

Top court rejects ban on bump stocks

Does away with one of few federal steps to halt gun violence

By Abbie VanSickle
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday struck down a ban on bump stocks, which enable semiautomatic rifles to fire at speeds rivaling those of machine guns, erasing one of the government's rare firearm regulations to result from a mass shooting.

The decision, by a vote of 6-3, split along ideological lines. Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for the majority, said that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives had exceeded its power when it prohibited the device by issuing a rule that classified bump



ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

A bump stock lets semiautomatic weapons fire rapidly.

stocks as machine guns.

“We hold that a semiautomatic rifle equipped with a bump stock is not a ‘machine gun’ because it cannot fire more than one shot ‘by a single function of the trigger,’” Thomas wrote. His opinion included several diagrams of the firing mechanism, and he described in technical detail the internal workings of a firearm to show how a bump stock works.

The Trump administration enacted the ban after a shooter opened fire at a Las Vegas concert in 2017, one of the deadliest massacres in modern US history.

The decision was a forceful rejection of one of the government's few steps to address gun violence, particularly as legislative efforts have stalled in Congress. It also highlighted the deep divisions on the court as the country continues to grapple with mass shootings.

The narrowly written decision was not a Second Amendment challenge. Rather, it is one of several cases this term seeking to undercut the power of administrative agencies. The court has yet to issue many of those opinions, including a challenge to a seminal precedent known as *Chevron*. However, the bump stock decision could signal support among the conservative justices for curbing the authority of administrative agencies.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor dissented, joined by Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Sotomayor summarized her dissent from the bench, a practice reserved for profound disagreements and the first such announcement of the term.

“The majority puts machine guns back in civilian hands,” she said.

“When I see a bird that walks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, I call that bird a duck,” Sotomay-

BUMP STOCKS, Page A6



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

It was a rough night all around for the Celtics, and Jayson Tatum was held to 15 points as Dallas's lead ballooned. **C1.**

Confidence of Celtics fans takes a beating

But they still predict another NBA title

By Danny McDonald

GLOBE STAFF

and Auzey Byrdsell, Ava Berger,
and Lila Hempel-Edgers

GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

Careening from confident to crestfallen on Friday, Celtics fans will have to wait to celebrate their team's 18th NBA championship, as Boston fell to Dallas in a blow-out loss, prompting throngs of disappointed green-and-white-clad spectators to leave a watch party at TD Garden, as well as the bars nearby and across the city well before the final whistle.

Liz Ruffner, Noah White, and Griffin Brunette left their seats in the Garden and made for the exit before the third quarter

had even ended.

“We can't afford to go to the Finals, so we thought maybe this would be the closest we would get,” Brunette said. “Just sad. Disappointed.”

The final result was a humiliating beatdown, with Dallas ending the Celtics 10-game playoff streak, 122-84.

Many fans, buoyed by beer and bragadocio and unbothered by rain, had started the night brimming with confidence, boldly predicting a four-game sweep of the Mavericks was as good as in the bag.

“Start throwing some oil in the duck boats,” Dan Hurley, a 30-year-old from

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“

It's all good. We're definitely gonna win the whole thing.’

QUARON WIGGINS,
Celtics fan at TD Garden watch party

DAN SHAUGHNESSY

COMMENTARY

Look at the upside: Now they can win at home

DALLAS — Admit it. Some of you are OK with a Celtics loss in Game 4.

On the brink of their 18th NBA championship, leading the Mavericks three-games-to-zip, the Celtics fumbled a chance to clinch Friday, taking a 122-84 beating at the hands of Luka Dončić, Kyrie Irving, and the Mavericks. Boston's first loss since May 9 snapped a 10-game playoff winning

streak.

This means that the Celtics have a chance to win it at home Monday night on Causeway Street. I suspect some Green Team fans are so secure in the ultimate outcome of this NBA Final they perhaps were secretly hoping the Mazzulla Men would drop one on the road and come home to win it on the fabled parquet floor.

On a night when Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown got little help from their teammates, the Celtics scored only 14 in the second quarter and fell behind by 26 (61-35) at halftime. It was an embarrassing 90-52 late in the third and Boston trailed by a whopping 48 (115-67) in the fourth.

What a beating! It was almost hard to

SHAUGHNESSY, Page C5



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Eric Tisch and his daughter Lucy Tisch reacted during the watch party, as the Celtics fell to Dallas.

If you thought the Read trial couldn't get any uglier . . .

BETH TEITELL

COMMENTARY

The bar is high, but it's safe to say that thanks to the unearthed texts of one State Trooper Michael Proctor, this week was the most depressing yet in the sordid trial of Karen Read, a once little-known woman who is accused of backing her Lexus into her boyfriend and leaving him for dead in the snow in January 2022.

Proctor is the lead investigator in the case, and earlier this week, after making the obligatory promise — to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God? — he let it fly.

Oh, sure, on the stand, with his suit and tie and his “yes, your honor's” and “yessir's,” he was somber — the very picture of professionalism.

But then the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the ugly truth, oozed

out in the group texts that were retrieved from iCloud data collected from his personal cellphone. They were messages he had written to childhood friends, family, and colleagues, thinking they'd remain private.

Except that now, in a Dedham courtroom, in a comeuppance that could have been written by the queen of vengeance herself, Taylor Swift, he was forced to read, out loud, his hateful words.

Taken as a whole, Proctor's texts were a veritable highlight reel of schoolyard cruelty. Including the slurs — he used them all, including some of the most reviled. He mocked Read's medical condition. And her “ass,” which he found lacking. In one text, he said he hoped Read “kills herself.”

TROOPER, Page A7

President Vladimir Putin said that Russia would be ready to order a cease-fire in Ukraine if Ukraine were to withdraw troops from the four regions that Moscow has claimed as its own. **A4.**

The Republican-controlled House passed its version of the annual defense policy bill, sprawling legislation that the chamber's far-right members loaded with a wish list of provisions. **A2.**

Boston officials approved two measures that would help protect Long Wharf from flooding, the city's latest move in its coastal resiliency efforts. **D1.**

Pretty please

Saturday: Breezy, some clouds. High: 73-78. Low: 54-59.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. High: 69-74. Low: 58-63.

Sunrise: 5:07 Sunset: 8:23

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