

US will store aid on beach in Gaza

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military said Monday that it plans to stockpile aid shipments on a secure beach in Gaza during a U.N. pause on distributing food from the American-built pier after one of the deadliest days of the Israel-Hamas war.

The U.N. World Food Program, which works with U.S. officials to transfer desperately needed aid from the month-old pier to warehouses and local relief teams in Gaza, tweeted Monday that the U.N. would conduct a security review to assess the safety of its staff in handling aid deliveries from the pier. It said the pause would be temporary.

A humanitarian official familiar with the situation said the security review is expected to conclude within a few days and U.N. officials would then make decisions on resuming operations. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss planning.

The pause, which WFP head Cindy McCain first announced in a TV interview Sunday, is the latest trouble to hit the Biden administration's new sea route for bringing in aid to Palestinians. It also signals sharpened concern by the U.N. and relief organizations about their ability to safely care for Gaza's civilians during the 8-month-old war.

The review follows an Israeli military operation on Saturday that rescued four Israeli hostages taken by Hamas on Oct. 7, in the attack that triggered the war, and left 274 Palestinians and one Israeli commando dead.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said "it's only normal" that U.N. humanitarian officials pause and review the security situation following the Israeli operation. McCain said Sunday that two of WFP's warehouses had been "rocketed" and a staffer injured.

When such large-scale mili-

tary operations take place, Dujarric said, "you can only imagine the difficulties in distributing the aid, both for the safety of those who are trying to get it and those who are trying to distribute it."

Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, said the delivery of aid from Cyprus to the pier was paused due to high seas Sunday and Monday but would resume Tuesday. He said there is enough space for aid to be stored in a secure holding area on the beach until agencies restart distribution into Gaza.

"It's a pretty large area," he told reporters. "I think we can continue to stockpile aid in the assembly area for onward distribution."

The pause came just a day after the U.S. military and the U.S. Agency for International Development, which is coordinating logistics with relief groups, said Saturday that the pier restarted

operations after repairs. Part of the structure broke apart in rough seas and bad weather late last month.

Saturday's fighting, followed by the pause for the security review, blocked the planned distribution of aid from the pier, the humanitarian official said.

Ryder, pushing back against claims on social media, denied that any aspect of the pier or its equipment had been used in Saturday's military operation. The Pentagon says an area south of the pier was used for the return of the freed hostages back to Israel.

Ryder said the U.S. did an air drop of more than 10 metric tons of ready-to-eat meals Sunday.

U.S. and international officials and private aid organizations say only a steady daily flow of hundreds of truck shipments through land borders can address the need for food and emergency aid in Gaza.

US and Japan plan for joint ship and aircraft repair

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A plan to repair U.S. Navy vessels in Japan moved forward Tuesday and planners from both countries hope to develop additional programs for military aircraft, missile production and logistics.

A group working to allow Japanese shipyards to repair and maintain U.S. warships rather than send them back to American shipyards — which can take months or years — met for the first time at the New Sanno Hotel.

U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel in opening remarks emphasized that the time

saved would be essential in the event of a "kinetic situation," or an armed conflict.

"I think it's worth repeating that committees do not project deterrence; meetings do not produce preparations," Emanuel told the gathering of about 100 people. The real goal is to execute a plan that would "leverage each other's capacity to enhance each other's collective deterrence."

Additional working groups will meet at an undisclosed date to discuss implementing similar programs for military aircraft, missile production and creating a sustainable supply chain for those programs, according to

Masaki Fukasawa, head of Japan's Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency.

"Japan and the U.S. have started taking steps towards the same goal," he said during his opening remarks. These ideas would create a mutually beneficial relationship by improving the U.S. military's readiness and improving Japan's resilience, Fukasawa said.

Emanuel has advocated for a ship maintenance program with Japan since at least July; he publicly announced the project's initiation in January.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Congress is drafting the next National Defense Authorization Act, which

would fund the projects under discussion by the working groups, Emanuel told reporters after his opening remarks.

The first U.S.-Japan Defense Industrial Cooperation, Acquisition and Sustainment Forum, a two-day event aimed at accelerating military industrial cooperation between the two countries, concluded Monday.

William LaPlante, U.S. undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment, and Fukasawa, his Japanese counterpart, announced during the forum plans to establish the broader working groups, according to a Japanese Defense Ministry news release Monday.

Families weigh grief with pilots' love for Osprey

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The V-22 Osprey that crashed off the coast of Japan last November has brought the aircraft's safety record back under scrutiny — but this time without one of its most vocal defenders.

Air Force Maj. Jeff Hoernemann had piloted the Osprey for more than a decade.

Each time a new accident or incident occurred, you'd find him online, defending the warplane through his Reddit account, "UR_WRONG_ABOUT_V22."

In November, he and seven others were killed when their Air Force Special Operations Command CV-22B Osprey crashed off the coast of Japan.

The Japan crash has reverberated deeply within the Osprey community and left the grieving families with the need to maintain a delicate balance. They know the crews were passionate about the Osprey, because it is fast and performs like no other aircraft in the fleet. But the crashes keep happening, and none of them can stomach the idea of another family facing this kind of grief.

"Would Jeff want it grounded forever? No, he absolutely would not," his mother, Cathy Hoernemann, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But I can't sit on my hands and wait for the next story of another crash, because I feel in my heart that if things continue like they are, it's a matter of time, and it's going to happen again, and then another family will be destroyed."

On Wednesday, the House Oversight Committee's national security subcommittee will hold a hearing on the Osprey's safety record and whether the program has adequate Pentagon oversight. It's the first of several reviews and congressional probes prompted by the November crash.

The V-22 Osprey is first-generation tiltrotor technology for the

U.S. military, which allows operators to fly long distances fast like an airplane, then tilt its massive rotors and engines to land on target like a helicopter. It's been in design since the 1980s, but only started military operations in 2007.

There are about 400 Ospreys across the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force, at a cost of about \$80 million each, and manufacturers Bell Flight and Boeing aren't making more. A new generation tiltrotor aircraft is in the works by Bell that incorporates substantial design changes, including engines that do not rotate to a vertical position, which is an aspect of the Osprey that's been a flashpoint in past accidents.

In the months since the Japan crash, there's been a sense that this accident produced a sea change in confidence in the Osprey. It also exposed an uneven divide among the services on the Osprey's role in their fleets moving forward.

After a monthslong grounding following the November accident, the Marine Corps moved aggressively to get its Ospreys back in the air. The Air Force has taken a slower, more cautious approach — and its leadership is already talking publicly about looking for a different aircraft to carry out its special operations mission in the future. The Navy said its Ospreys also have not returned to their mission of flying passengers to aircraft carriers, and at a May Senate appropriations hearing, a senior Navy acquisition official said each variant still has flight restrictions.

The Marine Corps, which bought hundreds of Ospreys to replace the CH-46 helicopter, plans on keeping the aircraft in its fleet until at least 2050. Families who spoke to the AP said that if the Osprey is going to keep flying, they want Bell Flight, Boeing and the Pentagon's V-22 joint program office to make the design changes

necessary to make the aircraft safe.

They've tried through lawsuits and media attention, and through the late and outspoken North Carolina Republican Rep. Walter Jones, who over two decades of hearings and investigations and until his death in 2019, would not let attention on the program's challenges fade.

Despite intermittent fixes, V-22 components wear out faster than anticipated or fail in unexpected ways, causing flight risks. Instead of committing to a design overhaul, the answer to date has been to train Osprey pilots to fly around the problems.

"I believe that continuing to fly under the circumstances is a big risk, but of necessity as the services are completely dependent on the V-22," said Rex Rivolo, a former Osprey program evaluator who has raised safety concerns about the aircraft for the past two decades.

Trish Brow's husband, Lt. Col. John Brow, was killed in one of the Osprey's earliest major accidents, an April 2000 crash in Marana, Ariz., that killed 19 Marines.

In the blurred months afterward, a fellow Osprey pilot, Lt. Col. Keith Sweaney, reached out to her.

"He told me that they were making changes as far as rate of descent, that it was going to be safer for them moving forward," Brow said.

Sweaney died not long afterward, in a North Carolina Osprey crash in December 2000 that killed him and three other Marines.

"When he crashed, that was shocking," Brow said.

After the Marana crash, Brow and Connie Gruber, whose husband, Marine Corps Maj. Brooks Gruber, died in the same accident, settled one of the first Osprey family lawsuits with Bell and Boeing for an undisclosed amount.

Since then, there have been 10 more fatal Osprey accidents and other crashes where the aircraft was destroyed, but all on board lived.

"It's a gut punch every time one of those happens. Why? Just because you're like, 'Oh God, here it comes again,'" Brow said. "You just want to shake your head and say, 'Can't you guys get it right?'"

Last month, four more families filed a new lawsuit against Bell, Boeing and the Osprey's engine manufacturer, Rolls Royce. The lawsuit stems from a 2022 crash in Glamis, Calif., that killed five Marines and accuses the manufacturers of failing to meet safety standards and address known parts failures that contributed to the accident.

When an Osprey crash would occur, Amber Sax would turn to her husband, Osprey pilot and Marine Corps Capt. John Sax, for an understanding of what happened and reassurance from him about its safety.

She worried privately about the risks. But she knew her husband loved flying the Osprey so much he'd turned down a slot to fly Marine Corps fighter jets to get the MV-22 instead.

When news of the Glamis accident spread, Amber was at home pregnant with their second child.

"I never, ever once had a conversation with John of 'I don't want you flying these, I don't want you doing this anymore. Let's get out. What are our options?' I never once said that to him," Sax said. "But when I was waiting for the knock on the door, and I didn't know whether it was him or not, all I kept thinking was, as soon as he gets home, I'm telling him, I don't think I can do it. You're going to have to walk me through this. Are you going to keep flying this aircraft?"

Sax was one of the five Marines killed, and his wife is among those now suing.

Hunter Biden convicted of 3 gun felonies

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Hunter Biden was convicted Tuesday of all three felony charges related to the purchase of a revolver in 2018 when, prosecutors argued, the president's son lied on a mandatory gun-purchase form by saying he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs.

Jurors found Hunter Biden guilty of lying to a federally licensed gun dealer, making a false claim on the application by saying he was not a drug user and illegally having the gun for 11 days.

The jury in Wilmington deliberated for about three hours over two days.

Hunter Biden stared straight ahead and showed little emotion as the verdict was read. After the verdict, he hugged both

of his attorneys and smiled wanly. He kissed his wife, Melissa, and they left the courtroom together.

First lady Jill Biden arrived at the courthouse minutes after the jury delivered its verdict and was not in the courtroom when it was read.

He faces up to 25 years in prison when he is sentenced by Judge Maryellen Noreika, though first-time offenders do not get anywhere near the maximum, and it's unclear whether she would give him time behind bars. The judge did not set a sentencing date.

Now, Hunter Biden and presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, the predecessor to and chief political rival of President Joe Biden, have been convicted by American jurors in an election year

that has been as much about the courtroom as it has been about campaign events and rallies.

Joe Biden has steered clear of the federal courtroom in Delaware where his son was tried and said little about the case, wary of creating an impression of interfering in a criminal matter brought by his own Justice Department. But allies of the Democrat have worried about the toll that the trial — and now the conviction — will take on the 81-year-old, who has long been concerned with his only living son's health and sustained sobriety.

Hunter Biden and Trump have both argued they were victimized by the politics of the moment.

But while Trump has continued to falsely claim the verdict was "rigged," Joe Biden has

said he would accept the results of the verdict and would not seek to pardon his son.

Hunter Biden's legal troubles aren't over. He faces a trial in September in California on charges of failing to pay \$1.4 million in taxes and congressional Republicans have signaled they will keep going after him in their stalled impeachment effort into the president.

Hunter Biden had hoped last year to resolve a long-running investigation federal investigation under a deal with prosecutors that would avoid the spectacle of a trial so close to the 2024 election.

But the deal fell apart after Noreika, who was nominated by Trump, questioned unusual aspects of the proposed agreement, and the lawyers could not resolve the matter.

Blinken: UN vote in favor of cease-fire may spur Hamas

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday that the U.N. Security Council's vote in favor of a U.S.-backed proposal for a Gaza cease-fire and hostage release made it "as clear as it possibly could be" that the world supports the plan, as he again called on Hamas to accept it.

"Everyone's vote is in, except for one vote, and that's Hamas," Blinken told reporters in Tel Aviv after meeting with Israeli officials. He said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had reaffirmed his commitment to the proposal when they met late Monday.

Hamas welcomed President Joe Biden's initial announcement of the plan as well as the U.N. resolution endorsing it, but has yet to submit its official response to the plan itself. Blinken said Hamas' response to the U.N. vote was a "hopeful sign,"

but that mediators are still awaiting word from the group's leaders in Gaza.

The proposal, announced by Biden last month, calls for a three-phased plan in which Hamas would release the rest of the hostages it took when it attacked Israel on Oct. 7 in exchange for a lasting cease-fire and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. The group is still holding around 120 hostages, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Biden presented it as an Israeli proposal, but Netanyahu has publicly disputed key aspects of it, saying Israel won't end the war without destroying Hamas and returning all the hostages.

Hamas welcomed the U.N. resolution and supports the broad outline of the agreement but has demanded assurances it will be implemented. The militant group embraced a similar proposal last month that was rejected by Israel.

Channel reopens after Baltimore bridge collapse

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The main shipping channel into Baltimore's port has fully reopened to its original depth and width following the March 26 collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which blocked most maritime traffic into the harbor.

Officials announced the full reopening in a news release Monday evening. It comes after a massive cleanup effort as crews removed an estimated 50,000 tons of steel and concrete from the Patapsco River.

The channel was blocked by wreckage of the fallen bridge, which collapsed after a container ship lost power and crashed into one of its supporting columns, sending six members of a roadwork crew plunging to their deaths. All of the victims were Latino immigrants working an overnight shift to fill potholes on the bridge.

The Port of Baltimore, which

processes more cars and farm equipment than any other in the country, was effectively closed for several weeks while the wreckage was removed. Crews were able to reopen portions of the deep-draft channel in phases, restoring some commercial traffic in recent weeks.

On May 20, the wayward cargo ship Dali was refloated and guided back to port. The vessel had been stuck amid the wreckage for almost two months, with a massive steel truss draped across its damaged bow.

After the Dali was moved, crews opened a channel that was 50 feet deep and 400 feet wide. The full federal shipping channel is 700 feet wide, which means two-way traffic can resume, officials said. They said other additional safety requirements have also been lifted because of the increased width.

Officials have said they hope to rebuild the bridge by 2028.

Russia, Belarus launch 2nd stage of nuke drills

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia and its ally Belarus on Tuesday launched a second stage of drills intended to train their troops in tactical nuclear weapons, part of the Kremlin's efforts to discourage the West from ramping up support for Ukraine.

In announcing the nuclear maneuvers last month, the Russian Defense Ministry said they were in response to "provocative statements and threats of certain Western officials regarding the Russian Federation."

The Kremlin has expressed outrage after French President Emmanuel Macron said he doesn't exclude deploying troops to Ukraine, and the U.S. and other NATO allies allowed Kyiv to use weapons supplied by them to strike targets on the Russian territory.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov noted that "such drills and maintaining combat readiness" are important in view of the "hostile decisions and actions" by the U.S. and its allies in Europe and their "daily provocations."

During the second stage of the drills that began Tuesday, Russian and Belarusian troops will undergo joint training in non-strategic nuclear weapons used in combat, the Defense Ministry said. It noted that the exercise is aimed at maintaining readiness of personnel and equipment to ensure "sovereignty and territorial integrity" of the alliance of Russia and Belarus.

The first stage of the exercise last month envisaged a preparation for nuclear missions and deployment for launches, according to the Defense Ministry. The Russian military had trained separately during the initial stage of the maneuvers before joint drills with Belarusian forces.

Last year, Russia moved some of its tactical nuclear weapons into neighboring Belarus, which also borders Ukraine and NATO members Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has relied on close ties with Russia and provided his country as a staging ground for the war in Ukraine.

Tactical nuclear weapons include air bombs, warheads for short-range missiles and artillery munitions and are meant for use on a battlefield. Usually they are less powerful than the strategic weapons — warheads that arm intercontinental ballistic missiles and are intended to obliterate entire cities.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has noted, however, that even Russia's battlefield nuclear weapons are much more powerful than the two atomic bombs the U.S. dropped on Japan at the end of World War II.

Last week, Putin declared that the West is wrong to proceed from the assumption that Russia will never use its atomic arsenal.

Putin pointed at the country's nuclear doctrine that envisages the use of nuclear weapons in case of a threat to its sovereignty and territorial integrity. At the same time, he said he sees no current threat to Russia's sovereignty that would warrant the use of nuclear weapons and emphasized that Moscow doesn't need them to defeat Ukraine.

Suspect detained after 4 American college instructors stabbed in China

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese police have detained a suspect in a stabbing attack on four instructors from Iowa's Cornell College who were teaching at a Chinese university in the northeast city of Jilin, officials said Tuesday.

Jilin city police said a 55-year-old man named Cui was walking in a public park on Monday when he bumped into a foreigner. He stabbed the foreigner and three other foreigners who were with him, and also stabbed a Chinese person who approached in an attempt to intervene, police said.

The instructors from Cornell College were teaching at Beihua University, officials at the U.S. school said.

The injured were rushed to a hospital for treatment and none was in critical condition, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a daily briefing Tuesday. He said police believe the attack in Beishan Park was an isolated incident, based on a preliminary assessment, and the investigation is ongoing.

Cornell College President Jonathan Brand said in a statement that the instructors were attacked while at the park with a faculty member from Beihua, which is in an outlying part of Jilin, an industrial city about 600 miles north-east of Beijing. Monday was a public holiday in

China.

The State Department said in a statement it was aware of reports of a stabbing and was monitoring the situation. The attack happened as both Beijing and Washington are seeking to expand people-to-people exchanges to help bolster relations amid tensions over trade and such international issues as Taiwan, the South China Sea and the war in Ukraine.

An Iowa state lawmaker posted a statement on Instagram saying his brother, David Zabner, had been wounded during a stabbing attack in Jilin. Rep. Adam Zabner described his brother as a doctoral student at Tufts University who was in China under the Cornell-Beihua relationship.

"I spoke to David a few minutes ago, he is recovering from his injuries and doing well," Adam Zabner wrote, adding that his brother was grateful for the care he received.

News of the incident was suppressed in China, where the government maintains control on information about anything considered sensitive. News media outlets had not reported it. Some social media accounts posted foreign media reports about the attack, but a hashtag about it was blocked on a popular portal and photos and video of the incident were quickly taken down.

Russian ships hold exercise in Atlantic Ocean on way to Cuba

Bloomberg News

Russian naval vessels practiced hitting targets with long-distance missiles in simulated drills in the Atlantic Ocean ahead of a planned visit to Cuba.

The nuclear-powered Kazan submarine and Admiral Gorshkov frigate, which carries hypersonic Zircon missiles, staged the computer drills with high-precision weapons against "naval groups of a mock enemy" over a distance of 373 miles, the Defense Ministry in Moscow said in a statement Tuesday.

The vessels are due to arrive in Cuba on Wednesday, Russia's state-run RIA Novosti news service reported, citing Russian Navy chief Alexander Moiseyev.

None of the Russian vessels is carrying nuclear weapons and they pose no threat to the region, the Cuban Foreign Ministry said on its website.

The visit to Havana from June 12-17 is in line with the historically friendly relations between Cuba and Russia, it said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

A hail stone the size of a pineapple is recovered

TX VIGO PARK — Storm trackers in the Texas Panhandle recovered a massive hail stone that researchers say is likely to be a new state record.

Val and Amy Castor, veteran storm chasers with Oklahoma City television station KWTU, discovered a piece of hail more than 7 inches long Sunday along the side of the road near Vigo Park while they were chasing a major thunderstorm system.

Val Castor said the stone was about the size of a pineapple.

"That's the biggest hail I've ever seen, and I've been chasing storms for more than 30 years," Castor said.

The massive hail stone is believed to be a new state record.

Man found dead in home explosion is identified

IL LAKE ZURICH — Authorities released the name of a 77-year-old man who was found dead after a house exploded in suburban Chicago last week.

The Lake County Coroner's Office identified the man as Timothy Toczylowski. He was a resident of the home, authorities said.

First responders found the home leveled after the explosion about in Lake Zurich, according to the Lake County sheriff's office. The man's body later was recovered from the rubble.

Authorities said Toczylowski was identified through dental records.

Tiffany Koch told WLS-TV that she heard the explosion, ran outside and saw the nearby

house burning.

"There was this loud boom. I don't even know how to describe it," Koch said. "It sounded like a tree fell, but there was no real shaking except for just that quick second."

55 pounds of possible cocaine washes ashore

AL DAUPHIN ISLAND — Law enforcement officials say that 55 pounds of suspected cocaine was discovered washed up on an Alabama beach.

The Mobile County Sheriff's Office told news outlets the suspected drugs, packaged in small bundles, were discovered recently on the west side of Dauphin Island. The drugs had an estimated value of \$450,000.

The sheriff's office said the Dauphin Island Police Department contacted them after the possible drugs washed up on the shore. Detectives searched the beach for additional packages, but they did not find any.

Jewish student group omitted from yearbook

NJ EAST BRUNSWICK — A New Jersey school district has hired an outside law firm to investigate how and why a Jewish student group was erased from the high school yearbook, with the members' names omitted from the page and their photo replaced with a picture of a group of Muslim students.

East Brunswick Public Schools said the independent review by Brisman Law has begun and will seek to determine who was responsible, as well as whether it was malicious or a mistake.

"I'm confident the indepen-

dent counsel investigation will reveal the truth," Superintendent Victor Valeski said. "They've been given complete authority to investigate whatever they need to investigate."

In a statement, East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen called it a "blatant Anti-Semitic act" and said the probe should consider whether it was a hate crime worthy of prosecution.

Howard University cuts ties with Sean Combs

DC WASHINGTON — Howard University is cutting ties to Sean "Diddy" Combs, rescinding an honorary degree that was awarded to him and disbanding a scholarship program in his name, after a recently released 2016 video that appeared to show him attacking the R&B singer Cassie.

"Mr. Combs' behavior as captured in a recently released video is so fundamentally incompatible with Howard University's core values and beliefs that he is deemed no longer worthy to hold the institution's highest honor," a statement from the university's Board of Trustees said.

The statement said the board voted unanimously to accept the return of the honorary degree Combs received in 2014.

No criminal charges filed over purchase of lectern

AR LITTLE ROCK — A prosecutor said Friday he will not file any criminal charges over the purchase of a \$19,000 lectern by the office of Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders that attracted nationwide scrutiny.

An audit had found the pur-

chase potentially violated state laws on purchasing, state property and government records. But Pulaski County Prosecutor Will Jones said that after a "thorough review of the report and supporting documents," his office determined "criminal charges are not warranted."

There is "insufficient proof of criminal conduct," Jones said in a letter to auditor Roger Norman.

Norman said in an email he had no comment.

Alexa Henning, a spokeswoman for the governor, said Jones' review confirmed what the governor's office had said all along.

Driver sentenced to prison for causing fatal crash

ME ELLSWORTH — The driver who caused a fiery crash that killed four fellow Maine Maritime Academy students in December 2022 was ordered to serve three years in prison for manslaughter at his sentencing on Friday.

Joshua Goncalves-Radding, of North Babylon, N.Y., pleaded guilty to charges including manslaughter and aggravated drunken driving.

He was traveling at between 106 mph and 111 mph before the SUV struck a tree and caught fire, investigators said. Those killed were Brian Kenealy, 20, of York, Maine; Chase Fossett, 21, of Gardiner, Maine; Luke Simpson, 22, of Rockport, Mass.; and Riley Ignacio-Cameron, 20, of Aquinnah, Mass., officials said.

The crash happened after the students had gone out following the last day of classes for the semester.

— From wire reports

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and Military News

Panthers top Oilers, take 2-0 Stanley Cup lead

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — The Oilers' Leon Draisaitl knocked the Panthers' Aleksander Barkov out of the game. Florida made sure to respond by landing the bigger blow.

And the Stanley Cup Final took a heated turn Monday night.

Evan Rodrigues had a pair of third-period goals, Niko Mikkola and Aaron Ekblad also scored and the Panthers used yet another airtight finishing kick to pull away and beat Edmonton 4-1 for a 2-0 lead in the Stanley Cup Final.

Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 18 shots for Florida, which was 1-8 all-time in Cup Final games before this series started — and now is two wins away from capturing its first championship. Score through two games: Panthers 7, Oilers 1.

"Asix-man job against the best players in the world," Ekblad said.

But the win came with a price for Florida as the Panthers lost Barkov, their captain, when Ed-

monton forward Draisaitl launched toward him midway through the third period and hit him in the head. Barkov remained down for some time, needed help getting to the bench and went down the tunnel to the Florida locker room for further evaluation.

Panthers coach Paul Maurice offered no update on Barkov's condition, and was far more tight-lipped than he tends to be after wins.

"This isn't The Oprah Winfrey Show," Maurice said of the Barkov hit. "My feelings don't matter."

Mattias Ekholm scored and Stuart Skinner stopped 25 shots for the Oilers, who now have to buck some serious history.

Edmonton has only successfully rallied from a 2-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series once — against San Jose in Round 2 of the 2006 playoffs. And teams that start the Stanley Cup Final down 2-0 have come back to win only five times in 54 previous situations.

"I think we feel that we came here and played well enough that we should have a split," Oilers coach Kris Knoblauch said. "It doesn't always happen."

The series resumes with Game 3 in Edmonton on Thursday night.

"We can certainly be better," Draisaitl said. "It starts with me. ... I certainly have a lot more to give. Not my best tonight. Obviously, owning that."

Draisaitl was given only a minor penalty for roughing on the hit that knocked Barkov from the game. Rodrigues got a tip-in goal to make it 3-1, the first power-play score the Oilers allowed in their last 34 times being down a man.

Connor McDavid had a chance to get Edmonton within one on a breakaway with about 6 minutes left. He got stopped by Bobrovsky, and then he and Matthew Tkachuk tussled a bit along the boards after the play — Florida still steaming over the hit on Barkov.

"I have no response or com-

ment on that," Tkachuk said when asked what he thought of Draisaitl's hit on Barkov, and if he had a level of concern that the Panthers' captain could miss time.

Emotions were high all night. The Oilers' Warren Foegele was ejected in the first period for a knee-on-knee hit that knocked Florida's Eetu Luostarinen from the game briefly; that ejection, plus an injury to Edmonton defenseman Darnell Nurse left them with only 11 forwards and five defensemen for much of the game.

Rodrigues scored early in the third off a turnover for a 2-1 lead, setting the tone for yet another Panthers comeback. Florida — which trailed 1-0 after 20 minutes — is now an NHL-best 5-2 when trailing after one period in these playoffs.

Ekblad sealed it with an empty-netter with 2:28 left.

"It's supposed to be hard. It's supposed to be difficult," McDavid said. "I'm excited to see what our group's made of."

Celtics had Finals in mind when trading for Holiday

Associated Press

BOSTON — This moment is exactly why the Boston Celtics went out and got Jrue Holiday.

When president of basketball operations Brad Stevens and the rest of the front office sat down after last season to piece together their next steps following Boston's Eastern Conference finals loss to Miami, a question hovered over them.

How much were they willing to shake up the core of a team that had lost in the NBA Finals in 2022 and then came up a game short of returning the following season?

In the end they opted to swing big, trading longtime point guard Marcus Smart as part of the deal that netted 7-footer Kristaps Porzingis. Then, after Milwaukee traded Holiday to Portland to get Damian Lillard, the Celtics pounced, dealing former NBA Sixth Man of the Year Malcolm Brogdon and big man Robert Williams III to get Holiday.

The bold moves have proven to be exactly what Boston needed, helping produce a 64-

win regular season, a romp through the first three rounds of the playoffs and a 2-0 lead over the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA Finals.

For the defensive-minded Holiday, whose defense has limited Kyrie Irving thus far, combined with a 26-point, 11-rebound effort that helped the Celtics salvage their 105-98 Game 2 victory, it's the latest proof Holiday is where he is meant to be.

"I think that this is what was supposed to happen. And I'm glad that I'm here and I'm glad that I'm in this moment," Holiday said prior to the start of the Finals.

"(Celtics coach) Joe Mazzulla has talked about that a lot, especially this season is being in the moment, and that's what I've tried to do."

Part of what's made Holiday so effective for the Celtics is the 33-year-old's willingness to adapt his game to fill whatever his team has needed this season.

A No. 3 scoring option in Milwaukee behind Giannis Antetokounmpo and Khris

Middleton during the Bucks' 2020-21 championship season, Holiday has accepted being the fourth or fifth option in Boston. His 12.5 points-per-game average this regular season was the lowest since his rookie season.

But there have been times, such as in Game 2, when Dallas doubled up on All-Star Jayson Tatum, put more pressure on Jaylen Brown or Porzingis struggled, when Holiday had to increase his output.

He's done it, while maintaining intensity on the defensive end this season. He was selected to the NBA All-Defensive second team. It was the sixth time he was picked for the first or second team in his career.

Holiday believes it's a byproduct of the collective unity the team has been building throughout the season.

"I think when you sacrifice together and you do something together, it brings you closer," he said. "I think being able to go through wins and losses and to build something, it means a lot. ... From (roster spots) 1 to 15, somebody's sacrificed something."

Lakers continue search after Hurley snub

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Lakers must continue their latest coaching search with the basketball world already knowing their first choice turned them down.

The Lakers have endured their share of embarrassments in recent years, but a snub by a college coach — even the best in the game — is among the roughest setbacks yet.

Dan Hurley met with the Lakers last week and then rejected their very public courtship Monday. The coach probably emerged from his dalliance with the leverage to finish a lucrative new contract at UConn.

But what's next for the Lakers, a franchise with 17 championships, a world-renowned brand, two of the sport's top players and no head coach?

They must resume a search that has stretched well into its

second month since Darwin Ham's firing May 3 and has yet to produce a slam-dunk choice. Nearly every leaked discussion of the Lakers' search included three top candidates — each of whom would have arrived on the West Coast with question marks.

Although Hurley is one of the most respected names in the sport after the Huskies' success over the past two years, he's never worked in the NBA. Former player J.J. Redick has never coached at all, and James Borrego has been an NBA head coach for 4½ seasons without ever making the playoffs.

Redick and Borrego are still candidates to run the Lakers, which would seem to be one of the most desirable jobs in sports — but the charitable interpretation is that owner Jeanie Buss and general manager Rob Pelinka are struggling to find

the right fit for their vision.

Many fans are wondering whether Buss and Pelinka have a vision at all, what with the Lakers' years of roster upheaval and mediocre supporting casts around LeBron James. They're also wondering whether each passing week increases the chance that the 39-year-old James will turn down his \$51.4 million contract option later this month and become a free agent.

The Lakers last won a championship when James and Anthony Davis raised the trophy in the Florida bubble four years ago, and they've tried to maximize their chances in the remaining years of James' career by changing coaches and/or jettisoning multiple players after nearly every failed season.

This hire might be their final chance to get the right coaching staff for James — and Hurley's rejection clearly hurts.

Hiring Redick would be a major risk, albeit with a significant potential upside. It's unclear whether Redick would even want to disrupt his burgeoning career in media for the stress of a head coaching job.

Borrego represents management experience and coaching pedigree, but he has yet to distinguish himself in a top job — and he's also a candidate for Cleveland's vacancy.

The Lakers are expected to talk to other candidates in the days ahead, perhaps widening their search to include names not even currently in the discussion. But they probably can't even default to arguably the most experienced, most successful veteran NBA head coach currently on the free-agent market. That's because Frank Vogel won a ring with the Lakers in October 2020 and got fired exactly 18 months later.

US women's Olympic roster loaded with experience

Associated Press

USA Basketball said experience was a major reason Caitlin Clark was not on the U.S. women's Olympic roster that was officially revealed Tuesday.

The selection committee didn't believe the talented Clark had enough high-level reps to be a member of the group headed to the Paris Games. The team includes seven players from the group that won gold in Tokyo — the seventh straight for the Americans.

Selection committee chair Jen Rizzotti said the committee was aware of the outside noise and pressure to select Clark, the No. 1 pick in the WNBA Draft who has drawn millions of new fans to the sport from her record-setting career in college at Iowa to now with the Indiana Fever.

"Here's the basketball criteria that we were given as a committee and how do we evaluate our players based on that?" Rizzotti told The Associated Press in an interview. "And when you base your decision on criteria, there were other players that were harder to cut because they checked a lot more boxes. Then sometimes

it comes down to position, style of play for Cheryl (Reeve) and then sometimes a vote."

Diana Taurasi is back for a record sixth time. Her Olympic career started when she was a WNBA rookie in the 2004 Athens Games, and now the 42-year-old will be on the team again. Other returners from the Tokyo Olympics are Breanna Stewart, A'ja Wilson, Chelsea Gray, Napheesa Collier, Jewell Loyd and Brittney Griner.

Besides the returners, the Americans also added 5-on-5 newcomers Kelsey Plum and Jackie Young, who helped the U.S. win the inaugural 3x3 gold medal at the Tokyo Games in 2021. Several first-time Olympians will join the team with Alyssa Thomas, Sabrina Ionescu and Kahleah Copper. All three played on the American team that won the World Cup in Australia in 2022.

"It's a great mix of talent across the board in terms of individual skill sets," USA Basketball CEO Jim Tooley said. "We have veterans, newcomers and those in the middle. Good perspective and continuity is such an important thing and is why we've been successful in the Olympics."

All 12 of those players had senior national team experience. Clark, through no fault of her own, does not.

"She's certainly going to continue to get better and better," Tooley said. "Really hope that she's a big part of our future going forward."

The selection committee has a set of criteria to pick the team, which includes playing ability, position played and adaptability to the international game.

"It would be irresponsible for us to talk about her in a way other than how she would impact the play of the team," Rizzotti said. "Because it wasn't the purview of our committee to decide how many people would watch or how many people would root for the U.S. It was our purview to create the best team we could for Cheryl."

Clark wasn't the only talented player left off the team.

Ariel Atkins was on the Tokyo Olympic team. Shakira Austin, Betnijah Laney-Hamilton and Brionna Jones all played on the World Cup team in 2022. Aliyah Boston and Arike Ogunbowale had gone to nearly every training camp.

Henderson HR helps Orioles sweep Rays

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Gunnar Henderson homered on the first pitch, Ryan O'Hearn drove in three runs and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-2 on Monday night to finish their first four-game sweep at Tropicana Field.

Corbin Burnes (7-2) allowed two unearned runs and five hits in seven innings as Baltimore improved to 22-10 on the road. Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his 15th save in 18 chances.

"To come in and really do everything well, pitch great, play good defense, hit the ball well, it's tough to beat us," said Burnes, who has given up three runs or fewer in 16 consecutive starts.

Baltimore also swept a four-game set at the Chicago White Sox from May 23-26, making this the first Orioles squad to sweep a pair of four-game series in the same season since 1987.

James McCann also homered for Baltimore, which leads the majors with 104. It's the most homers through the first 65 games of a season in Orioles history.

Alex Jackson went deep for the Rays, who have dropped 13 of 17 at home and are 31-35 overall.

Henderson's major league-best seventh leadoff homer this year went 430 feet to center field. Last season's AL Rookie of the Year has 21 homers, second in the majors to New York Yankees star Aaron Judge (24).

O'Hearn and Henderson both had three hits. Henderson scored three times for the second consecutive game.

Mariners 8, White Sox 4: Cal Raleigh hit a game-winning grand slam in the bottom

of the ninth inning and host Seattle stormed back from a four-run deficit in the eighth to beat Chicago.

Raleigh's walk-off drive came against Jordan Leasure (0-2) after the Mariners scored four times in the eighth to tie it.

Dominic Canzone led off with a homer against starter Erick Fedde before Michael Kopech gave up three runs and four hits. Mitch Haniger knocked in two with a bases-loaded single, and Luke Raley drove in the tying run with a bunt single.

Fedde allowed just three hits in his first five shutout innings.

Twins 5, Rockies 0: Royce Lewis homered in the eighth inning to break open the game, and Chris Paddack (5-3) bounced back from a rough outing with a sharp performance to lift host Minnesota to a victory over Colorado.

Lewis, who was injured in the season opener and missed two months with a severe right quad strain, has now homered four times in seven games.

Christian Vázquez, Carlos Correa and Trevor Larnach each drove in a run for the Twins, who have won two in a row after dropping five straight games.

Brewers 3, Blue Jays 1: Colin Rea allowed just three hits while working seven innings for his longest outing in eight years, leading host Milwaukee to a victory over Toronto.

Jackson Chourio and Willy Adames went deep for the Brewers, who had gone without a homer in their past five games.

Rea (5-2) threw 85 pitches, struck out four and allowed one run, on a third-inning homer by Alejandro Kirk.

Yankees 4, Royals 2: Carlos Rodón (9-2)

pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning in his return to the mound where he hit his low point last September, winning his seventh straight start and leading visiting New York over Kansas City.

Juan Soto rejoined the Yankees lineup after missing a three-game series against the Los Angeles Dodgers because of left forearm inflammation. He went 1-for-3 with a run and a walk as the designated hitter.

AL-best New York (47-21) won for the 10th time in 13 games and improved to 15-1 against the AL Central. Aaron Boone got his 556th victory, tying Billy Martin for seventh among Yankees managers.

Padres 6, Athletics 1: Fernando Tatis Jr. homered to extend his career-best hitting streak to 16 games, the longest current streak in the majors, and Dylan Cease (6-5) won for the first time in six starts as host San Diego beat Oakland.

Jake Cronenworth also homered for the Padres, who have hit multiple homers in four straight games.

The A's have lost nine of their last 12 games and are a season-worst 16 games under .500.

Giants 4, Astros 3 (10): Austin Slater lined the game-winning single into left field with one out in the 10th inning, rallying host San Francisco from two runs down in the inning to beat Houston.

Randy Rodríguez (2-1) recorded the final out of the 10th for the win.

Houston had gone ahead by two runs in the top half on a sacrifice fly by Victor Caratini that scored runner Joey Loperfido from second base and Alex Bregman's RBI single.

NC State gives ACC 4 teams in College World Series

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Eli Serrano III hit a home run in the sixth inning and made a leaping catch at the center-field wall in the seventh, helping North Carolina State beat Georgia 8-5 on Monday night to secure the program's fourth trip to the College World Series.

N.C. State (38-21) advances to an opening-round game against Kentucky on Saturday. The Wolfpack have won

18 of their last 23 games.

Georgia (43-17), which forced a winner-take-all game with an 11-2 victory on Sunday, was looking to make its seventh trip to the CWS.

N.C. State took the lead for good, 3-2, in the top of the fourth when Matt Heavner scored from third on a wild pitch. Alec Makarewicz made it 4-2 with an RBI single down the third-base line.

N.C. State extended it to 6-3 in the seventh on Alex Sosa's

third hit of the game.

Georgia had two on with no outs in the seventh before Serrano's highlight catch to keep a three-run lead. N.C. State reliever Derrick Smith got Tre Phelps, who had a hit in his first three at-bats, to pop up to end the inning.

Makarewicz followed in the top of the eighth with N.C. State's 16th home run in six NCAA Tournament games for an 8-4 lead.

Georgia star Charlie Con-

don hit his nation-leading 37th home run in the top of the ninth for his 78th RBI. Smith retired Phelps again for his eighth save of the season.

Georgia starter Zach Harris (5-2) allowed three runs in three innings to take the loss.

Serrano went 3-for-4 and Makarewicz finished with three RBIs. Garrett Pennington hit a two-run shot in the second for N.C. State's sixth straight game with a home run.