

US paused bomb shipment to Israel

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. paused a shipment of bombs to Israel last week over concerns that the country was approaching a decision on launching a full-scale assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah against the wishes of the U.S., Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Wednesday.

The shipment was supposed to consist of 1,800 2,000-pound bombs and 1,700 500-pound bombs, according to an official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The focus of U.S. concern was the larger explosives and how they could be used in a dense urban setting like Rafah where more than 1 million civilians are sheltering after evacuating other parts of Gaza amid Israel's war on Hamas, which came after the militant group's deadly attack on Israel on Oct. 7.

Austin confirmed the weapons delay, telling the Senate Appropriations Defense subcommittee that the U.S. paused "one

shipment of high payload munitions."

"We're going to continue to do what's necessary to ensure that Israel has the means to defend itself," Austin said. "But that said, we are currently reviewing some near-term security assistance shipments in the context of unfolding events in Rafah."

The U.S. has historically provided enormous amounts of military aid to Israel. That has only accelerated in the aftermath of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that killed some 1,200 in Israel and led to about 250 being taken captive by militants. The pausing of the aid shipment is the most striking manifestation of the growing daylight between Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government and the administration of President Joe Biden, which has called on Israel to do far more to protect the lives of innocent civilians in Gaza.

It also comes as the Biden administration is due to deliver a first-of-its-kind formal verdict

this week on whether the air strikes on Gaza and restrictions on delivery of aid have violated international and U.S. laws designed to spare civilians from the worst horrors of war. A decision against Israel would further add to pressure on Biden to curb the flow of weapons and money to Israel's military.

Biden signed off on the pause in an order conveyed last week to the Pentagon, according to U.S. officials who were not authorized to comment on the matter. The White House National Security Council sought to keep the decision out of the public eye for several days until it had a better understanding of the scope of Israel's intensified military operations in Rafah and until Biden could deliver a long-planned speech on Tuesday to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Biden's administration in April began reviewing future transfers of military assistance as Netanyahu's government appeared to move closer toward an

invasion of Rafah, despite months of opposition from the White House. The official said the decision to pause the shipment was made last week and no final decision had been made yet on whether to proceed with the shipment at a later date.

U.S. officials had declined for days to comment on the halted transfer, word of which came as Biden on Tuesday described U.S. support for Israel as "iron-clad, even when we disagree." White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre declined to square the arms holdup with Biden's rhetoric in support of Israel, saying only, "Two things could be true."

Israeli troops on Tuesday seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing in what the White House described as a limited operation that stopped short of the full-on Israeli invasion of the city that Biden has repeatedly warned against on humanitarian grounds, most recently in a Monday call with Netanyahu.

Israel says it reopened crossing; UN says no aid yet

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military said Wednesday that it has reopened its Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza after days of closure, but the U.N. said no humanitarian aid has yet entered and there is no one to receive it on the Palestinian side after workers fled during Israel's military incursion in the area.

The Kerem Shalom crossing between Gaza and Israel was closed over the weekend after a Hamas rocket attack killed four Israeli soldiers nearby, and on Tuesday, an Israeli tank brigade seized the nearby Rafah cross-

ing between Gaza and Egypt, forcing its closure. The two facilities are the main terminals for entry of food, medicine and other supplies essential for the survival of Gaza's population of 2.3 million Palestinians.

The Israeli foray did not appear to be the start of the full-scale invasion of the city of Rafah that Israel has repeatedly promised. But aid officials warn that the prolonged closure of the two crossings could cause the collapse of aid operations, worsening the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where the U.N. says a "full-blown famine" is already

underway in the north.

The U.S. says it is concerned over the fate of around 1.3 million Palestinians crammed into Rafah, most of whom fled fighting elsewhere. Israel says Rafah is Hamas' last stronghold and that a wider offensive there is needed to dismantle the group's military and governing capabilities.

The U.S., Egypt and Qatar are meanwhile ramping up efforts to close the gaps in a possible agreement for at least a temporary cease-fire and the release of some of the scores of Israeli hostages still held by Hamas. Is-

rael has linked the threatened Rafah operation to the fate of those negotiations.

U.N. World Food Program deputy executive director Carl Skau told The Associated Press that the U.N. agency has lost access to its Gaza food warehouse in Rafah, which he says was "communicated as a no-go zone."

"We understand that it's still there, but we are extremely worried of looting," Skau said during a visit to neighboring Lebanon, adding that a U.N. logistics warehouse in Rafah had already been looted.

US soldier to be held for 2 months in Russia

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army soldier arrested in Russia last week was being held in a pre-trial detention facility, the Army said Tuesday. Russian reports said he would be held for two months pending an investigation.

Staff Sgt. Gordon Black flew to Vladivostok, a Pacific port city, to see his girlfriend and was arrested after she accused him of stealing from her, according to U.S. officials and Russian police.

The Army confirmed Tuesday that he had not sought clearance for the international travel and it was not authorized by the Defense Department. Under Pentagon policy, service members must get clearance for any international travel from a security manager or commander and that was not done. The State Department strongly advises U.S. citizens not to go to Russia, and given the war in Ukraine and ongoing

threats to the U.S. and its military, it is extremely unlikely he would have been granted approval.

The regional branch of the Russian Interior Ministry said in a statement Tuesday that Black and his girlfriend had a conflict and she reported him to the police, claiming that she found cash missing after he stayed with her.

The statement said Black was arrested at a hotel in Vladivostok.

Russian media reports quoted Elena Oleneva, a spokesperson for Vladivostok courts, as saying the city's Pervomaisky District Court on Friday ordered Black held in custody until July 2. He faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

The U.S. Army is also conducting an administrative investigation into what happened.

Black was on leave and in the process of returning to his home base at Fort Cavazos in Texas from South Korea, where he had

been stationed at Camp Humphreys with the Eighth Army. The U.S. officials said Black, who is married, met his girlfriend in South Korea. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel details.

"Official and leave travel is currently restricted pursuant to the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide," said Cynthia Smith, an Army spokeswoman, adding that "There is no evidence Black intended to remain in Russia" after his leave time ended.

Smith said Black enlisted in the Army in 2008, and deployed to Iraq from October 2009 through September 2010, and to Afghanistan from June 2013 until March 2014. He is an infantry soldier.

According to Smith, Black signed out for his move back home and, "instead of returning to the continental United States, Black flew from Incheon, Republic of Korea, through China to

Vladivostok, Russia, for personal reasons."

According to the U.S. officials, the Russian woman had lived in South Korea, and last fall she and Black got into some type of domestic dispute or altercation. After that, she left South Korea. It isn't clear if she was forced to leave.

Black's stepfather, Martin Jones, said the soldier is married but has been dealing with a divorce for about a year and a half. He said the Army was aware of Black's girlfriend because the couple had a domestic dispute. He said she was deported from South Korea back to Russia.

Black's mother Melody Jones told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday that the soldier was on a two-week leave when he traveled to Russia, and she felt he was being set up because she suspected his girlfriend was a spy.

Cambodia: Warships at pier from China not permanent

Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Cambodia's Defense Ministry insisted Wednesday that the monthslong presence of two Chinese warships in a strategically important naval base that is being newly expanded with funding from Beijing does not constitute a permanent deployment of the Chinese military in the country.

Questions had arisen after the Center for Strategic and International Studies reported last month that two Chinese corvettes that docked at the Ream Naval Base's new pier in December had maintained a nearly permanent presence there since.

Current satellite images, analyzed by The Associated

Press, confirm that the two ships remained there on Wednesday, more than five months since they initially appeared.

The United States and others have long worried that the new pier at the base, built with Chinese funding, could serve as a new outpost for the Chinese navy on the Gulf of Thailand, but Cambodia has said that would not happen.

Asked about why the two ships had been there for five months, Defense Ministry spokesperson Gen. Chhum Socheat told the AP they were due to take part in a joint Cambodian-Chinese military exercise later this month, and that they were also involved in training Cambodian sailors.

Doctor testifies on water's safety after Red Hill leak

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

HONOLULU — The former U.S. Pacific Fleet surgeon testified Tuesday in Hawaii federal court as U.S. attorneys began their defense in a civil suit by military families alleging physical and mental illnesses from consuming tap water contaminated by Navy jet fuel.

Dr. Michael McGinnis testified he had not seen data to indicate the fouled tap water was not safe to consume on Nov. 29, 2021, not long after the Navy started receiving complaints. McGinnis, the active-duty fleet surgeon and senior medical adviser to the fleet commander from January 2020 to July 2022, was cross-examined by plaintiffs' attorney Kristina Baehr based on his previously

submitted, sworn declaration.

In his declaration, McGinnis described a prompt and organized Navy response beginning in late November 2021 when residents in military housing communities on and near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam began complaining of foul-smelling water that exhibited an oily sheen when poured in cups and pots.

The government has acknowledged responsibility for the fuel spill and tainted water, but the defense is seeking to show that the contamination's duration and extent was too minimal to have caused widespread and serious injury. The Navy traced the contamination to a jet fuel spill at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility that happened Nov. 20-21, 2021.

Police clear protesters, arrest 33 at DC campus

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Police cleared a pro-Palestinian tent encampment at George Washington University early Wednesday and arrested demonstrators, hours after dozens marched to the home of the school's president.

Tensions have ratcheted up in standoffs with protesters of the Israel-Hamas war on campuses across the United States and increasingly in Europe. Some colleges cracked down immediately. Others have tolerated the demonstrations. Some have begun to lose patience and call in police over concerns about disruptions to campus life and safety.

D.C. police said officers moved

to disperse demonstrators at George Washington because "there has been a gradual escalation in the volatility of the protest." They said 33 arrests were made, including for assault on a police officer and unlawful entry. They confirmed they used pepper spray outside the encampment against protesters who were trying to break police lines and enter.

George Washington officials had warned of possible suspensions for continuing the camp on University Yard. Protesters carrying signs reading "Free Palestine" and "Hands off Rafah" also marched to school President Ellen Granberg's home Tuesday night.

The school said in a statement: "While the university is committed to protecting students' rights to free expression, the encampment had evolved into an unlawful activity, with participants in direct violation of multiple university policies and city regulations."

Since April 18, just over 2,600 people have been arrested on 50 campuses, figures based on AP reporting and statements from universities and law enforcement agencies after this latest anti-war movement was launched by a protest at Columbia University in New York.

A pro-Palestinian tent encampment was cleared by officers in riot gear at the University

of Chicago on Tuesday after administrators who had initially adopted a permissive approach said the protesters had crossed a line, increasing safety concerns. Hundreds of protesters had gathered for at least eight days until administrators warned them Friday to leave or face removal.

Chicago officers later picked up a barricade erected to keep protesters out of the main gathering space on the campus and moved it toward the demonstrators, some of whom chanted, "Up, up with liberation. Down, down with occupation!" Police and protesters pushed back and forth along the barricade as the officers moved to reestablish control.

Severe storms, tornadoes barrel through Midwest

Associated Press

DETROIT — Severe storms barreled through the Midwest early Wednesday, a day after two reported tornadoes struck one Michigan city and destroyed homes and commercial buildings, including a FedEx facility.

Tornadoes were first reported after dark Tuesday in parts of Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, while portions of Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri were also under a tornado watch, according to the National Weather Service. The storms came a day after a deadly twister ripped through an Oklahoma town.

In southern Indiana, the National Weather Service confirmed a tornado with a preliminary EF-0 rating and 85 mph winds touched down early Wednesday, damaging homes in a subdivision north of the city of Sellersburg, located about 12 miles north of Louisville, Ky.

The Clark County Emergency Management Agency said the storm damaged 24 structures.

Candice Holmes, a resident of the Lewis & Clark subdivision north of Sellersburg, said she, her husband and son sought shelter in their bathroom when they heard the approaching storm and "the wind just picked up all at once."

"My husband and my son stepped outside, opened the door and they slammed the door and ran back to the bathroom. And they held the bathroom door shut, as it came through," Holmes told WDRB-TV. "It was over as soon as it started, but it was definitely a scary moment. And I'm glad we're alive."

Survey teams planned to head out Wednesday to determine whether tornadoes struck locations in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, according to Jeff Craven, the meteorologist-in-charge in the weather service's Pittsburgh office.

Radar indicated Hancock County, W.Va., and in Jefferson County, Ohio, were hit by tornadoes, but teams will have to evaluate the damage to determine their rating, Craven said.

Spartz fends off GOP rivals to win contentious Ind. primary

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Two-term U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz won a contentious Republican primary to defend her seat just months after she decided to run for reelection in a campaign that focused attention on her opposition to sending aid to her native Ukraine.

She defeated eight rival Republicans to secure her place on the ballot this fall in a solidly Republican district.

The first and only Ukrainian-born House member, Spartz previously backed support for the country. But ahead of her primary contest, she reversed her position and voted against sending \$61 billion in aid to Ukraine. She defended the switch, arguing her loyalty is to America first and saying she wanted to see policy on the U.S.-Mexico border included in the aid package, a position largely shared by her Republican challengers.

The election in the northern suburbs of Indianapolis was in part a test of whether Spartz's maneuvers would pay off. Her stance was widely shared

among her competitors, including state Rep. Chuck Goodrich, who loaned \$4.6 million to his campaign.

Goodrich attacked Spartz over her previous support for Ukraine, saying she puts "Ukraine first." Spartz trailed Goodrich in spending and fundraising by millions of dollars.

"My victory in this election is a testament to the American people and my fellow Hoosiers that money and lies do not buy elections," Spartz said in a statement. "I am honored to represent Indiana and ready to get back to work to get our great Republic back on track."

The primary marked the latest twist in Spartz's political career. She won a tight primary race in 2020 and wasn't challenged for the GOP nomination in 2022. She initially planned to leave Congress last year, opting against reelection to her House seat and forgoing a chance to seek the Senate seat being vacated by Republican Mike Braun.

She later reversed course, deciding to seek another term in the House.

Russia aims large strike at power grid

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces unleashed a nighttime barrage of more than 50 cruise missiles and explosive drones at Ukraine's power grid Wednesday, targeting a wide area in what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called a "massive" attack on the day the country celebrates the defeat of Nazism in World War II.

The bombardment blasted targets in seven Ukrainian regions, including the Kyiv area and parts of the south and west, damaging homes and the country's rail network, authorities said. Three people, including an 8-year-old girl, were injured, according to officials.

Russia has repeatedly pounded Ukraine's energy infrastructure during the war that is stretching into its third year and has claimed thousands of lives. By taking out the power, the Kremlin's forces aim to rob Ukrainian manufacturing of its energy supply, especially military plants, and crush public morale.

Zelenskyy noted that Wednesday's attacks occurred on the day that Ukraine observes the end of European fighting

in World War II and equated Ukraine's current struggle with that conflict, saying on social platform X that "only a united free world" can stop Russian President Vladimir Putin. Ukraine last year changed the date of the Day of Remembrance and Victory to avoid it coinciding with Russia's own Victory Day commemorations on May 9.

Putin has framed the attacks as retaliation for Ukrainian long-range strikes on Russian oil refineries. On Wednesday, a Ukrainian attack hit an oil terminal, injuring five workers and starting a fire, Russia-appointed authorities in the partially occupied Luhansk region said.

National electrical grid operator Ukrenergo said facilities were hit in the Vinnytsia, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Poltava and Ivano-Frankivsk regions.

Two energy facilities were hit in the Lviv region, which is in the country's far west and distant from the fighting's front lines, according to regional Gov. Maksym Kozyskyi.

DTEK, Ukraine's biggest private energy supplier, said the attack "seriously damaged" equipment at three of its thermal power plants.

TikTok sues US to block law that could ban app

Associated Press

TikTok and its Chinese parent company filed a lawsuit Tuesday challenging a new American law that would ban the popular video-sharing app in the U.S. unless it's sold to an approved buyer, saying it unfairly singles out the platform and is an unprecedented attack on free speech.

In its lawsuit, ByteDance says the new law vaguely paints its ownership of TikTok as a national security threat in order to circumvent the First Amendment, despite no evidence that the company poses a threat. It also says the law is so "obviously unconstitutional" that its sponsors are instead portraying it as a way to regulate TikTok's ownership.

"For the first time in history, Congress has enacted a law that subjects a single, named speech platform to a permanent, nationwide ban, and bars every American from participating in a unique online community with more than 1 billion people worldwide," ByteDance asserts in the lawsuit filed in a Washington appeals court.

The law, which President Joe Biden signed as part of a larger foreign aid package, marks the first time the U.S. has singled out a social media company for

a potential ban, which free speech advocates say is what would be expected from repressive regimes such as those in Iran and China.

The lawsuit is the latest turn in what's shaping up to be a protracted legal fight over TikTok's future in the U.S. — and one that could end up before the Supreme Court. If TikTok loses, it says it would be forced to shut down next year.

The law requires ByteDance to sell the platform to a U.S.-approved buyer within nine months. If a sale is already in progress, the company would get another three months to complete the deal. ByteDance has said it doesn't plan to sell TikTok. But even if it wanted to divest, the company would need Beijing's blessing.

According to the lawsuit, the Chinese government has "made clear" that it wouldn't allow ByteDance to include the algorithm that populates users' feeds and has been the "key to the success of TikTok in the United States."

TikTok and ByteDance say the new law leaves them with no choice but to shut down by next Jan. 19 because continuing to operate in the U.S. wouldn't be commercially, technologically or legally possible.

Boy Scouts of America changes to Scouting America

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — The Boy Scouts of America announced after 114 years that it will change its name and will become Scouting America in an effort to emphasize inclusion as it works to move past the turmoil of bankruptcy and a flood of sexual abuse claims.

The rebrand is another seismic shift for an organization steeped in tradition that did not allow gay youths or girls to begin joining its ranks until rela-

tively recently.

Seeking to boost flagging membership numbers, the Irving, Texas-based organization announced the name change Tuesday at its annual meeting in Florida.

"In the next 100 years we want any youth in America to feel very, very welcome to come into our programs," Roger Krone, who took over last fall as president and chief executive officer, told The Associated Press in an interview before the

announcement.

The change will officially take effect on Feb. 8, 2025, timed to the organization's 115th birthday.

The organization began allowing gay youth in 2013 and ended a blanket ban on gay adult leaders in 2015. In 2017, it made the historic announcement that girls would be accepted as Cub Scouts as of 2018 and into the flagship Boy Scout program — renamed Scouts BSA — in 2019.

Over 6,000 girls have now achieved the vaunted Eagle Scout rank.

The Girl Scouts of the USA, a separate organization, has clashed with the Boy Scouts in recent years over its recruitment of girls. The Girl Scouts did not respond to requests seeking comment Tuesday.

"Part of my job is to reduce all the barriers I possibly can for people to accept us as an organization and to join," Krone said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Panel defers moves on senator facing charges

MN ST. PAUL — A Minnesota Senate ethics panel deferred further action Tuesday night on a complaint against a lawmaker who's charged with burglary for allegedly breaking into her estranged stepmother's house until after her next court date.

Democratic Sen. Nicole Mitchell, of Woodbury, told police she broke in last month because her stepmother refused to give her items of sentimental value from her late father, including his ashes, according to the felony criminal complaint. Her attorney has said she deserves due process and won't resign.

The ethics panel, which is made up of two Democrats and two Republicans, deadlocked on several potential paths until the members decided to return June 12, two days after Mitchell's court date.

Mitchell's status has posed a dilemma for her fellow Democrats because they hold a one-seat majority in the Senate.

Man tells police he killed wife over medical bills

MO INDEPENDENCE — A Kansas City-area man who's charged with killing his hospitalized wife told police he couldn't take care of her or afford her medical bills, court records say.

Ronnie Wiggs made his first appearance Monday on a second-degree murder charge. A hearing was set for Thursday to review his \$250,000 bond.

His wife was getting a new port for her dialysis when staff at

Centerpoint Medical Center in Independence called a "code blue" because she was unresponsive. Staff managed to get her pulse back, but they determined she was brain dead and made preparations to harvest her organs, according to the probable cause statement.

Wiggs left the hospital, later returning with the woman's son. Staff heard Wiggs say, "I did it, I killed her, I choked her," according to the statement. He was arrested, and told a detective that he covered his wife's nose and mouth to keep her from screaming, the statement said.

Company fined \$650K for illegally hiring kids

IA DES MOINES — A Tennessee-based sanitation company has agreed to pay more than half a million dollars after a federal investigation found it illegally hired at least two dozen children to clean dangerous meat processing facilities in Iowa and Virginia.

The U.S. Department of Labor announced Monday that Fayette Janitorial Service LLC entered into a consent judgment, in which the company agrees to nearly \$650,000 in civil penalties and the court-ordered mandate that it no longer employs minors. The February filing indicated federal investigators believed at least four children had still been working at one Iowa slaughterhouse as of Dec. 12.

The Labor Department alleged that Fayette used 15 underage workers at a Perdue Farms plant in Accomac, Va., and at least nine at Seaboard Triumph Foods in Sioux City, Iowa. The work included sanitizing dangerous equipment like head

splitters, jaw pullers and meat bandsaws in hazardous conditions where animals are killed and rendered.

One 14-year-old was severely injured while cleaning the drumstick packing line belt at the plant in Virginia, the investigation alleged.

Suspect charged after theft of 2 police cars

ME PORTLAND — A man in Maine stole a police cruiser on Monday before crashing, exchanging gunfire with police and stealing another police vehicle in a chase that created a chaotic scene in a mostly rural part of the state, police said.

Police said the man, who is homeless, was being transported to a jail by Paris police when he was able to steal a police cruiser while handcuffed.

After he crashed the cruiser, officers confronted the man and gunfire was exchanged, police said. The man was struck but fled in an Oxford County Sheriff's Office police vehicle, which he crashed up the road, police said. He was then taken into custody and faces numerous charges.

State has 1st increase of groundwater in 4 years

CA SACRAMENTO — After massive downpours flooded California's rivers and packed mountains with snow, the state reported Monday the first increase in groundwater supplies in four years.

The state saw 4.1 million acre-feet of managed groundwater recharge in the water year ending in September, and an 8.7 mil-

lion acre-feet increase in groundwater storage, California's Department of Water Resources said. Groundwater supplies are critical to growing much of the country's fresh produce.

The semiannual report came after water officials stepped up efforts during last year's rains to capture water flows from melting snowpack in the mountains and encouraged farmers to flood fields to replenish groundwater basins.

Wedding barns sue over new liquor license law

WI MADISON — A pair of Wisconsin wedding barns sued the state Tuesday seeking to block enactment of a new law that requires them to get liquor licenses similar to other establishments that host events.

Owners and operators of wedding barns tried unsuccessfully last year to kill the law that overhauled regulation of the state's multibillion-dollar liquor industry. The changes had been worked on for years, gaining buy-in from both Republicans and Democrats, large and small brewers, wholesalers and retailers.

Farmview Event Barn, located in Berlin, and Monarch Valley Wedding & Events, in Blair, filed the lawsuit against the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

The lawsuit, filed in Trempealeau County Circuit Court, alleges that the law violates equal protection guarantees and the right to earn a living under the Wisconsin Constitution by imposing an illegal, non-uniform tax.

— From wire reports

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Brown, White help Celtics down Cavs

Associated Press

BOSTON — When Jaylen Brown or Jayson Tatum have it going, it usually means good things for the Boston Celtics.

This postseason, it's also been opening up the floor — and the 3-point line — for Derrick White. That's added a new layer to a team that was already the one to beat in the East.

Brown scored 32 points, White made seven 3-pointers and added 25, and the Celtics powered past the Cleveland Cavaliers 120-95 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of their second-round playoff series.

Tatum finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds to help the Celtics pull away in the second half.

"It feels good. I think the most important thing is to win," White said. "I've said before, it doesn't matter if I score zero or score however many I scored today. When we win, I'm doing enough."

The Cavaliers went 11-for-42 from 3-point range and kept pace early. But the Celtics were even more efficient from the outside, connecting on 18 of 46.

It helped Boston carry a 15-point lead into the fourth quarter. The Celtics then started the final period on a 10-2 run to increase their lead to 102-79.

At one point early in the fourth, Brown shot 3 from the top of the key and turned his head before it fell through the hoop, reminiscent of Golden State sharpshooter Stephen Curry.

"I had it rolling tonight," Brown said. "You just want to come out and make the right plays, make the right reads. That's all it is. Playing through your teammates and playing with confidence."

Game 2 is Thursday night in Boston.

The attention on Brown and Tatum has created a myriad of open looks for White through-

out the season. White's 28 3-pointers over a six-game span are the most in Celtics playoff history. Boston has also won its past 21 games when he's attempted at least 12 3-pointers.

Donovan Mitchell had 33 points and six assists for the Cavaliers. He is the fourth player in league history to score 30 or more points in six straight playoff series openers, joining Michael Jordan (three times), Kobe Bryant and Wilt Chamberlain.

Darius Garland added 14 points.

Mitchell logged 37 minutes after playing 45 in Cleveland's Game 7 win in the first round over Orlando. It's a lot, but coach J.B. Bickerstaff acknowledged they have to watch the load they put on him.

"We try to put him out there as long as we can. He's playing over 40 minutes a game. So we're doing our best to keep him out there because we know

how impactful he is," Bickerstaff said. "But we're not going to run him into the ground, so he's got nothing left in the fourth quarter."

Mitchell said it's a load he's ready for.

"I understand I need to score the ball," he said.

White picked up where he left off after scoring 38 and 25 points in the final two games against the Miami Heat in the first round.

With the Cavaliers hot from the 3-point line early, White led the Celtics attack. It was his third time this postseason with at least six 3s.

Both teams played without their starting centers. Cleveland's Jarrett Allen missed his fourth straight game with a bruised rib he sustained in the first round against Orlando. Boston's Kristaps Porzingis was sidelined for the second consecutive game with a strained right calf.

Thunder's stars lead way in rout of Mavericks

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was his usual self and Luka Dončić wasn't.

Gilgeous-Alexander had 29 points, nine rebounds and nine assists to help the top-seeded Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Dallas Mavericks 117-95 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal series.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 8 of 19 field goals and 11 of 13 free throws before coming out of the game with 3:26 remaining and the Thunder leading 111-89.

Dončić, an MVP finalist like Gilgeous-Alexander, scored 19 points on 6-for-19 shooting and had five turnovers. He bristled when asked about his shooting.

"Who cares," he said. "We lost. We just got to move onto the next one. We've got to be better."

Lu Dort got most of the work guarding Dončić, with rookie Cason Wallace getting some of the action and 7-foot-1 center Chet Holmgren pestering him near the rim.

Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said Dort, one of the league's best perimeter defenders, did his job.

"He's just a warrior," Daigneault said. "Brings the juice every single night. Dončić is a really hard matchup and a great player that didn't have his best pitch tonight. He's going to play better than this. Lu made it hard on him. I thought our team made it hard on him."

Holmgren added 19 points, seven rebounds and three blocks. Jalen Williams struggled with his shot for three quarters but scored 10 of his 18 points in the fourth to help Oklahoma City remain unbeaten in the playoffs.

Kyrie Irving scored 20 points and Daniel Gafford added 16 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for the fifth-seeded Mavericks.

Game 2 will be Thursday night in Oklahoma City. Daigneault is aware that the Mavericks stole home court from the Los Angeles Clippers in Game 2 of their first-round series. Dallas went on to win that series 4-2.

"I think we can expect them to play better

than they did tonight," Daigneault said. "The last thing we're going to do is underestimate this opponent."

The Thunder held the Mavericks to 39.3% shooting and won big, despite being out-rebounded 52-39.

Gilgeous-Alexander rested at the start of the second quarter before subbing in at the 8:20 mark. He scored 11 points in the period to help the Thunder take a 62-53 lead at the break. He scored 19 points in the first half, while reserve Aaron Wiggins scored 12 of his 16 points before the break.

Dallas opened the second half on a run, and a 3-pointer by Irving cut Oklahoma City's lead to 66-65 and forced a Thunder timeout.

Isaiah Joe and Dort hit 3-pointers when play resumed, then Dort ripped Dončić, leading to a dunk by Williams that put the Thunder up 74-67. Gilgeous-Alexander's 3-pointer with Dončić in his face put Oklahoma City up 80-69.

Williams scored eight straight points for the Thunder that put them ahead 102-87.

Rangers take 2-0 lead over Hurricanes

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Vincent Trocheck couldn't describe the feeling when he finally scored in the second overtime to give the New York Rangers another big win.

Trocheck scored a power-play goal off a rebound at 7:24 of the second extra period and the Rangers beat the Carolina Hurricanes 4-3 on Tuesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their second-round playoff series.

"I don't know. I'll watch it and let you know tomorrow," Trocheck said. "Typically when those games go into overtime, double overtime, any team could win those games."

Alexis Lafreniere scored twice, Chris Kreider also had a power-play goal and Artemi Panarin added three assists for the Rangers. Igor Shesterkin stopped a season-high 54 shots.

"Igor played an Igor-esque type game. He was outstanding, kept us in the game," Trocheck said. "It's tough to beat our

team when he's making saves like he was tonight."

The Rangers won their sixth straight in the playoffs, and eighth straight dating to the regular season. New York got its first overtime playoff win since Game 7 of the first round in 2022 against Pittsburgh.

Jake Guentzel scored twice, Dmitry Orlov also scored and Sebastian Aho had three assists for the Hurricanes, who have lost three of their last four — including two in double overtime. Frederik Andersen finished with 35 saves.

"It was a hard fought game," Carolina's Jordan Staal said. "This one is going to sting but we've got to find a way to get it done at home and move on from there."

The series shifts to Raleigh, N.C., for the next two games, with Game 3 on Thursday night.

The Rangers were 2-for-7 on the power play, scoring twice with the advantage for the second straight game against the

league's top penalty-killing team. After finishing third on the power play, New York is converting at 40% (10-for-25) in the playoffs, including 4-for-9 in this series.

Avalanche 4, Stars 3 (OT): Miles Wood scored on a backhandler 11:03 into overtime and visiting Colorado, after trailing by three goals in the first period, beat top-seeded Dallas in the opener of their second-round Western Conference series.

After getting the puck on a rush, Wood stayed ahead of defenseman Miro Heiskanen and got the puck past Jake Oettinger to wrap up only the Avalanche's third three-goal comeback to win a playoff game in their history.

Cale Makar had a goal and two assists for Colorado, while Valerie Nichushkin had a goal and an assist. Nathan MacKinnon had the tying goal only 39 seconds into the third period when left open just to the left of

the net, and Mikko Rantanen had a shot off the post midway through the third period.

Alexander Georgiev had 19 saves while winning his fifth consecutive start in goal for the Avalanche. But the Stars, after nine shots on net in the first period, had only seven combined the rest of regulation, and six in overtime.

Oettinger stopped 22 shots, ending his six-game streak of allowing two goals or less.

Dallas jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first period against the 2022 Stanley Cup champion, only two nights after wrapping up a seven-game series against Vegas, last year's champ, in which both teams finished with 16 goals and the margin was never more than two goals.

Jamie Benn had a goal and an assist for the Stars, who lost their series opener at home like in the first round when they dropped the first two games. Ryan Sutter and Wyatt Johnston also scored goals.

Sharks take aim at Celebrini after winning draft lottery

Associated Press

Mike Grier was so elated over winning the NHL Draft lottery on Tuesday night, the San Jose Sharks general manager dispensed with tradition by coming out and stating exactly who he expects to select with the No. 1 pick: Boston University center Macklin Celebrini.

Where past GMs in Grier's position have kept their choice under wraps until they step to the podium on draft day, Celebrini's abilities and ties to San Jose were too much to keep it a secret for a Sharks team looking ahead to a brighter future.

"I think so, yeah," Grier said when asked if he anticipates using the top pick on the 17-year-old forward, college hockey's youngest Hobey Baker Memorial Award winner and NHL Scouting Bureau's top-ranked

prospect. "It's a big moment for the organization and the fans here to have the opportunity to draft someone like Macklin."

Grier then went so far as to envision where Celebrini will fit into his lineup to complement the Sharks' veteran centers of Logan Couture and Mikael Granlund.

Suddenly, the sting of finishing last in the overall standings, a yearlong rebuilding process that led to San Jose trading aging stars such as Tomas Hertl, Erik Karlsson and Brent Burns and firing coach David Quinn, has been replaced by a buoyant sense of hope.

"It's been a tough year for fans and the team and the players and the organization. So this is a nice prize for what we went through. We're excited," said Grier, whose Sharks are

scheduled to pick first in the NHL Draft for the first time in franchise history. "I think he's got the ability to play (right away)."

Though from North Vancouver, British Columbia, Celebrini is no stranger to the Bay Area or Grier, who also played at Boston University.

Celebrini's father, Rick Celebrini, is currently vice president of player health and performance for the NBA's Golden State Warriors, and the youngster spent a year playing for the Sharks' junior team.

"Obviously, they're a great organization. If I'm fortunate enough to get drafted there, I'd be very lucky," Celebrini said.

With an 18.5% chance to win the lottery and a 25.5% chance to pick first, the Sharks became the third last-place team in the

past four drawings to win the lottery, and 11th overall since the system was put into place in 1995.

The lottery proved anti-climactic with no changes to the draft order for the first time since 2010.

The Chicago Blackhawks, who selected Connor Bedard with the No. 1 pick last year, retained the No. 2 selection, followed by the Anaheim Ducks. The NHL's newest market, Utah, stayed put at No. 6. Salt Lake City landed an NHL franchise with the relocation of the Arizona Coyotes last month.

The league on Tuesday also announced what has been in the works for some time: the draft will be held at the Sphere in Las Vegas June 28 and 29. It'll be the first event televised at the venue.

Yamamoto, Muncy lead Dodgers over Marlins

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Yoshinobu Yamamoto pitched eight effective innings, Max Muncy hit a grand slam in the first and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Miami Marlins 8-2 on Tuesday night for their sixth straight victory.

Gavin Lux launched his first home run of the season for the Dodgers, who have won 13 of 15. They've gone deep 14 times in their past four games.

Yamamoto (4-1) shook off a first-pitch home run to win his third consecutive start. The \$325 million rookie from Japan allowed two runs and five hits in his longest major league outing. He threw 97 pitches, two short of his season high.

"The most important thing is to lead the team to the victory and ideally to stay on a low pitch count," Yamamoto said through an interpreter. "If that can lead to winning, that becomes meaningful for myself."

Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a leadoff homer for the Marlins, who fell to 1-4 on their six-game trip. Bryan De La Cruz also went deep.

Edward Cabrera (1-2) lasted just two innings after throwing 32 of 58 pitches for strikes. He issued four walks and hit a batter with a pitch.

After the game, Marlins manager Skip Schumaker said Cabrera was dealing with biceps discomfort.

"Seven total free passes: two hit by pitches and five walks," Schumaker said. "I think they got five total hits. But that's what they do. ... You get in bad counts and they'll make you pay. That's what good teams do."

Mariners 10, Twins 5: Josh Rojas and Ty France each hit an RBI single during their team's four-run ninth inning, and visiting Seattle beat Minnesota.

Cal Raleigh connected for a pinch-hit grand slam in the seventh for Seattle, which has won three of four. Mitch Haniger hit

a solo homer and a sacrifice fly.

Minnesota reliever Jorge Alcala (1-1) issued two walks and threw a wild pitch during Seattle's ninth-inning rally. The Twins have lost two of three after their 12-game winning streak.

Rangers 15, Athletics 8: Marcus Semien had four hits and five RBIs, and visiting Texas scored 10 times in the second inning of a victory over Oakland.

Jonah Heim added four hits and two RBIs as Texas extended its season-high winning streak to four games, outscoring opponents 37-16 during that stretch.

The Rangers sent 16 batters to the plate in the second in their biggest inning since May 23, 2015, when they also scored 10 in the third against the New York Yankees.

Tigers 11, Guardians 7: Andy Ibáñez got his first major league hit and three RBIs in his debut, leading visiting Detroit to a win over Cleveland.

Ibáñez homered on the third pitch of the game from Logan Allen and added a three-run shot in the second. Ibáñez hit a double in the eighth inning and finished 4-for-4 with a walk and four runs.

Diamondbacks 6, Reds 2: Zac Gallen threw six shutout innings in his first start in 11 days and Corbin Carroll had a three-run homer and five RBIs as visiting Arizona dealt Cincinnati a sixth straight loss.

Gallen (4-2) made his first start since April 26 when he left the game early due to a hamstringing cramp. The right-hander allowed just one Reds hit through six innings, struck out six and walked three in not allowing a runner past second base.

Nationals 3, Orioles 0: Trevor Williams struck out eight in five scoreless innings and his team stole four bases against Corbin Burnes and Baltimore, lifting host Washington above the .500 mark for the first time

since July 2021.

Burnes (3-2) allowed three runs and five hits in 6⅓ innings, striking out six with three walks. He was the first Baltimore starter in four games to allow any scoring at all, and it was the first time in eight games the Orioles allowed more than two runs as a team.

Phillies 10, Blue Jays 1: Bryce Harper hit a grand slam, Christopher Sánchez pitched seven strong innings and red-hot Philadelphia routed visiting Toronto.

Kody Clemens homered, tripled and drove in four runs for the Phillies, who have won seven straight games, 11 in a row at home and 18 of 21 overall. Philadelphia is leading baseball with 26 victories.

Rays 5, White Sox 1: Zach Eflin allowed one run and six hits in seven innings as host Tampa Bay beat Chicago for its fifth consecutive win.

Randy Arozarena and Isaac Paredes homered for the Rays, who moved over .500 at 19-18.

Braves 6, Red Sox 2: Marcell Ozuna's run-scoring single in the eighth inning gave his team the lead and host Atlanta beat Boston to snap a three-game losing streak.

Boston's Kutter Crawford and Atlanta's Reynaldo López each allowed two runs in a matchup of right-handers with ERAs under 2.00.

Yankees 10, Astros 3: Alex Verdugo homered and tied a career high with four RBIs, powering host New York past Houston.

Anthony Volpe and Giancarlo Stanton also went deep off Justin Verlander as the Yankees won their fourth straight game. Volpe finished with three RBIs and Juan Soto had three hits.

Angels 9, Pirates 0: Kevin Pillar homered twice and drove in six runs, helping Patrick Sandoval and visiting Los Angeles beat Pittsburgh.

Logan O'Hoppe had four hits and two RBIs for Los Angeles,

which had dropped three in a row and five of six overall. Willie Calhoun walked twice and scored three times.

Cubs 3, Padres 2: Michael Busch led off the ninth inning with a game-ending home run, Cody Bellinger went deep in his return from broken ribs and host Chicago beat San Diego.

Bellinger had three hits after missing two weeks. He gave the Cubs a 1-0 lead when he connected leading off the fourth against Randy Vásquez.

Mets 7, Cardinals 5: Brandon Nimmo hit a three-run homer to spark a six-run fifth inning, and visiting New York rallied to beat St. Louis.

The Cardinals not only dropped their fourth straight game, but also lost catcher Willson Contreras to a broken left forearm in the second inning after he was hit by J.D. Martinez's swing. Contreras, a three-time All-Star, is hitting .280 with a team-leading six home runs and 12 RBIs.

Brewers 6, Royals 5: Willy Adames hit a three-run homer into the left-field bullpen with two outs in the ninth inning, helping visiting Milwaukee rally for a victory over Kansas City.

James McArthur (1-2) had retired the first two batters in the ninth when William Contreras began the comeback with a double on a full-count pitch. Gary Sanchez followed with a walk before Adames crushed an 83 mph curveball.

Giants 5, Rockies 0: Kyle Harrison pitched seven scoreless innings and visiting San Francisco scored four runs in a decisive fourth inning despite getting only two balls out of the infield in a victory over Colorado.

Harrison (3-1) gave up four hits, all singles, and struck out two. He has given up one run in his last 18 innings, although this was his first decision in that stretch. He walked two and used only 86 pitches.