

## DOD expands its presence in Middle East

*The Washington Post*

The Pentagon is expanding its military presence in the Middle East and Europe in response to worsening hostilities between Israel and Iran, U.S. officials said Monday, sending refueling planes and an additional aircraft carrier among the resources dispatched.

More than two dozen tanker planes were deployed from the United States to Europe on Sunday and Monday, a movement that U.S. officials linked to commanders' desire for options should American facilities near the warring countries face a direct threat. Flight-tracking data shows the refueling aircraft along with some heavy transport jets took off from points across the U.S. and landed

hours later at air bases in Spain, Greece, Germany, Italy and Scotland. Among them were KC-135 Stratotankers and KC-46 Pegasuses.

The move puts those aircraft closer to the Middle East to defend U.S. interests if needed, said one official familiar with the discussion, who like some others spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the issue's sensitivity.

The Navy, meanwhile, has canceled a port stop in Vietnam for the USS Nimitz, sending that aircraft carrier and other warships escorting it to the Middle East more quickly than had been expected, defense officials said.

The Nimitz, carrying about 5,000 sailors and dozens of

fighter jets, on Monday was making its way west through the Strait of Malacca and is expected to head across the Indian Ocean to join U.S. warships already in the Middle East.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said in a statement posted to X early Monday evening that he "directed the deployment of additional capabilities" to the Middle East. "Protecting U.S. forces is our top priority and these deployments are intended to enhance our defensive posture in the region," the statement said, without specifying what kinds of forces he sent.

Later on Fox News, Hegseth stressed repeatedly that the United States is acting defensively, but will defend its own interests.

"What it looks like right now is that we're vigilant. We're prepared," Hegseth said. "And, we've messaged consistently from the beginning that we're in the region to defend our people and our assets."

The moves come after Israel launched a wave of attacks last week against Iran's nuclear weapons program, triggering Iranian counterattacks and continued bloodshed on both sides since then. The Israeli strikes occurred early Friday as President Donald Trump tried to secure a deal to curtail Iran's nuclear program, short-circuiting those negotiations, and have since expanded to target military commanders, state media and Iran's energy infrastructure.

## Israel claims it killed another top Iranian general

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Israel claimed Tuesday to have killed a top Iranian general as it traded more strikes with its longtime foe, and President Donald Trump warned residents of Tehran to evacuate while demanding that Iran surrender without conditions.

Trump left the Group of Seven summit in Canada a day early to deal with the conflict between Israel and Iran, telling reporters on Air Force One during the flight back to Washington: "I'm not looking at a ceasefire. We're looking at better than a ceasefire."

When asked to explain, he said the U.S. wanted to see "a real end" to the conflict that could involve Iran "giving up entirely." He added: "I'm not too much in the mood to negotiate."

Later, he warned Supreme

Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that the U.S. knows where he is hiding and called for Iran's "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER."

Trump's hard line added to the uncertainty roiling the region on the fifth day of Israel's air campaign aimed at Iran's military and nuclear program. Residents of Tehran fled their homes in droves, and the U.N. nuclear watchdog for the first time said Israeli strikes on Iran's main enrichment facility at Natanz had also damaged its main underground section, not just an above-ground facility, as previously acknowledged.

Israel says its sweeping assault on Iran's military leaders, nuclear scientists, uranium enrichment sites and ballistic missile program is necessary to prevent its adversary from getting any closer to building an

atomic weapon. The strikes have killed at least 224 people in Iran.

Iran has retaliated by launching some 400 missiles and hundreds of drones at Israel. So far, 24 people have been killed in Israel.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military claimed to have killed another top Iranian general in a strike on Tehran.

Iran did not immediately comment on the reported killing of Gen. Ali Shadmani, whom Israel described as the most senior military commander in Iran.

Shadmani was little-known in the country before being appointed last week as head of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters. That appointment followed the killing of his predecessor, Gen. Gho-

lam Ali Rashid, in an Israeli strike.

The Israeli military warned the population to stay close to shelters as Iran fired new salvos of missiles, but officials said most were intercepted. Sirens blared in southern Israel, including in the desert town of Dimona, the heart of Israel's never-acknowledged nuclear arms program.

Iran has fired fewer missiles in each of its barrages, with just a handful launched late Tuesday. It has not explained the drop in missiles fired, but the decline comes after Israel targeted many Iranian launchers.

Echoing an earlier Israeli military call for some 330,000 residents of a neighborhood in downtown Tehran to evacuate, Trump warned on social media that "everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran."

# Scarborough Shoal shows tensions rising

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Scarborough Shoal has reemerged as the focal point of tensions between Manila and Beijing in the South China Sea, according to a report released Monday by the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

The report found that data from the past 10 months show China has expanded its patrols east of the shoal in an effort “aimed at intercepting Philippine ships, leading to frequent encounters between the two countries’ law enforcement vessels.”

Scarborough Shoal lies about 120 nautical miles west of the Philippines, within its exclusive economic zone, but China has maintained a permanent coast guard presence there since seizing control of the shoal from the Philippines in 2012, said the report by

the initiative, a project of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

China claims most of the South China Sea, including various atolls and reefs — many of them uninhabitable — using a “nine-dash line,” a demarcation that encircles much of the sea and skirts the coasts of several Southeast Asian nations.

Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei also have competing sovereignty claims in the sea.

The United States does not claim territory in the South China Sea but has consistently stated that much of the area is international waters and should remain open to navigation.

The initiative analyzed automatic identification system data from Chinese and Philippine law

enforcement vessels between August 2024 and May. The data indicate a roughly threefold increase in Chinese coast guard patrol days during that period.

Increased patrolling east of the shoal coincides with the location of one of the hash marks found on China’s nine-dash map, the report said.

“This suggests that China is using the nine-dash line rather than the territorial sea or another maritime zone from Scarborough as its imagined jurisdictional boundary,” the report said.

The report also states:

■ Both countries increased law enforcement activity around the shoal during the 10-month period, but China’s presence was far larger and more consistent. In May, Chinese coast guard ships logged 106 patrol days compared to 27 for Philippine vessels.

■ The increased patrols have led to an average of about 12 maritime encounters per month near the shoal.

■ Aerial encounters near the shoal also increased. Some have led to “dangerous encounters” between vessels from the two nations.

In August, the Philippines lodged a rare formal protest after a Chinese fighter jet dropped flares in the path of a Philippine air force aircraft, the report said.

“The confluence of increasingly frequent aerial encounters and maritime interactions near Scarborough Shoal inevitably increases the chance of accidental escalation between Chinese and Philippine forces, which could ultimately trigger U.S. treaty obligations and risk spiraling into a wider conflict,” the report concluded.

## Gazans killed waiting for aid

*Associated Press*

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — At least 51 Palestinians were killed and more than 200 were wounded in the Gaza Strip while waiting for trucks to enter the territory with desperately needed food, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry and a local hospital.

Palestinian witnesses told The Associated Press that Israeli forces carried out an airstrike on a nearby home before opening fire toward the crowd in the southern city of Khan Younis.

The Israeli military said soldiers had spotted a gathering near an aid truck that was stuck in Khan Younis, near where Israeli forces were operating. The shooting did not appear to be related to a new Israeli- and U.S.-supported aid delivery network that rolled out last month and has been

marred by controversy and violence.

Yousef Nofal, an eyewitness, said he saw many people motionless and bleeding on the ground after Israeli forces opened fire. “It was a massacre,” he said, adding that the soldiers continued firing on people as they fled the area.

Samaher Meqdad was at the hospital looking for her two brothers and a nephew who had been in the crowd.

“We don’t want flour. We don’t want food. We don’t want anything,” she said. “Why did they fire at the young people? Why? Aren’t we human beings?”

Palestinians say Israeli forces have repeatedly opened fire on crowds trying to reach food distribution points run by a separate U.S. and Israeli-backed aid group since the centers opened last month.

## Overnight attacks strike Kyiv

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — An overnight Russian missile and drone bombardment of Ukraine killed 15 people and injured 156, local officials said Tuesday, with the main barrage demolishing a nine-story Kyiv apartment building in the deadliest attack on the capital this year.

At least 14 people were killed as explosions echoed across the Ukrainian capital for almost nine hours, according to Kyiv City Military Administration head Tymur Tkachenko.

Russia fired more than 440 drones and 32 missiles, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Ukraine’s Interior Ministry said 139 people were injured in Kyiv.

The attack came after two rounds of direct peace talks failed to make progress on ending the war, now in its fourth

year.

Russia has repeatedly hit civilian areas of Ukraine with missiles and drones.

The attacks have killed more than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians, according to the United Nations. Russia says it strikes only military targets.

The intensified long-range strikes have coincided with a Russian summer offensive on eastern and northeastern sections of the roughly 620-mile front line, where Ukraine is short-handed and needs more military support from its Western partners.

Overnight Russian drone strikes hit the Ukrainian port city of Odesa, according to Oleh Kiper, head of the regional administration.

A U.S. citizen died in the attack after suffering shrapnel wounds, Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko told reporters.

# Judge: Some NIH grant cuts are illegal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge ruled Monday it was illegal for the Trump administration to cancel several hundred research grants, adding that the cuts raise serious questions about racial discrimination.

U.S. District Judge William Young in Massachusetts said the administration's process was "arbitrary and capricious" and that it did not follow long-held government rules and standards when it abruptly canceled grants deemed to focus on gender identity or diversity, equity and inclusion.

In a hearing Monday on two cases calling for the grants to be restored, the judge pushed government lawyers to offer a formal definition of DEI, questioning how grants could be canceled for that reason when some were designed to study health disparities

as Congress had directed.

Young, an appointee of Republican President Ronald Reagan, went on to address what he called "a darker aspect" to the cases, calling it "palpably clear" that what was behind the government actions was "racial discrimination and discrimination against America's LGBTQ community."

After 40 years on the bench, "I've never seen government racial discrimination like this," Young added.

During his remarks ending the hearing, the judge said he would issue his written order soon.

Young's decision addresses only a fraction of the hundreds of NIH research projects the Trump administration has cut — those specifically addressed in two lawsuits filed separately this spring by 16 attorneys general, public health advocacy groups and some

affected scientists. A full count wasn't immediately available.

While Young said the funding must be restored, Monday's action was an interim step as the ruling could be appealed.

The Trump administration is "exploring all legal options" including asking the judge to stay the ruling or appealing, said Andrew Nixon, a spokesman for NIH's parent agency, the Department of Health and Human Services.

"HHS stands by its decision to end funding for research that prioritized ideological agendas over scientific rigor and meaningful outcomes for the American people," he said in an email.

While the original lawsuits didn't specifically claim racial discrimination, they said the new NIH policies prohibited "research into certain politically dis-

avored subjects." In a filing this month after the lawsuits were consolidated, lawyers said the NIH did not highlight genuine concerns with the studies, but instead sent "boilerplate termination letters" to universities.

The topics of research ranged from cardiovascular health, sexually transmitted infections, depression and Alzheimer's to alcohol abuse in minors. Attorneys cited projects such as one tracking how medicines may work differently in people of ancestrally diverse backgrounds.

Lawyers for the federal government said in a court filing earlier this month that NIH grant terminations for DEI studies were "sufficiently reasoned," adding later that "plaintiffs may disagree with NIH's basis, but that does not make the basis arbitrary and capricious."

## DOJ: Presidents can undo US monument designations

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The president has broad legal authority to fully revoke national monument designations, the Justice Department says in a memorandum that could become the basis to withdraw millions of acres from protected status.

The department's Office of Legal Counsel disavowed a 1938 DOJ determination that presidents can't revoke a monument designation by a predecessor under the 1906 law known as the Antiquities Act. The May 27 memo, made public last week, noted that Congress gave presidents the power to declare monuments, but that lawmakers never explicitly said he couldn't decrease the size of one.

President Donald Trump could use the opinion to go farther than he did in his first term, when he reduced the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante

national monuments in Utah and allowed commercial fishing in the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument off the coast of New England.

The Biden administration later restored the two Utah monuments to their original size and restored the original protections for the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts monument.

The Justice Department said that if the president has the power to remove protections for a portion of a monument, then he could do so for the entirety of the monument.

"Or, put differently, if the President can declare that his predecessor was wrong regarding the value of preserving one such object on a given parcel, there is nothing preventing him from declaring that his predecessor was wrong about all such objects on a given parcel," the opinion said.

## Trump, Starmer agree to implement tariff-cut deal

Bloomberg

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer reached an agreement with President Donald Trump to implement some main elements of the trade deal announced last month to lower U.S. tariffs on key British exports and raise U.K. quotas on certain American agricultural products.

Trump and Starmer on Monday presented a document signed at the Group of Seven meeting in Kananaskis, Alberta, agreeing to move forward on measures easing trade of cars, agricultural and aerospace products. But it fell short of an immediate cut to steel tariffs, a key British priority.

"The U.K. is very well protected," Trump told reporters. "Because I like them, that's why, that's their ultimate protection."

Trump signed an executive order on Monday that also ex-

empts the U.K.'s civil aerospace aircraft sector from Trump's baseline 10% country-by-country tariffs, a significant relief for a sector closely intertwined with the U.S. industry. U.K. auto exports will see U.S. tariffs slashed to 10% from 27.5% later in June on an annual quota of 100,000 vehicles.

But there was no reprieve for the U.K.'s beleaguered steel sector, which had initially been promised a tariff reduction from the current 25% to zero. While the U.K. is currently the only country to avoid Trump's 50% tariff on steel announced last month, British companies have still reported seeing their U.S. orders dry up.

The U.S. reiterated that it would exempt the U.K. up to a certain quota, but that has not yet been set because technical details have held up the negotiations.



# Senate GOP seeking deeper Medicaid cuts

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans on Monday proposed deeper Medicaid cuts, including new work requirements for parents of teens, as a way to offset the costs of making President Donald Trump's tax breaks more permanent in draft legislation unveiled for his "big, beautiful bill."

The proposals from Republicans keep in place the current \$10,000 deduction of state and local taxes, called SALT, drawing quick blowback from GOP lawmakers from New York and other high-tax states, who fought for a \$40,000 cap in the House-passed bill. Senators insisted negotiations continue.

The Senate draft also enhances Trump's proposed new tax break for seniors, with a bigger \$6,000 deduction for low- to moderate-income senior house-

holds earning no more than \$75,000 a year for singles, \$150,000 for couples.

All told, the text unveiled by the Senate Finance Committee Republicans provides the most comprehensive look yet at changes the GOP senators want to make to the 1,000-page package approved by House Republicans last month. GOP leaders are pushing to fast-track the bill for a vote by Trump's Fourth of July deadline.

Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, said the proposal would prevent a tax hike and achieve "significant savings" by slashing green energy funds "and targeting waste, fraud and abuse."

It comes as Americans broadly support levels of funding for popular safety net programs, according to the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Many Americans see Medicaid and food assistance programs as underfunded.

Trump's big bill is the centerpiece of his domestic policy agenda, a hodgepodge of GOP priorities all rolled into what he calls the "beautiful bill" that Republicans are trying to swiftly pass over unified opposition from Democrats — a tall order for the slow-moving Senate.

Fundamental to the package is the extension of some \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks approved during his first term that are expiring this year if Congress fails to act. There are also new ones, including no taxes on tips, as well as more than \$1 trillion in program cuts.

After the House passed its version, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated the bill would add \$2.4 trillion to the nation's deficits

over the decade and leave 10.9 fewer people without health insurance, due largely to the proposed new work requirements and other changes.

The biggest tax breaks, some \$12,000 a year, would go to the wealthiest households, CBO said, while the poorest would see a tax hike of roughly \$1,600. Middle-income households would see tax breaks of \$500 to \$1,000 a year, CBO said.

Both the House and Senate packages are eyeing a massive \$350 billion buildup of Homeland Security and Pentagon funds, including some \$175 billion for Trump's mass deportation efforts.

This comes as protests over deporting migrants have erupted and as deficit hawks such as Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul are questioning the vast spending on Homeland Security.

## Minn. shooting suspect had dozens of potential targets

*Associated Press*

MINNEAPOLIS — The man charged with killing one Minnesota lawmaker and wounding another in what prosecutors have described as a meticulously planned attack, had dozens of apparent targets, including officials in three other states.

Vance Boelter allegedly made it to the homes of two other legislators on the night of the attacks, but one was on vacation and the suspect left the other house after police arrived, acting U.S. Attorney Joseph Thompson said Monday.

All of the politicians named in his writing were Democrats, including more than 45 state and federal officials in Minnesota, Thompson said.

Investigators say Boelter appeared to spend months preparing for the shootings. In Minnesota, Boelter carried out surveillance missions, took notes

on the homes and people he targeted, and disguised himself as a police officer just before the shootings, Thompson said.

Boelter surrendered to police Sunday night after they found him in the woods near his home after a massive two-day search. He is accused of fatally shooting former Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, in their home early Saturday in the northern Minneapolis suburbs.

Authorities say he also shot and wounded Sen. John Hoffman, a Democrat, and his wife, Yvette, who lived a few miles away.

Writings recovered from the fake police vehicle included the names of lawmakers and community leaders, along with abortion rights advocates and information about health care facilities, said two law enforcement officials.

## Trump suggests extension of deadline for sale of TikTok

*Associated Press*

President Donald Trump suggested on Tuesday that he would likely extend a deadline for TikTok's Chinese owner to divest the popular video sharing app.

Trump had signed an order in early April to keep TikTok running for another 75 days after a potential deal to sell the app to American owners was put on ice.

"Probably yeah, yeah," he responded when asked by reporters on Air Force One about extending the deadline again.

"Probably have to get China approval, but I think we'll get it. I think President Xi will ultimately approve it."

He indicated in an interview last month with NBC that he would be open to pushing back the deadline again.

If announced, it would be the third time Trump has extended

the deadline. The first one was through an executive order on Jan. 20, his first day in office, after the platform went dark briefly when the ban approved by Congress — and upheld by the Supreme Court — took effect. The second was in April, when White House officials believed they were nearing a deal to spin off TikTok into a new company with U.S. ownership that fell apart after China backed out following Trump's tariff announcement.

It is not clear how many times Trump can — or will — keep extending the ban as the government continues to try to negotiate a deal for TikTok, which is owned by China's ByteDance. Trump has amassed more than 15 million followers on TikTok since he joined last year, and he has credited the trendsetting platform with helping him gain traction among young voters.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Carnival argument leads to shooting that kills 3**

**UT** WEST VALLEY CITY — A 16-year-old boy shot five people in a confrontation between two groups at a carnival in a Salt Lake City suburb Sunday, killing three of them including an 8-month-old infant, police said.

“As they approached to break up the altercation, a 16-year-old male from one of the groups pulled out a gun and fired,” the department posted on X. One officer fired back but did not hit anyone.

The shooter struck and killed an 18-year-old man in one of the groups, police said. Besides the infant, a 41-year-old woman bystander also was killed.

Two other teens, a 17-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy, were both hit in the arm, police said. It was not clear if they were connected to the groups involved.

The 16-year-old was quickly taken into custody, police said. His name would not be released because he was a juvenile, West Valley City spokesperson Roxeanne Vainuku said at a news conference late Sunday.

**Grand jury can investigate sex abuse by clergy**

**NJ** TRENTON — New Jersey can have a grand jury examine allegations of clergy sexually abusing children, the state’s Supreme Court ruled Monday, after a Catholic diocese that had tried for years to block proceedings reversed course.

The Diocese of Camden previously had argued that a court rule prevents the state attorney general from impaneling a grand jury to issue findings in

the state’s investigation into decades of allegations against church officials. But the diocese notified the court in early May that it would no longer oppose that. Camden Bishop Joseph Williams, who took over the diocese in March, said he’d met with stakeholders in the diocese and there was unanimous consent to end the church’s opposition to the grand jury.

The seven-member Supreme Court concluded such a grand jury inquiry is allowed.

**Men hit by lightning plucked from mountain**

**CO** DENVER — Rescuers fetched two men struck by lightning from a Colorado peak in what they believe were the highest helicopter rescues on record in the mountainous state.

One man remained hospitalized in fair condition Friday while the other was treated at a hospital and released.

The rescues happened late Thursday near the summit of Torreys Peak, a 14,300-foot mountain about 40 miles west of Denver.

The men from New York state, whose identities weren’t released, had decided to summit the mountain during a road trip, Alpine Rescue Team public information officer Jake Smith said.

They first called for help around 5 p.m. after getting off course on their way up a technical route. A different route doesn’t require climbing gear or expertise.

Rescue officials guided the men back on course, and they made it to the summit. Minutes later, one of them called back to report they had been struck by

lightning.

About 30 rescuers went up the mountain while another team used a Colorado National Guard Black Hawk helicopter to get the more seriously injured man, who was nonresponsive and in critical condition, off the peak using a hoist at 14,200 feet.

He was flown down to an ambulance and taken to a local hospital, then to a Denver hospital with a burn unit, Smith said.

**Officials face backlash over school rental policy**

**MA** BOSTON — City officials in Salem, Mass., are under fire as they push to ban churches and religious groups from renting public school space.

While the Salem School Committee moves forward with the proposal, a free speech and religious liberty group is threatening that it will sue The Witch City for “anti-Christian witch hunts.”

The Massachusetts Liberty Legal Center has sent a legal demand letter to the Salem board, warning them that a lawsuit is coming if they pass the religious group ban.

“I write on behalf of my client, House of Promise Church, to demand that you immediately cease any effort to discriminate against it or any other religious organization based on their religious beliefs and viewpoints,” wrote Sam Whiting, counsel of the Massachusetts Liberty Legal Center.

“It is our understanding that you are in the process of approving a policy that would ban religious organizations, and only religious organizations, from renting or leasing space in Sa-

lem Public Schools,” Whiting added. “This would constitute a clear First Amendment violation. Should you pass and implement this policy, we will take immediate legal action to preserve my client’s rights.”

House of Promise Church is a non-denominational Christian church that has reserved space in the auditorium of Collins Middle School for Sunday worship services for a number of years.

**Salmonella poisoning linked to pistachio cream**

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — Four people have been sickened in two states by salmonella poisoning linked to pistachio cream, a nut butter spread used in desserts and other dishes, federal officials said Monday.

Three people in Minnesota and one in New Jersey fell ill between March 10 and May 19, including one person who was hospitalized. The outbreak is tied to Emek brand pistachio cream with a use-by date of Oct. 19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The spread, which may be packaged in 11-pound tubs, was imported from Turkey and sold online to wholesale distributors, restaurants and food service locations nationwide. It has a production code of 241019. The product should not be sold, distributed or served, the CDC said.

Symptoms of salmonella poisoning can occur within hours or days of consuming contaminated food and include diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps.

— From wire reports

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# Ohtani returns to pitching after surgery

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Shohei Ohtani gave up a pair of two-strike hits and a run in his Los Angeles Dodgers pitching debut against the San Diego Padres on Monday night, 21 months after the two-way superstar had elbow surgery.

Ohtani threw 28 pitches — 16 for strikes — in the first inning as the sellout crowd of 53,207 hung on every one. They oohed when a fastball was clocked at 100.2 mph — the second-hardest pitch thrown by a Dodger this season.

“I was aiming to sit 95-96,” Ohtani said through a translator, “but the game intensity really allowed me to throw a little harder.”

Ohtani said his nerves were “definitely a little bit more than when I was solely a position player.”

After retiring Xander Bogaerts on a grounder for the third out, Ohtani walked over to an umpire who checked his hands and glove. He didn’t enter the dugout. Instead, he put on

his batting gloves and other equipment near the railing and walked to the on-deck circle to prepare to lead off the bottom of the first.

Ohtani struck out swinging against Padres starter Dylan Cease, but then tied the score at 1 with a run-scoring double to left-center in the third. The three-time MVP added a two-out RBI single that gave Los Angeles a 5-2 lead in the fourth on the way to a 6-3 victory. He finished 2 for 4 with a walk and two strikeouts at the plate.

Ohtani anticipates pitching once a week going forward.

“But I did hit 100 (mph) today, so I want to see first where my body feels and how it reacts,” he said. “But the expectation is for me to go once a week. Hopefully to be able to go a little longer every time I’m out there so that the bullpen won’t be so taxed.”

Ohtani faced Fernando Tatis Jr., Luis Arráez, Manny Machado, Gavin Sheets and Bogaerts in the first. Tatis hit a flare single and went to second on a wild pitch. Arráez singled and Ma-

chado’s sacrifice fly scored Tatis. Sheets and Bogaerts grounded out.

“Stuff looked electric,” Dodgers teammate Max Muncy said, “but when you haven’t pitched in that long of a time and you don’t really get a chance to do any rehab games, maybe the command isn’t going to be there and that’s kind of what we saw tonight.”

Anthony Banda replaced Ohtani on the mound in the second.

“I think I got the best seat in the house to watch it and to watch this guy start and then take an at-bat,” LA manager Dave Roberts said before the game. “This is bananas. I’m thrilled.”

Major League Baseball made the game available for free on streaming site MLB.tv.

The Japanese right-hander was pitching in a big league game about three weeks after facing hitters in simulated at-bats for the first time. All the while, Ohtani was wielding his powerful bat in the lineup for the NL West leaders.

“It got to the point where, hey, it feels like we should take that next step and almost look to finish the rehab at the major league level because of the taxing nature of what he was doing,” Dodgers general manager Brandon Gomes said.

Typically, pitchers returning from injuries go on minor league rehab assignments, but Ohtani is an exception.

“It’s been really encouraging overall the way he’s bounced back and been able to continue to feel good doing both,” Gomes said.

Gomes acknowledged the team is in a unique situation, trying to balance Ohtani’s offensive prowess with his pitching ability while erring on the side of caution.

“We don’t know how he’s going to come out, if his legs are going to be tired. We have to make sure that we’re also keeping one of our best hitters in the lineup,” Gomes said. “It has to be an ongoing conversation and making sure that Shohei is the one driving this conversation.”

## Turner, Abel lead Phils over Marlins for 5th straight win

Associated Press

MIAMI — Trea Turner hit a leadoff homer and added two singles as the Philadelphia Phillies extended their winning streak to five games with a 5-2 victory over the Miami Marlins on Monday night in the opener of a four-game series.

Max Kepler also went deep and Alec Bohm had two hits and two RBIs for the Phillies.

Rookie Mick Abel (2-0) threw five innings of one-run ball in his fourth major league start. The 23-year-old right-hander scattered three hits and struck out three. Orion Kerkering closed with a perfect ninth for his first career save.

Marlins starter Sanda Alcántara (3-8) allowed two runs and five hits in five innings. The 2022 NL Cy Young Award winner struck out five, moving past Josh Johnson for second on Miami’s career strikeout list with 834.

**Rockies 6, Nationals 4:** Hunter Goodman

homered twice, including a tying shot in the ninth inning, and then Mickey Moniak connected for a two-run drive that gave visiting Colorado a victory over Washington.

Goodman tied it 4-all with a solo shot to left-center — his 13th homer of the season to lead National League catchers.

**Rays 7, Orioles 1:** Ryan Pepiot had a season-high 11 strikeouts, Jake Mangum went 3 for 4 with three RBIs and host Tampa Bay beat Baltimore.

Pepiot (4-6), in his team-leading 15th start, finished one strikeout short of matching his career best. He allowed four hits and one earned run in a 98-pitch effort.

**Angels 1, Yankees 0 (11):** Nolan Schanuel hit a run-scoring double in the 11th inning and visiting Los Angeles beat New York, extending the Yankees’ losing streak to a season-high four games.

Schanuel’s one-out, opposite-field hit to left off Jonathan Loáisiga (0-1) scored automatic runner Christian Moore, a Brooklyn

native who tripled in the eighth for his first major league hit.

**Red Sox 2, Mariners 0:** Top prospect Roman Anthony hit his first major league home run and Lucas Giolito (3-1) struck out 10 in six innings as visiting Boston beat Seattle.

Anthony gave the Red Sox an early advantage during his seventh major league game, turning on a slider from Mariners starter Logan Gilbert — who was making his first appearance since coming off the injured list — for a solo shot in the first. It was Anthony’s second career hit after being promoted to the big leagues June 9.

**Athletics 3, Astros 1:** Nick Kurtz homered in the ninth inning for the second straight day and the host Athletics beat Houston.

Brent Rooker drew a leadoff walk against Bryan Abreu (1-3) to open the ninth and reach safely in 12 straight home games. Kurtz followed with his seventh home run of the season 447 feet over the right-field wall.



# Williams nets 40 as Thunder win Game 5

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Game 5 was starting to look like Game 1 all over again. Oklahoma City, at home, takes a huge lead. Indiana comes roaring back in the fourth quarter.

The Pacers won that one.

This time, the Thunder crafted a different ending — and a 3-2 lead in the NBA Finals was their reward.

Jalen Williams scored a career playoff-high 40 points, MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 31 and OKC moved one win from a title by beating Indiana 120-109 on Monday night.

“We’re learning,” said Williams, whose previous playoff best was 34.

It was the 10th — and by far, the biggest — time the Thunder stars combined for more

than 70 points in a game. Williams was 14 of 24 from the field, and Gilgeous-Alexander added 10 assists.

“It wasn’t a perfect game at all and there’s a lot of room for growth,” Oklahoma City coach Mark Daigneault said. “But our improvement from Game 4 to Game 5 was critical.”

Pascal Siakam had 28 points for the Pacers, who will host Game 6 on Thursday night. TJ McConnell added 18 for Indiana, which whittled an 18-point deficit down to two in the fourth — then watched the Thunder pull away again, and for good.

“It kind of went away from us,” Siakam said. “But the fight was there.”

It was, but now everything favors OKC.

Teams that win Game 5 of an NBA Finals that was tied at

2-2 have gone on to win the series 23 times in 31 previous opportunities, or 74%. And teams with a 3-2 lead in the finals have won 40 times in 49 previous opportunities, or 82%.

But Game 5 was not easy. Far from it.

Down by 18 late in the second quarter, the Pacers — the comeback kings of these playoffs, with as many wins in this postseason from 15 points down or more (five) than the rest of the league has combined, including in Game 1 of this series — did what they do, chipping away. And they did it with Tyrese Haliburton reduced to basically playing decoy on offense because of a leg issue that he aggravated in the first quarter.

“He’s not 100%,” Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said. “It’s pretty clear.”

Led by McConnell, who scored 13 points in just under seven minutes of the third, the Pacers got within five late in that quarter.

Then, Siakam went to work — a pair of free throws with 9:19 left got Indiana within four, then a 3-pointer about a minute later made it 95-93. In the play-by-play era of the NBA, starting with the 1997 playoffs, teams with leads of 15 points or more in the finals were 80-9.

Make that 81-9 now, and the Thunder are one win away from giving Oklahoma City its first NBA title.

“That was honestly the same exact game as Game 1,” Williams said. “Learning through these finals, that’s what makes a team good.”

One more win, and his team will be certified as great.

## Built-in rest benefits both teams late in NBA Finals

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Given the way Indiana guard Tyrese Haliburton was limping on his way out of the postgame news conference after Game 5 of the NBA Finals, it’s safe to assume he’s a fan of the schedule right about now.

Put simply, he could use a couple of days off — at least.

Haliburton has a lower leg injury — nobody’s saying exactly what it is, whether it’s ankle or calf or something else — and it seems to be the sort that if this were a back-to-back situation in December, he’d be missing at least one game. But these are the finals, this is June, there no back-to-backs in the playoffs and when the league gets to the last series, two-day breaks between games aren’t uncommon.

Amen to that, the Pacers are probably saying right about now.

“The Finals, the NBA Finals,

is one of the great stages in all of sports,” Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said. “And so, it shouldn’t happen quickly and abruptly. It should happen at the right pace and the right tempo, and the space in between games does help player health. That’s a very important aspect of it.”

There was a one-day gap between games in this year’s finals just once, separating Games 3 and 4 in Indianapolis. Everything else has seen a two-day gap, as will be the case going into Game 6 at Indy on Thursday night. And if the Pacers win to force a Game 7 back in Oklahoma City, that’ll be preceded by another two days off going into an ultimate game on Sunday night.

It should be noted that the Thunder don’t mind the schedule being drawn out, either.

“We recover,” OKC coach Mark Daigneault said. “The finals are great because you get

extra time in between the games. I think that’s huge in terms of rest and recovery at this time of the year. I think it’s good for the product. I think it’s a good thing and by the time the ball goes up in the air, everybody is going to be ready to play and everybody is going to be excited.”

Even those who aren’t dealing with an injury seem to be welcoming the two-day gaps between finals games.

“It’s a lot of games. It’s tiring, for sure,” Thunder star and league MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander said. “But every game is tiring. When you’re giving your all, every possession, you’re going to be tired. I don’t think I’m the only one out there that is tired.”

“We’re fortunate in this series. Travel is pretty reasonable. Not a long distance,” Carlisle said, evidently aware that the finals has the shortest distance between the dueling ci-

ties — Oklahoma City and Indianapolis are separated by 688 miles by air — than any finals matchup since 1956. “Not a long flight. I do believe it’s a better circumstance for the overall integrity of the competition.”

The two extra days gives everybody — Haliburton, coaches, everyone — more time to get ready. Daigneault, the father of kids ages 3 and 2, said it gives him more time to be a dad between games.

“I do twice as much parenting,” he said, “not twice as much work.”

Carlisle said coaches get more time to study film, though at this point in the series it’s pretty clear that the Thunder and Pacers know each other about as well as they can. And Haliburton will get another 24 hours of whatever scheme Indiana’s medical staff draws up to try to get his leg good to go in Game 6.

# Arkansas' Wood throws no-hitter at CWS

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Arkansas' Gage Wood pitched the third no-hitter in College World Series history and first in 65 years Monday, striking out a record 19 and never letting Murray State come close to getting a hit in the Razorbacks' 3-0 victory.

Wood joined Jim Ehrler of Texas in 1950 and Jim Wixson of Oklahoma State in 1960 as the only pitchers to throw CWS no-hitters, and his defense was never really challenged as he dominated a Racers team that was making its first Omaha appearance. The junior right-hander, who set the CWS record for strikeouts in a nine-inning game, was subdued in the aftermath.

Arkansas (49-14) plays another elimination game Tuesday night against the winner of Monday night's game between LSU and UCLA.

Murray State (44-17), only the fourth No. 4 regional seed since 1999 to reach Omaha, went 0-2 in its first appearance.

Wood's bid for a perfect game ended in the eighth when his 2-2 breaking ball hit Dom Decker in his back foot.

"When I hit the guy in the foot, I knew I screwed up," said Wood, who got a foul out and consecutive strikeouts to end the inning, then looked skyward and gave a primal scream and did a couple of high steps as he headed to the dugout.

The Arkansas faithful behind the first-base dugout did a brief "Woo Pig Sooi!" chant as Wood warmed up for the ninth.

Wood (4-1) hit pinch-hitter Nico Bermeo in the back of his left elbow with a fastball to start the ninth. Bermeo was initially awarded first base, but Arkansas challenged the call, arguing he moved his elbow into the pitch. The call was overturned and he was out.

Wood struck out Connor Cunningham and Jonathan Hogart to finish the game.

Wood, a projected first-round pick in next month's MLB amateur draft, went to three-ball counts just twice, and 83 of his 119 pitches were strikes.

The closest Murray State came to breaking up Wood's no-hitter was Carson Garner's hot grounder that pulled first baseman Reese Robinett to his left.

Robinett snagged the ball and touched the bag for the last out of the seventh inning.

Wood showed early signs that this could be a special day. He had excellent command of his signature four-seam fastball, breaking ball and changeup. Of his first 20 fastballs, 19 were strikes, and he fanned nine of the first 12 batters he faced — seven in a row from the third to fifth innings.

Wood has gone from closer as a freshman to middle reliever as a sophomore to weekend starter as a junior. He injured his right shoulder throwing a warmup pitch in his Feb. 23 start against Michigan and didn't return until April 18 against Texas A&M, a total of 54 days. He went into Monday's game having thrown just 28⅓ innings this season. He threw a career-long six innings and struck out a career-high 13 against Creighton in a June 1 regional game, then went 3⅓ innings in a super regional win over Tennessee on June 8.

Wood now joins Ehrler and Wixson in CWS lore. Ehrler's no-hitter came in Texas' 7-0 win over Tufts on June 19, 1950, and

Wixson's came in a 7-0 victory over North Carolina on June 15, 1960.

"I think for him to do that and just be able to catch the last ball, give him a big hug, it was awesome," catcher Ryder Helfrick said. "I think everybody was really fired up for him. The main thing is we're still here and we're still playing."

Arkansas broke open the game after Murray State's Graham Kelham relieved Isaac Silva to start the seventh. SEC player of the year Wehiwa Aloy doubled in a run and another scored when right fielder Dustin Mercer tried to make a shoe-string catch on Logan Maxwell's shallow fly and the ball got under his glove.

Silva (9-3) kept his team close in his six innings, with Charles Davalan's third-inning RBI single producing the only run against him. Silva allowed six hits, walked two and struck out seven. He repeatedly got out of trouble, holding the Razorbacks to 2-for-10 hitting with runners in scoring position and stranding two runners in the third, fifth and sixth.

## US hockey names players for 2026 Milan Olympics

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The United States named Matthew and Brady Tkachuk, Auston Matthews, Jack Eichel, Quinn Hughes and Charlie McAvoy as its first six players for the 2026 Olympics, avoiding goaltenders on the initial roster unveiled Monday.

Some assortment of Connor Hellebuyck, Jake Oettinger, Jeremy Swayman and Thatcher Demko figure to make the team when full rosters are submitted in early January.

"Our goalies played well for us, great seasons: Connor just got the Vezina and Hart, which is incredible," U.S. general manager Bill Guerin said on a video call

with reporters. "It was just kind of the thing we talked that about before we did it for 4 Nations: do we add a goalie, do we not add a goalie? I felt it was best we stay consistent and just let the goalies play it out during the season."

This tournament marks the return of NHL participation and what should be the first Olympics for Canada's Connor McDavid and many other top players who have not yet gotten that opportunity.

"Incredibly honored to represent my country at the biggest sporting event in the world," McDavid said after he and the Edmonton Oilers practiced during the Stanley Cup Final.

Along with McDavid, Canada

picked Sidney Crosby, Nathan MacKinnon, Cale Makar, Brayden Point and Sam Reinhart, the latter of whom is also in the Final with the defending champion Florida Panthers.

Three other Panthers players — Aleksander Barkov for Finland, Nico Sturm for Germany and Uvis Balinskis for Latvia — are penciled in for Milan.

The Oilers' Leon Draisaitl headlines the list for Germany.

"There's not a lot of elite centermen in the league: I think Leon is in that category, Sasha (Barkov is) in that category," Sturm said.

Obviously much can change over the next eight months, from injuries to performance, and this

process with the IOC and International Ice Hockey Federation follows what the U.S., Canada, Sweden and Finland did in naming six initial players last summer for the 4 Nations Face-Off that was a massive success in February.

Sweden chose forwards Gabriel Landeskog, Lucas Raymond, William Nylander and Adrian Kempe and defensemen Victor Hedman and Rasmus Dahlin.

Finland picked Barkov, fellow skaters Mikko Rantanen, Sebastian Aho, Miro Heiskanen and Esa Lindell and goaltender Juuse Saros.

This is Barkov's second Olympics after being in Sochi in 2014.