that he did not feel pressure to carry out prosecutions of Trump’s political opponents, even as he offered support to the president’s agenda.

Gilgo Beach serial killer pleads guilty to killing 8 women

New York Daily News

Accused Gilgo Beach serial killer Rex Heuermann admitted in a Long Island court Wednesday to murdering eight young women during a nearly two-decade spree — after adamantly denying the charges against him since he was arrested in 2023.

Heuermann, 62, pleaded guilty to slaying the eight victims before State Supreme

Court Justice Timothy Mazzei at the Arthur M. Cromarty Criminal Court Complex in Riverhead.

His wife and daughter were in the courtroom for the plea.

In addition to the seven women Heuermann had already been charged with killing, he admitted killing an eighth victim — 34-year-old mother of two, Karen Vergata, whose remains were initially found on

Fire Island in April 1996, with additional remains found in April 2011 near Gilgo Beach.

Vergata, who is believed to have been working as an escort in Manhattan at the time of her disappearance on Valentine’s Day 1996, struggled with addiction and was estranged from her family. As the years went by and no one heard from her they became increasingly worried.

Advances in DNA testing al-

lowed investigators to finally identify her remains, previously known only as “Fire Island Jane Doe” in 2022 using a genetic genealogy review.

The hulking serial killer, who lives in Massapequa Park, Long Island, had maintained his innocence since his arrest in Midtown Manhattan on July 13, 2023, for the slayings of Melissa Barthelemy, Megan Waterman and Amber Costello.

Minneapolis to consider bathhouses allowing sexual activity

The Minnesota Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — Minneapolis city leaders are considering legalizing adult bathhouses and sex venues where “sexual activity between consenting adults” would be allowed.

The City Council will decide Tuesday whether to have city staff research several ordinances that would allow adult bath-

houses and sex venues to operate again after a 38-year ban.

The ordinances would remove “stigmatizing language” and add “new definitions to be inclusive of establishments where sexual activity between consenting adults may be facilitated.”

Adult bathhouses were popular among some men in the U.S.

until public pressure and laws led to their closures in the 1980s during the AIDS crisis.

In Minneapolis, bathhouses and sex clubs operated until a 1988 ordinance banned businesses that facilitate “high-risk sexual conduct” — which it defined as fellatio, anal intercourse and vaginal intercourse for pay.

The Safer Sex Spaces Coalition reached out to Minneapolis City Council President Elliott Payne about creating a business license for adult sex venues.

The coalition argues that the ban discourages outreach to communities and has driven sex-related gatherings underground, often to “unsafe and inaccessible spaces.”



STARS AND STRIPES

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

**Reporting
World, National
and Military News**

Flyers closer to ending playoff drought

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Trevor Zegras and Tyson Foerster each scored twice, Dan Vladar made 23 saves and the Philadelphia Flyers routed the New Jersey Devils 5-1 on Tuesday to bolster their playoff position with four games remaining.

Philadelphia has won three straight and has six victories in its last eight contests. The Flyers' 92 points are four behind second-place Pittsburgh in the Metropolitan Division.

Philadelphia has vaulted into playoff position with an 11-3-1 mark since a 6-2 home loss to the Rangers on March 9.

Zegras opened the scoring at 1:56 of the first. The 25-year-old forward scored again on the power play at 3:38 — his career-best 25th goal — with assists to Jamie Drysdale and rookie Porter Martone, who scored his first NHL goal in overtime to lift the Flyers past Boston 2-1 on Sunday.

Cody Glass cut it to 2-1 at 11:24 of the first before Foerster scored at 2:46 of the second, then had his 13th goal of the season at 4:58. Matvei Michkov assisted both of Foerster's goals.

Zegras, who was acquired from Anaheim last June, also assisted on Foerster's second goal and is second on Philadelphia with 65 points.

Nick Seeler added an empty-net goal.

Vladar improved to 27-13-7 in his first season with the Flyers. His previous high for wins in a season was 14 with Calgary in 2022-23.

Philadelphia has missed the playoffs the last five seasons and seven of the last nine campaigns. The Flyers haven't played a home playoff series since 2018.

Philadelphia has road games at Detroit and Winnipeg followed by home contests against Carolina and Montreal.

Jacob Markstrom made 13 saves in defeat for New Jersey,

which will miss the playoffs for the second time in three seasons and parted ways with general manager Tom Fitzgerald on Monday.

Hurricanes 6, Bruins 5 (OT): Jaccob Slavin scored at 1:13 of overtime as host Carolina beat Boston and claimed its fourth Metropolitan Division title in six years.

Slavin's first goal of the season helped offset a hat trick by the Bruins' Morgan Geekie. Andrei Svechnikov, K'Andre Miller, Logan Stankoven, William Carrier and Taylor Hall also scored for the Hurricanes. Brandon Bussi overcame a shaky start and finished with 16 saves.

Hampus Lindholm and Pavel Zacha also scored for Boston, with Zacha's goal at 12:33 in the third period tying the game at 5. The Bruins' Jeremy Swayman made 18 saves before being pulled after allowing five goals. Joonas Korpisalo stopped the 16 shots he faced in regulation, but Slavin beat him in OT by tapping in a pass from Sebastian Aho.

Carolina will be home for the Stanley Cup playoffs as the Metropolitan champions for the third time under coach Rod Brind'Amour.

Avalanche 3, Blues 1: Valeri Nichushkin scored twice and visiting Colorado beat St. Louis to clinch the Central Division and the top seed in the Western Conference.

It is the third time in five seasons, and first since 2023, that the Avalanche finished as the top team in the conference.

Wedgewood was shaken up midway through the third period after Philip Broberg made contact with him after being tripped by Sam Malinski. Wedgewood was driven awkwardly into the post and stayed down for several minutes, but remained in the game.

The Blues' slim playoff hope took a hit with the loss.

Canadiens 4, Panthers 3 (SO): Cole Caufield and Alexandre Texier scored in the shootout after Nick Suzuki's late tying goal as host Montreal beat Florida.

Ivan Demidov and Phillip Daulton also scored in regulation as the playoff-bound Canadiens won for the ninth time in 10 games. Juraj Slafkovsky added two assists and Jakub Dobes made 30 saves for his sixth consecutive win.

Eetu Luostarinen, Carter Verhaeghe and Cole Reinhardt scored for the fading Panthers, who lost their eighth straight game against Montreal. Daniil Tarasov stopped 29 shots.

The two-time reigning Stanley Cup champions entered the night 27th in the overall league standings and out of playoff contention.

Senators 6, Lightning 2: Jake Sanderson scored a pair of goals and host Ottawa moved closer to a playoff appearance with a win over Tampa Bay.

Jordan Spence, Fabian Zetterlund, Tim Stutzle and Shane Pinto also scored for Ottawa. Brady Tkachuk had four assists and goaltender Linus Ullmark made 28 saves for the win.

Nick Paul and Corey Perry scored for the Lightning. Jonas Johansson made 26 saves.

Blue Jackets 4, Red Wings 3 (SO): Zach Werenski scored in the shootout to lead visiting Columbus over Detroit, ending a six-game skid.

Adam Fantilli tied the game with 17 seconds left, Danton Heinen also scored and Werenski also added a goal and an assist in regulation. Jet Greaves stopped 34 shots and assisted on Werenski's goal for his first career point.

Werenski notched his 26th multipoint game of the year, setting a single-season record for the Blue Jackets.

Stars 4, Flames 3 (OT): Wyatt Johnston scored twice, including in overtime, to lead

host Dallas over Calgary.

Johnston scored 3:39 into overtime on a power-play backhand shot.

Jason Robertson and Miro Heiskanen each got an assist on the goal.

Wild 5, Kraken 2: Vladimir Tarasenko scored the go-ahead goal in the second period, Matt Boldy had a goal and an assist, and host Minnesota twice benefited from replay reviews in a victory over Seattle.

The Wild trail Dallas by two points for second place in the Central Division and Western Conference heading into their showdown Thursday in Texas. Each team has four regular-season games remaining before they square off in a first-round playoff series, with home-ice advantage still up for grabs.

Mammoth 6, Oilers 5 (OT): Clayton Keller scored on a power play 33 seconds into overtime to lift host Utah over Edmonton.

Alexander Kerfoot forced overtime with 7:04 left in regulation after tapping in a long feed from Sean Durzi, setting the stage for the Mammoth to claim their first win over the Oilers.

Golden Knights 2, Canucks 1: Cole Smith's goal midway through the third period proved to be the winner as visiting Vegas held on to beat Vancouver.

Max Sasson opened the scoring for the Canucks (22-47-8) with a wrist shot over the glove of Golden Knights goalie Carter Hart at the 12:50 mark of the second period.

Predators 5, Ducks 0: Justus Annunen stopped 43 shots — one shy of his career high — for his third career shutout, and visiting Nashville sent Anaheim to their sixth consecutive loss.

Erick Haula, Filip Forsberg and Brady Skjei scored second-period goals, and Zachary L'Heureux and Fedor Svechikov scored in the third for the Predators.

Raptors hold on to sixth playoff spot

Associated Press

TORONTO — Scottie Barnes scored 25 points, Brandon Ingram finished with 23 and the Toronto Raptors beat Miami 121-95 on Tuesday night, an outcome that locked the Heat into the play-in tournament for a fourth consecutive season.

Jakob Poeltl scored 17 points for the Raptors (44-35), who moved within a game of idle Atlanta for the No. 5 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff chase. Toronto is aiming for its first playoff trip since 2022 and leads Philadelphia (43-36) by one game in the race for the sixth and final guaranteed berth in the East.

RJ Barrett scored 16 and Jamal Sheard had 11 assists off the bench for Toronto.

A 19-2 run by the Raptors in the first half turned a two-point deficit into a 13-point lead, and Toronto maintained the double-digit margin virtually the entire rest of the way.

Andrew Wiggins scored 24 points for Miami (41-38), which now likely needs to win its final three games to have any realistic chance of escaping the No. 10 seed going into the play-in tournament for a second consecutive year.

Tyler Herro and Norman Powell each scored 14 for the Heat. Bam Adebayo — who had an 83-point game for Miami last month against Washington — was held to seven points on 2-for-14 shooting, and the Heat lost for the ninth time in their last 12 games.

Toronto improved to 3-0 against the Heat this season. The Raptors have swept Miami in a season series only twice before — going 4-0 against the Heat in 2007-08 and 2018-19 — and will aim to do so again on Thursday when the teams finish a two-game series in Toronto.

The Raptors improved to 13-4 against Southeast Division teams this season.

Bulls 129, Wizards 98: Rob

Dillingham scored a career-high 26 points and visiting Chicago ended a seven-game skid, pounding NBA-worst Washington in the opener of a two-game set.

In the first game since they fired their top two basketball executives, the Bulls were in firm control by the end of the first quarter, leading 38-18 against a Washington team that's seeking to maximize its odds of landing a top draft pick.

Chicago extended its lead to 66-37 by halftime and 100-63 by the end of the third against a Wizards team that appeared disinterested on defense. Patrick Williams added a season-high 20 points and Tre Jones had 20 points and nine assists for the Bulls, who play at Washington again on Thursday night.

Pelicans 156, Jazz 137: Jeremiah Fears set a Pelicans rookie record for points in a game with 40, and New Orleans snapped an eight-game losing streak with a home victory over Utah, who lost their 10th straight.

Fears, the seventh overall pick in the draft, shot 17 for 29 from the field and 1 for 7 from 3-point distance. Jordan Poole scored 34 points, including 22 in third quarter, when New Orleans set a franchise record for points in a period with 50. The Pelicans also set a franchise record for points in a game, despite playing without usual starters Zion Williamson, Trey Murphy III, Dejounte Murray, Herb Jones and Saddiq Bey.

While Murphy (right ankle) and Murray (bruised left hand) were injured, Williamson, Jones and Bey were all active, but were left on the bench for New Orleans' final home game of a second-straight non-playoff season.

Timberwolves 124, Pacers 104: Ayo Dosunmu scored 24 points and Julius Randle and Bones Hyland each added 19 as visiting Minnesota picked up a critical victory over Indiana.

Hyland also had seven assists and Rudy Gobert finished with 12 rebounds. Houston beat Phoenix later Tuesday, which guaranteed Minnesota a top six seed and kept the Timberwolves out of Western Conference's play-in tournament. The Timberwolves snapped a three-game losing streak and won for just the second time in six games as they try to build postseason momentum.

The Timberwolves also won despite the absences of All-Star guard Anthony Edwards and Jayden McDaniels. Edwards has missed nine of Minnesota's last 11 games with a bad right knee. McDaniels missed his sixth straight game with an injured left knee.

Warriors 110, Kings 105: Stephen Curry scored 17 points with a pair of four-point plays in his second game back from a right knee injury, and host Golden State held off Sacramento to snap a four-game losing streak.

Curry, who missed 27 games before returning Sunday, tied the game at 104 on a 3-pointer with 2:38 remaining, then dished to Brandin Podziemski for a go-ahead 3 the next possession.

Kings 7-foot-1 rookie Maxime Raynaud had 17 points and eight rebounds playing on his 23rd birthday. Killian Hayes scored 18 points off the bench as Sacramento lost for the sixth time in eight games.

Nets 96, Bucks 90: E.J. Liddell scored a career-high 21 points to lead Brooklyn to a home victory over Milwaukee.

Ben Saraf added 19, while Drake Powell and Malachi Smith each had 11 for the Nets (20-59), who have won two straight and three of their last five.

AJ Green scored 20 points for Milwaukee, which dropped to 31-48. Taurean Prince added 16 points, Cormac Ryan chipped in with 14 and Jericho Sims had 12.

Celtics 113, Hornets 102: Jaylen Brown had 35 points and

nine rebounds, and host Boston outlasted Charlotte.

Brown has scored 26 or more points in his last 10 games. Jayson Tatum added 23 points and has had at least 20 in each of his last six games. Both played the entire fourth quarter.

With the win, the Celtics inched closer to locking up the No. 2 playoff seed in the Eastern Conference. It also gave Boston a 2-1 win in the season series with the Hornets, who could potentially be its first-round opponent.

Thunder 123, Lakers 87: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 25 points and eight assists, and Isaiah Joe hit six 3-pointers in Oklahoma City's road victory over injury-depleted Los Angeles.

Jared McCain scored 15 points and Chet Holmgren had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the NBA-leading Thunder, who swept the season series against the Lakers with their sixth straight victory and 18th in 19 games overall.

The Pacific Division champion Lakers have lost three straight since losing Luka Dončić and Austin Reaves to injury last week in Oklahoma City.

Clippers 116, Mavericks 103: Kawhi Leonard scored 34 points, hitting six 3-pointers, and host Los Angeles recovered after blowing a 23-point lead to beat rookie Cooper Flagg and Dallas.

It was Leonard's 55th straight game with 20 or more points in the Clippers' first win in three tries against the Mavs this season.

Rockets 119, Suns 105: Kevin Durant scored 24 points in his return to Phoenix and visiting Houston rallied from an early 21-point deficit and pulled away late to beat Phoenix.

The Rockets are on a seven-game winning streak and moved into a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for the No. 4 spot in the Western Conference playoff race.

Braves defeat Angels after massive brawl

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Ozzie Albies hit his third home run of the season, starter Reynaldo López struck out seven in 4⅓ innings before being ejected after a bench-clearing brawl and the Atlanta Braves beat the Los Angeles Angels 7-2 on Tuesday night.

Los Angeles designated hitter Jorge Soler went after López following a high-and-tight wild pitch in the fifth. There was a lengthy staredown before Soler took steps toward the mound and López held out his arms before the two exchanged punches. López was holding the baseball when he landed a punch on Soler's batting helmet.

"I asked him if everything was OK and the answer he gave me, I didn't like it," Soler said through a translator, according to MLB.com. "That's why I went out there."

Soler homered in the first — the fifth of his career in 23 at-bats against López — and was hit by a pitch in the third.

"It's just a shame, the situation and how things unfolded," López said through a translator, according to MLB.com. "On my part, there was never any intent to hit him at any point. So, again, it's just a shame."

Eli White had two RBIs for Atlanta, and Matt Olson scored twice. Nine players had at least one hit for the Braves.

Orioles 4, White Sox 2: Gunnar Henderson hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in visiting Baltimore's three-run eighth inning, and the Orioles beat Chicago for their eighth straight victory over the South Siders.

Henderson, Tyler O'Neill and Blaze Alexander each had two hits for Baltimore, which left 14 runners on base. Yennier Cano (1-1) got three outs for the win on a chilly afternoon, and Ryan Helsley handled the ninth for his fourth save.

Chase Meidroth had two hits for Chicago, which dropped to 3-2 on a six-game homestand.

Shane Smith struck out eight and walked five in 3⅓ scoreless innings in his third start of the year.

Guardians 2, Royals 1: Brayan Rocchio's single with one out in the ninth inning drove in CJ Kayfus to give host Cleveland a victory over Kansas City.

Guardians second baseman Juan Brito went 2-for-4 in his major-league debut and Steven Kwan had an RBI single.

Mets 4, Diamondbacks 3 (10): Pinch-hitter Ronny Mauricio returned to the majors by lining a game-winning single in the 10th inning that gave host New York a victory over Arizona.

Mauricio, recalled Monday from Triple-A Syracuse when slugger Juan Soto was placed on the injured list, laced an 0-2 pitch from Paul Sewald (0-2) over the head of right fielder Corbin Carroll to drive in automatic runner Francisco Lindor from third base with one out.

Pirates 7, Padres 1: Reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Paul Skenes (2-1) put together his second straight solid start, keeping San Diego hitless until the sixth inning of host Pittsburgh's win.

Oneil Cruz hit a two-run double off Nick Pivetta (1-2) in the fifth and Nick Gonzales added a two-run single to start a five-run eighth for the Pirates, who won for the sixth time in seven games.

Red Sox 3, Brewers 2: Trevor Story lined a two-run double in the sixth as host Boston overcame 11 strikeouts to beat Milwaukee and end a three-game skid.

Garrett Crochet struck out seven for the Red Sox, who won for just the third time in 11 games this season and avoided a 2-9 start, which has happened only four times in franchise history.

Cubs 9, Rays 2: Alex Bregman broke out of an 0-for-13 slump with three hits and Ja-

vier Assad worked 5⅓ shutout innings to lead visiting Chicago over Tampa Bay.

The Cubs (5-6) banged out a season-best 16 hits and snapped a two-game skid. The Rays had their three-game winning streak halted in front of an announced crowd of 21,377 in the second game of their return to Tropicana Field.

Dodgers 4, Blue Jays 1: Yoshinobu Yamamoto allowed one run in six-plus innings, Shohei Ohtani extended his career-best on-base streak to 42 games and visiting Los Angeles pushed its winning streak to five, beating Toronto.

Alex Freeland had three hits, drove in a run and scored twice. Kyle Tucker struck out three times in his first four at-bats but gave the Dodgers some insurance with an RBI single off Jeff Hoffman in the ninth.

Cardinals 7, Nationals 6 (10): Thomas Saggese hit a go-ahead double in the 10th inning, and visiting St. Louis rallied over Washington.

Nathan Church and Jordan Walker homered for the Cardinals. St. Louis scored five runs against the Nationals' scuffling bullpen, which entered the day ranked 28th in the majors with a 6.34 ERA.

Yankees 5, Athletics 3: Amed Rosario homered twice, including a go-ahead, three-run drive in the eighth inning that rallied host New York over the Athletics.

New York, which matched its best start at 8-2, trailed 3-1 entering the eighth and had been 0 for 12 with runners on base before its comeback. The Yankees cut the deficit on Giancarlo Stanton's RBI single past shortstop Jacob Wilson, who took a misstep to his left, before Rosario's second shot.

Rangers 3, Mariners 2: Kyle Higashioka gave host Texas the lead with a two-run homer in the fifth, Nathan Eovaldi recorded his 1,500th career strikeout during six solid innings and

the Rangers beat Seattle.

Brendan Donovan homered to right on the first pitch of the game in Eovaldi's 300th career start, but the 36-year-old right-hander settled in and struck out seven, including Josh Naylor for his 1,500th to end the first inning. Eovaldi (1-2) allowed six hits and two runs.

Reds 6, Marlins 3 (10): Anthony Bender threw a game-tying wild pitch with two outs in the ninth inning after visiting Cincinnati chased Sandy Alcantara, and Nathaniel Lowe hit a go-ahead single that sparked a four-run 10th, leading the Reds over Miami for a five-game winning streak.

Matt McLain doubled twice and had two RBIs as Cincinnati improved to 5-0 on the road, and at 8-3 overall matched its best start since 2011.

Twins 4, Tigers 2: Taj Bradley outdueled Tarik Skubal and Ryan Jeffers drove in two runs as host Minnesota beat Detroit.

Bradley (2-0) gave up one run on six hits with no walks and 10 strikeouts over 6⅓ innings as the Twins won their second straight.

Rockies 5, Astros 1: Willi Castro and Mickey Moniak hit two-run homers and host Colorado beat Houston for its second series win, which they didn't accomplish last year until mid-June.

Castro had with three hits and three RBIs for the Rockies, who have won three straight and are 5-6. Colorado didn't get its fifth win last year until April 30.

Giants 6, Phillies 0: Robbie Ray and two relievers combined on a four-hitter as host San Francisco beat Philadelphia to end its four-game skid.

Matt Chapman and rookie catcher Daniel Susac each had three hits for the Giants. Luis Arraez drove in two runs to help San Francisco (4-8) avoid matching its worst start since 2015.