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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Russia launches missile strikes on Lviv

Associated Press

LIVIV, Ukraine — Russian forces launched missile attacks on the western city of Lviv and pounded a multitude of other targets across Ukraine on Monday in what appeared to be an intensified bid to grind down the country's defenses ahead of an all-out assault on the east.

At least seven people were reported killed in Lviv, where plumes of black smoke rose over a city that has seen only sporadic attacks during almost two months of war and has become a haven for civilians fleeing the fighting elsewhere. To the Kremlin's increasing anger, Lviv has also become a major conduit for NATO-supplied weapons and foreign fighters joining the Ukrainian cause.

In other developments, a few thousand Ukrainian troops, by Russia's estimate, remained holed up at a mammoth steel mill in Mariupol, the last known pocket of resistance in the devastated southern port city after seven weeks of bombardment. The holdouts ignored a surrender ultimatum from the Russians on Sunday.

And Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy submitted a filled-out questionnaire in the first step toward obtaining accelerated membership in the European Union — a desire that has been a source of

irritation to Russia for years. Zelenskyy, though, has offered to drop any effort to join NATO, one of the Kremlin's key demands.

The Russian missile strikes on Lviv hit three military infrastructure facilities and an auto mechanic shop, according to the region's governor, Maksym Kozytsky. He said the wounded included a child.

Lviv, the biggest city and a major transportation hub in western Ukraine, is about 50 miles from Poland, a NATO member.

Russia has strongly complained about the increasing flow of Western weapons to Ukraine. On Russian state media, some anchors have charged that the supplies amount to direct Western engagement in the fight against Russia.

Lviv has also been seen as a relatively safe place for the elderly, mothers and children trying to escape the war.

A hotel sheltering Ukrainians who had fled fighting in other parts of the country was among the buildings badly damaged, Mayor Andriy Sadovyi said.

"The nightmare of war has caught up with us even in Lviv," said Lyudmila Turchak, who fled with two children from the eastern city of Kharkiv. "There is no longer anywhere in Ukraine where we can feel safe."

A powerful explosion also rocked Vasyliv, a town south of the capital of Kyiv that is

home to a military air base, according to residents. It was not immediately clear what was hit.

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, was hit by shelling that killed at least three people, according to Associated Press journalists on the scene. One of the dead was a woman who appeared to be going out to collect water in the rain. She was found lying with a water canister and an umbrella by her side.

Military analysts say Russia is increasing its strikes on weapons factories, railways and other infrastructure targets across Ukraine to wear down the country's ability to resist a major ground offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's mostly Russian-speaking eastern industrial heartland.

The Russian military said its missiles struck over 20 military targets in eastern and central Ukraine in the past day, including ammunition depots, command headquarters and groups of troops and vehicles.

It also reported that its artillery hit an additional 315 Ukrainian targets and that warplanes conducted 108 strikes on Ukrainian troops and military equipment. The claims could not be independently verified.

Over the weekend, Russia also claimed to have destroyed Ukrainian air defense radar equipment.

Experts: Photos show Russian flagship ablaze

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

Photos posted to social media Monday appear to confirm that Ukrainian missiles struck the Russian cruiser Moskva before it sank in the northern Black Sea, military experts say.

The widely shared but un-sourced photos appear to be authentic, analysts said. They show the Russian Black Sea Fleet flagship listing to port, or the left side, with fire and smoke coming from the structure.

The photos and a video appear to have been taken from a Rus-

sian rescue tugboat after a fire started on the Moskva and its crew abandoned the ship, said H.I. Sutton, a military expert and open source intelligence analyst. Istanbul-based ship watcher Yoruk Isik identified the tugboat as part of the Russian Black Sea Fleet's 145th Rescue Ship Squadron, 1st Group, Sutton said.

"The damage does not rule out a missile strike(s), and it remains the likely cause," Sutton said in a Monday post to his blog and promoted on his Twitter account @CovertShores. "Possi-

ble puncture marks in the side of the hull are visible where the fire is."

More analysis would be needed to confirm if the marks were caused by a missile strike, Sutton said.

The Moskva suffered a catastrophic fire and subsequent munitions blast Wednesday that seriously damaged the guided-missile cruiser.

Maksym Marchenko, governor of the Odesa region of Ukraine, said that two Ukrainian missiles caused the fire and explosion. That claim was denied

by Russian officials who said the origin of the fire was "localized" and was being investigated.

On Thursday, the Russian Defense Ministry said the Moskva sunk while being towed to port in Crimea. Pentagon officials on Friday said that a missile strike caused the blast.

In analyzing the photos, Sutton said the lack of life boats on the ship indicated the crew already had left.

The photos also could have been taken before a catastrophic explosion seriously damaged the Moskva, he theorized.

Navy gets new software in time for PT

By **JUAN KING**
Stars and Stripes

A new software program that tracks Navy sailors' physical fitness tests arrived just in time for this year's testing season, according to the Navy.

A delayed software delivery pushed the Physical Readiness Information Management System 2, or PRIMS-2, rollout into April, the month the new physical fitness testing season began, according to a spokeswoman for the Navy Personnel Command.

PRIMS-2 allows fitness leaders to record physical fitness data and sailors to see their fitness scores.

The Navy in November said the software was originally scheduled to be available in summer 2021, according to a report in *Military.com* on Dec. 3.

"The Physical Readiness Information Management System 2 is a success story of

what a true transformative system should look like," Lt. Sarah Niles, a spokeswoman for the personnel command, told *Stars and Stripes* by email Tuesday. "Implementing PRIMS-2 is a process and as we move forward, more and more system requirements will be built into this product in an agile manner."

A push by the software provider, Katmai Government Services, a subsidiary of the Ouzinkie Native Corp. in Anchorage, Alaska, and MyNavy, the service's online human resources portal, brought the system online in time, Niles said.

Sailors may access their physical fitness information through MyNavy, a web portal that combines many of the service's human resources and other career information.

Along with the new software, the Official Navy Physical Fitness Assessment application was released with an updated fitness assessment calculator and physical

readiness operating for updated policies, requirements and training cycles, Niles said in the email.

A Navy fitness leader in Japan said he looks forward to seeing how PRIMS-2 works.

"[I'm] very excited and to see what the new system is all about," Petty Officer 1st Class Reymer Agojo, 36, a Navy fitness leader at Yokota Air Base, Japan, said in an email to *Stars and Stripes* on Feb. 24. "Once I get to use and experience the new system, I am pretty sure that there will be a big difference."

Last year, the Navy required one annual physical fitness assessment to cut down on the risk of spreading COVID-19. One test is required this year, too. Testing season ends Sept. 30.

The Navy also did away with curl-ups and introduced the forearm plank, and a 2,000-meter row as optional cardio.

Climate change taking its toll on US bases in Arctic

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. military bases in the Arctic and sub-Arctic are failing to prepare their installations for long-term climate change as required, even though soaring temperatures and melting ice already are cracking base runways and roads and worsening flood risks up north, the Pentagon's watchdog office said Friday.

The report from the inspector general of the Department of Defense provides a rare bit of public stock-taking of the military's state of readiness — or lack of readiness — for the worsening weather of a warming Earth.

The U.S. military has long formally recognized climate change as a threat to national security. That's in part because of the impact that intensifying floods, wildfires, extreme heat and other natural disasters are having and will have on U.S. installations and troops around

the world.

Increasing hurricanes, flooding, storms and wildfires in recent years have caused billions of dollars in damage to Florida's Tyndall Air Force Base, Nebraska's Offutt Air Force Base and other U.S. military installations, and interrupted training and other operations.

For years, laws, presidential orders and Pentagon rules have mandated that the military start planning and work so that its installations, warships, warplanes and troops can carry out their missions despite increasingly challenging conditions as the use of fossil fuels heats up the Earth.

While even acknowledging climate change was a career risk for administration officials under former President Donald Trump, President Joe Biden directed faster, more sweeping action on climate change by the Department of Defense and other agencies as one of his first

acts in office.

Despite Biden's emphasis, inspectors visiting the United States' six northernmost military bases last June and July found none were carrying out the required assessments and planning to prepare their installations and operations against long-term climate change.

Further, "most installation leaders at the six installations we visited in the Arctic and sub-Arctic region were unfamiliar with military installation resilience planning requirements, processes and tools," the inspector general reports said.

Senior officers told the inspector general's inspection team that their operations lacked the training and funding to start the required work on hardening their bases. Some saw requirements for that kind of long-term planning as assembling a "wish list" which could deter competing priorities, the officers told the inspectors.

The inspector general report cited Defense officials as saying that the Biden administration has finished or is working on many of the report's recommendations to better incorporate climate preparations at bases and across military branches, and would increase resources to bases to make that possible.

One of the bases — Thule Air Base — is in Greenland and the other five in Alaska: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Clear Space Force Station, Eielson Air Force Base, Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely.

The Arctic and sub-Arctic are important to U.S. strategic aims in part because of rising tensions and competition with Russia and China, and in part because sharply rising temperatures are melting sea ice and opening up both shipping lanes and access to the region's oil and other resources, increasing interest and traffic in the region.

US-made material required for infrastructure

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is taking a key step toward ensuring that federal dollars will support U.S. manufacturing — issuing requirements for how projects funded by the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package source their construction material.

New guidance issued Monday requires that the material purchased — whether it's for a bridge, a highway, a water pipe or broadband internet — be produced in the United States. The rules also set up a process to waive those requirements, however, in case there are not enough domestic producers or the material costs too much,

with the goal of issuing fewer waivers over time as U.S. manufacturing capacity increases.

“There are going to be additional opportunities for good jobs in the manufacturing sector,” said Celeste Drake, director of Made in America at the White House Office of Management and Budget.

President Joe Biden hopes to create more jobs, ease supply chain strains and reduce the reliance on China and other nations with interests that diverge from America's. With inflation at a 40-year high ahead of the 2022 midterm elections, he's betting that more domestic production will ultimately reduce price pressures to blunt Republican attacks that his \$1.9 tril-

lion coronavirus relief package initially triggered higher prices.

“From Day One, every action I've taken to rebuild our economy has been guided by one principle: Made in America,” Biden said Thursday in Greensboro, N.C. “It takes a federal government that doesn't just give lip service to buying American but actually takes action.”

Biden said that the roughly \$700 billion the government devotes annually to procuring goods is supposed to prioritize U.S. suppliers, but regulations going back to the 1930s have either been watered down or applied in ways that masked the use of foreign imports.

Tucked into the bipartisan infrastructure package that be-

came law last November was a requirement that starting on May 14 “none of the funds” allocated to federal agencies for projects may be spent “unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.” That's according to Monday's 17-page guidance.

The guidance includes three standards for the rules to be waived: if the purchase “would be inconsistent with the public interest”; if the needed materials aren't produced “in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality”; or if U.S. materials increase a project's cost by more than 25%.

2 dead, at least 8 hurt at Pittsburgh party shooting

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Shots fired at a house party in Pittsburgh early Sunday killed two 17-year-olds and wounded at least eight other people, police said.

Hundreds of people — the “vast majority” of them minors — had gathered at a short-term rental property when some kind of altercation occurred and shots were fired at around 12:30 a.m., Pittsburgh Police Chief Scott Schubert said at a midday news conference.

Schubert said there was gunfire both inside and outside the rental home, “and potentially back and forth.” Bullet casings found at the scene indicating handguns and one rifle were used, he said, and police believe there were multiple shooters.

Two male gunshot victims died at the hospital. The Allegheny County Medical Exa-

miner's Office identified them as Jaiden Brown and Mathew Steffy-Ross, both 17.

Eight people were also being treated for gunshot wounds, and others were injured trying to escape, Schubert said, including two who broke bones after jumping from windows. One victim was injured after a car was “shot up,” Schubert said.

George Stevens said he was outside a bar next door to the rental property smoking a cigarette when he heard what he thought were fireworks, then saw kids fleeing.

Stevens told The Associated Press he let three girls hide in his vehicle and call their parents as bullets flew by. He said he saw someone inside the rental property holding a gun as young people ran screaming and crying away from the building.

“It happened so quick,” he said. “It was just crazy. Kids were running everywhere.”

No arrests were immediately reported, but Schubert said “it is our top priority to find out who did this and get them off the street.” He said he couldn't comment on a possible motive, but he decried the number of illegal guns and too many people with access to them as well as the potent mixture of alcohol, drugs and guns.

“It's heartbreaking; here we are at Easter and we have multiple families, two that won't see a loved one,” Schubert said. “Others that are going to be — how can you even have a holiday when your child was involved in something traumatic like this?”

Allegheny General Health reported that seven people were treated at Allegheny General Hospital and one at Jefferson Hospital for gunshot wounds or other injuries, but officials declined to release their conditions.

Alex Jones' Infowars website files for bankruptcy protection

Associated Press

VICTORIA, Texas — Infowars filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection as the website's founder and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones faces defamation lawsuits over his comments that the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was a hoax.

The bankruptcy filing Sunday in Texas puts civil litigation on hold while the business reorganizes its finances.

In its court filing, Infowars said it had estimated assets of \$50,000 or less and estimated liabilities of \$1 million to \$10 million. Creditors listed in the bankruptcy filing in-

clude relatives of some of the 20 children and six educators killed in the 2012 school massacre in Connecticut.

The plaintiffs in that case said they have been subjected to harassment and death threats from Jones' followers because of the hoax conspiracy that Jones pro-

moted. Jones has since conceded the shooting did happen. The families have already won defamation lawsuits against Jones.

Another newly filed lawsuit accuses Jones of hiding millions of dollars in assets, but an attorney for Jones has called that allegation “ridiculous.”

US, S. Korea urge North to return to talks

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. special envoy for North Korea said Monday that Washington and Seoul agreed on the need for a strong response to North Korea's recent spate of missile tests, though they remain open to dialogue with the country.

Sung Kim flew to South Korea on Monday for talks two days after North Korea conducted a new type of missile test in its 13th round of weapons firing this year. Experts have said North Korea wants to advance its weapons arsenal and wrest concessions such as

sanctions relief from its rivals.

Weapons tested include nuclear-capable missiles able to target both the U.S. mainland and its allies such as South Korea and Japan. There are concerns that North Korea may conduct a nuclear test soon to intensify its pressure campaign.

"We agreed on the need for a strong response to the destabilizing behavior we have seen" from North Korea, Kim told reporters after meeting with his South Korean counterpart. "(We) also agreed on the need to maintain the strongest possible joint deterrent

capability on the peninsula."

South Korean nuclear envoy Noh Kyu-duk said that he and Kim shared concerns that North Korea will likely continue to engage in acts that raise regional tensions. He urged North Korea to return to talks.

Kim said the allies "have not closed the door on diplomacy" with North Korea and have "no hostile intent" toward the country. He repeated his earlier statement that the United States is ready to meet North Korea "anywhere, without any conditions."

North Korea has so far rejected Kim's outreach, saying

the U.S. must first drop its hostile policy before talks can resume. Some experts have said North Korea wants the U.S. to relax sanctions or suspend its regular military drills with South Korea, which it views as an invasion rehearsal.

North Korea said Sunday that it tested a new tactical guided weapon a day earlier which would boost its nuclear fighting capability. Some analysts said the weapon is likely a short-range ballistic missile to be mounted with a tactical nuclear warhead capable of targeting South Korea.

2 Palestinians wounded by Israeli troops in raid

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Two Palestinian men were critically injured by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank on Monday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, the latest incident in a wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The Israeli military were conducting an arrest raid in the village of Yamun, west of Jenin in the northern West Bank, when dozens of Palestinians started throwing rocks and explosives at the troops, who returned fire.

"The soldiers responded with live ammunition toward the suspects who hurled explosive devices. Hits were identified," the army said in a statement.

The two wounded men were hospitalized, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

The military said it arrested 11 Palestinians in raids across the West Bank overnight on Monday.

Israel has sent forces to search through Palestinian cities and villages in search of suspects or accomplices linked to two deadly attacks on Israelis in recent weeks. Earlier this

month, a Palestinian gunman opened fire at a crowded Tel Aviv bar, killing three, and fled the scene. He was later killed in a shootout with police after an extensive manhunt.

That assault, as well as three other attacks elsewhere in Israel in recent weeks, have killed 14 people, the deadliest outburst of bloodshed against Israelis in years.

At least 25 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in recent weeks, according to an Associated Press count. Many had carried out attacks or were involved in the clashes, but an unarmed woman and a lawyer who appears to have been a bystander were also among those killed.

Tensions between Israelis and the Palestinians have run particularly high in recent days, during the confluence of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the weeklong Jewish holiday of Passover. Palestinian protesters have clashed with Israeli police at a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site, known to Muslims as the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

Students make video to prove their school needs major fixes

Associated Press

The short documentary video opens with a high school student explaining how human waste flows up from the ground and floods an area where he and his friends eat lunch.

In the eight-minute video with background music and captions of key quotes, students at Druid Hills High School use iPhones to document the classrooms, hallways and bathrooms that are crumbling around them.

In several scenes, plaster is falling off walls, and water is dripping around electrical outlets in one area. So much water has leaked into the weight room that it oozes up from the floor when a student steps on it. Another student demonstrates how one of the holes in a ceiling is so large that he can put his entire hand through it.

"You can tell someone about the conditions but when you visually see it, it's a lot more impactful," sophomore Harley Martz, one of the students who produced the video, told The Associated Press in an interview. "Some of the things we pointed out in the video are very unde-

niable."

"As you walk through the school now, you can smell the mold and it's kind of really nasty," Montrice Berry, a junior student at Druid Hills, says in the video. "So I tend to walk outside just so I can avoid the smell."

Now, after the video came out, "every time I go walking the halls, people are like 'I'm so proud of you for speaking up,'" Berry said in an interview.

The video, which has garnered more than 27,000 views so far since it was posted on YouTube this month, has prompted outrage among some parents in the suburban area just east of Atlanta who want repairs made. It was produced after the DeKalb County School Board in February removed Druid Hills from a list of schools in need of priority renovations.

The DeKalb County School Board will consider a resolution "to modernize Druid Hills High School," according to the meeting agenda.

The agenda for Monday's meeting included no specifics, so it's unclear what the board will discuss or ultimately do.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man trapped between car, wash machine dies

CA ESCONDIDO — A man died after becoming pinned between his car and car wash machinery at an automated car wash, Escondido police said Saturday.

Police Sgt. Chris Leso of the Escondido Police Department said the victim became trapped outside his Scion xB hatchback shortly before midnight Friday, KUSI-TV in San Diego reported Saturday.

Police are investigating and reviewing video to find out why the victim got out of the car and how he became trapped. His name and age were not released pending notification to family.

The business has an automated service where customers drive their car into the wash and the car is pulled through with the driver staying seated inside.

Baby zebra spooked by ostriches dies at Disney

FL LAKE BUENA VISTA — A baby zebra died at Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom after running full speed into a gate when it was being spooked by two ostriches Thursday, a television station reported.

WESH reported that it spoke with a family who witnessed the incident and was told it happened after the enormous birds were released into the same enclosure.

Jury awards \$450K to man who declined party

KY LOUISVILLE — A Kentucky jury has awarded a man \$450,000 who

sued his employer after he asked them not to celebrate his birthday at work — and they did it anyway.

Kevin Berling told his manager at Gravity Diagnostics in Covington in 2019 that a birthday celebration would cause him immense stress.

But the company didn't heed his request, and Berling suffered a panic attack, the Courier Journal reported. The next day, Berling had another panic attack when his supervisor chastised him for "stealing his co-workers'" joy and "being a little girl," according to a lawsuit. Berling was fired after the second attack.

Berling alleged in his lawsuit the company discriminated against him based on a disability and retaliated against him for demanding a reasonable accommodation to it. The jury awarded him \$300,000 for emotional distress and \$150,000 in lost wages.

2 sea turtles returned to ocean after recovery

GA JEKYLL ISLAND — A pair of rare sea turtles have returned to the ocean after veterinarians spent nearly a year nursing them back to health on the Georgia coast.

The adult female loggerhead turtles were released into the surf Friday on the beach at Jekyll Island. Both had been patients at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, the island's hospital for sick and injured sea turtles.

One was admitted in May after being hit by a boat, said a Jekyll Island news release. The other arrived in July after being found anemic and covered in barnacles and leeches.

A few hundred people, including children on school trips, turned out to bid the sea turtles farewell. It was the first time the Georgia Sea Turtle Center has held a turtle release publicly since 2019.

Blaze hits 6 homes, displaces 16 families

MA LAWRENCE — A wind-fueled fire has damaged six homes and displaced 16 families in Massachusetts.

The blaze began Friday night on the third-floor balcony of a home in Lawrence before spreading to five other nearby residences. Fire officials said high winds helped the fire spread quickly in the densely settled neighborhood.

All residents were safely evacuated and no injuries were reported, Lawrence Fire Chief Brian Moriarty told reporters. No pets were reported missing or injured, he added.

Crews from fire departments in neighboring communities in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire assisted local crews in fighting the fire, which took four hours to extinguish.

Trooper hit, troopers fire as SUVs flee stop

PA LITITZ — State troopers opened fire and gave chase to two fleeing vehicles after one trooper was struck during a traffic stop on an interstate in Pennsylvania, police said.

Troopers tried to stop two sport utility vehicles, one black and one white, on Interstate 76 in Elizabeth Township shortly after 11:30 p.m. Friday.

One trooper approached the black SUV and the other approached the white SUV, and the first trooper reached into the black SUV to turn off the ignition, but the driver started the vehicle and drove forward, striking the trooper, police said.

The white SUV also pulled away and both fled at high speed, police said. Police said both troopers fired their pistols, but it's unclear whether the vehicles or drivers were struck. The troopers tried to pursue the fleeing SUVs but were unable to locate them, police said.

3 infants at day care eat crackers laced with THC

VA STAFFORD — The owner of a home day care in Virginia is facing charges after three young children in the facility's care were exposed to THC, authorities said Friday.

A deputy responded in March to a hospital in Stafford where three 1-year-old children had been taken after their parents observed lethargic behavior and glassy, bloodshot eyes, the Stafford County Sheriff's Office said in a news release. The hospital confirmed each child had been exposed to tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive compound in cannabis.

A detective then went to the day care and collected "goldfish crackers" from around the high chairs of the toddlers, the news release said. These crackers were sent to a lab, which confirmed the presence of THC.

The 60-year-old day care owner turned herself in Thursday on three counts of cruelty and injury to children, according to the news release.

— From wire reports



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Tatum's buzzer-beating layup lifts Celtics over Irving, Nets

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum has been adamant he didn't view the Celtics' matchup with the Nets as a chance to prove anything opposite two of the league's elite scorers.

His finish in Game 1 said otherwise.

Tatum made a layup at the buzzer on a pass from Marcus Smart to give Boston a dramatic 115-114 victory over Brooklyn on Sunday in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series.

"When he took that dribble, we just kind of made eye contact. He made a great pass," Tatum said. "It doesn't get any better than that. A buzzer-beater in a playoff game at home."

Tatum scored 31 points, the last two of which were on the first buzzer-beater of his career. It was the Celtics' first in the postseason since Paul Pierce in

2010 against the Heat.

Tatum's bucket came after a poised Boston possession in the frantic final seconds. Kevin Durant missed on the other end, the Celtics rebounded and raced up the court, electing not to call a timeout.

Jaylen Brown dribbled toward the middle and swung the ball out to Smart. He fired it into a cutting Tatum, who spun around and dropped in his layup just before time expired.

"I've always been told you have more time than you realize you have," Smart said. "I was about to throw it to Al (Horford) off the dribble and I saw JT cut at the last minute."

All five Boston players touched the ball on the possession.

"I think that's kind of a microcosm for our season, guys moving the ball being unselfish," coach Ime Udoka said.

Brown added 23 points for the Celtics, who host Game 2 on Wednesday. Horford had 20 points and 15 rebounds, and Smart finished with 20 points, including four three-pointers.

Kyrie Irving finished with 39 points, including 18 in the fourth quarter. But Boston forced the ball out of his hands the last time the Nets had it, and Durant missed a jumper with a one-point lead that set up the Celtics' final possession.

Durant added 23 points but shot just 9-for-24.

"They did a good job of forcing me away, then helping in the paint. I just got to be more fundamental in my moves," he said. "I feel like some shots went in and out for me."

The Celtics charged out of halftime with a 23-8 run to open a 82-69 lead, sparked by Smart's dead-eye shooting from deep.

Paul helps Suns secure Game 1 win

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Chris Paul has built a Hall of Fame-caliber career by passing the ball.

He can also shoot it quite well, if needed.

Paul scored 19 of his 30 points during a brilliant fourth-quarter scoring display and the Phoenix Suns beat the New Orleans Pelicans 110-99 on Sunday night in Game 1 of the first-round playoff series.

"Classic Chris," Phoenix coach Monty Williams said.

The top-seeded Suns needed Paul's big finish despite dominating most of the game. The Pelicans shook off a slow start, cutting a 23-point deficit to 79-71 by the end of the third.

New Orleans kept hitting shots in the fourth, but that's when Paul took over, hitting three three-pointers and a layup in 2½ minutes in a flurry that kept the Pelicans chasing. The ageless veteran will turn 37 later in these playoffs if Phoenix advances far enough, but once again looked a decade younger.

Paul — a proud basketball junkie — said taking over a game is all about feel.

"It's just reading the game," Paul said. "We watch games all day, every day. We got to watch all the games yesterday. We watched the games today. We know in the playoffs, teams aren't going to lay down."

Paul has never won a title, falling just short last year when the Suns lost to the Bucks in six games in the Finals. He's fond of saying he never takes postseason basketball for granted, and his 130th career playoff game was among his best.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Phoenix.

The Suns were 47-0 in the regular season when leading after three quarters. Now they're 1-0 in the playoffs. Paul shot 12-for-16 from the field, including 4 of 6 on three-pointers.

Bucks get it done in ugly victory over Bulls

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — On a night when their usually potent offense was searching for answers, the defending champion Milwaukee Bucks had to rely on their defense in their playoff opener.

Fortunately for the Bucks, that's one part of their game that was at a championship level.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 27 points and 16 rebounds, and third-seeded Milwaukee recovered after blowing a 16-point lead to beat the sixth-seeded Chicago Bulls 93-86 in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series Sunday.

"We've got to win the ugly games," said Jrue Holiday, whose three-pointer with 5:03 left put the Bucks ahead for good. "I feel like today was ugly. It was a battle and it was tough, but it

was an ugly one."

Holiday's three was part of an 8-0 run that gave the team an 85-78 edge. The Bulls got the margin down to one but could never regain the lead, as Zach LaVine missed a potential tying three-pointer from nearly 30 feet away with 29 seconds left.

"I thought it was a good shot," LaVine said. "We were down three. I got a really clean look."

Milwaukee overcame its struggles on offense by holding Chicago to the lowest single-game point total of any Bucks opponent all season. The Bulls shot a season-low 32.3% from the floor in their first playoff appearance in five years, and were 7 of 37 on three-point attempts.

In the fourth quarter, Chicago was 6 of 28 and 1 of 12 from three-point range.

"Every shot I took tonight felt good," said DeMar DeRozan, who scored 18 points but shot 6 of 25. "I guarantee you that me, Zach and Vooch (Nikola Vucevic) aren't going to miss that many shots again."

Milwaukee, which has won 17 of its last 18 meetings with the Bulls, grabbed an early 32-16 lead and threatened to put this game out of reach early, but then struggled to score the rest of the way.

"The whole team was kind of out of rhythm," said Antetokounmpo, who didn't score in the fourth quarter while dealing with foul trouble. "We weren't able to find one another as easy as we usually find one another and make shots. We missed a bunch of open shots today. Usually we make those and we get energy."

Robinson makes 8 threes in Heat win

Associated Press

MIAMI — Duncan Robinson couldn't miss shots. Trae Young couldn't make shots.

In simplest terms, that's how Game 1 went for Miami and Atlanta.

Robinson came off the bench to set a franchise playoff record with eight three-pointers, and the top-seeded Heat forced Young into matching the worst-shooting game of his career on the way to a 115-91 win over the eighth-seeded Hawks in the opener of an Eastern Conference first-round series Sunday.

"It's always nice to throw the first punch," Robinson said. "But in the grand scheme of things, it's just winning one game."

Robinson scored 27 points on 9-of-10 shooting for Miami, 8 of 9 from three-point range. Jimmy Butler scored 21, P.J. Tucker

added 16 and Kyle Lowry had 10.

But this wasn't about offense for the Heat. It was about defense, so much so that even coach Erik Spoelstra — a former point guard himself — spent some possessions in a defensive stance, imploring his team to dig a little bit deeper on that end of the floor.

"You have to be on edge," Spoelstra said.

The edge, for Miami, was razor sharp. Young went 1-for-12, matching his effort against Chicago on Jan. 23, 2019.

"You've got to give them credit," Young said. "They came out aggressive."

Danilo Gallinari led Atlanta with 17 points. De'Andre Hunter scored 14 for the Hawks and John Collins added 10.

Game 2 is Tuesday.

"I thought Miami played at another level," Atlanta coach Nate McMillan said. "We talked about that in our locker room, that in

the playoffs, there's another level you have to get to. ... They showed us tonight there's another level we have to get to in order to compete in these playoffs."

Robinson broke the record of seven threes that he previously shared with Damon Jones and Mike Miller.

He sizzled. The Hawks fizzled.

Young — who saw everything from traps to full-court pressure — was 0-for-7 from three-point range and finished with just eight points, a season-low. Bogdan Bogdanovic missed all eight of his shots, and Atlanta never led outside of a brief edge in the opening minutes.

Butler revealed the plan when it comes to defending Young: "Just make it physical on him, challenge every shot, keep him off the free throw line and make him pass."

The Hawks went 3-0 in Game 1s last year.

Busch steals Bristol win as Reddick and Briscoe crash

Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Kyle Busch backed into the record book by stealing a win at dirt-covered Bristol Motor Speedway.

That's what he'd say if it had been anyone else, right?

Busch won his first race of the season Sunday night by sliding past the leaders as Tyler Reddick and Chase Briscoe spun racing for the win. Busch tied Hall of Famer Richard Petty's NASCAR record for victories in consecutive years at 18.

But his tune was far different at Bristol than it was six weeks ago when Alex Bowman won at Las Vegas and an irate Busch complained that Bowman is "the same (expletive) guy who backs into every (expletive) win that he ever (expletive) gets."

When it was Busch's turn to inherit a win, he had no problem collecting the checkered flag.

"We got one, you know?" Busch said. "It doesn't matter how you get them, it's all about getting them."

Later, he acknowledged that he did "back into one" but said it felt good.

Reddick was chasing the first Cup win of his career, led 99 of the 250 laps, and controlled the race from the final restart with 24 laps remaining. Lapped traffic gave Briscoe a shot and he made his move in the third turn as he tried to slide inside past Reddick.

The move backfired and both cars spun out of control and Busch, who was running third, simply skirted through for his first win.

Busch won for the ninth time in Cup racing at Bristol — the first time in two dirt races — and was booed by the smattering of fans who waited out two rain delays that pushed the first race on Easter Sunday since 1989 to nearly four hours.

"I mean, man, I feel like Dale Earnhardt Sr. right now. This is awesome. I didn't do anything," Busch said of the 1999 race in which Earnhardt was booed for bumping Terry Labonte out of the way for the win.

Reddick finished second and faulted himself for not holding off Briscoe. Briscoe went from two turns away from the win to 22nd and immediately found Reddick on pit road to apologize.

"I was going to spin out, I think, either way," Briscoe said. "I'm sorry. I just wanted to let you know. I am sorry. I wish you would have won."

Reddick was understanding and admitted he should have been more defensive.

"I don't think I did everything right. Briscoe was able to run me back down there," Reddick said. "I should have done a little bit better job of just, I don't know, I shouldn't have let him get that close. He ran me back down. Worked really hard to do that."

Spieth chips past Cantlay in Heritage playoff

Associated Press

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — Thinking he might have a chance for a playoff, Jordan Spieth rolled in a 10-foot birdie on the 18th hole in regulation. He made an even bigger shot at Harbour Town's signature hole in a playoff to win the RBC Heritage.

Spieth's 56-foot shot from a greenside bunker stopped 7 inches away and he beat Patrick Cantlay with a tap-in par Sunday on the lighthouse hole for his 13th career PGA Tour title — and second straight on Easter Sunday.

Kim survives charge to win LOTTE Championship

EWA BEACH, Hawaii — Hyo Joo Kim staved off a late charge from Hinako Shibuno to win the LPGA Tour's LOTTE Championship on Saturday.

Kim closed with a 1-under 71 — following a bogey on the par-4 17th with a tap-in birdie on the par-5 18th — to finish at 11-under 277, two shots clear of Shibuno at breezy Hoaka-lei Country Club.

Kim earned \$300,000 for her fifth LPGA Tour title.

"There were a lot of expectations but also a lot of support coming from friends and family as well," said Kim, who won a major at age 19 in the 2014 Evian Championship.

Dodgers' Heaney fans 11

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Freddie Freeman and Andrew Heaney were aware of the high standards they would be expected to reach when they joined the powerhouse Los Angeles Dodgers in the offseason.

Freeman has fit right in with his usual excellence, while Heaney looks better than ever so far.

Freeman had four hits and three RBIs, Heaney struck out 11 over six innings of one-hit ball in a scoreless home debut, and Los Angeles completed a four-game sweep of the Cincinnati Reds with a 9-1 victory Sunday.

Max Muncy, Will Smith and Chris Taylor had RBI doubles during a seven-run fourth on another dominant day for the Dodgers, who have won six straight.

"I had a good feel for the fastball and the slider, and that's what we went with for the most part," Heaney said. "That just shows what this lineup is capable of doing. Every guy is pretty much a game-changer in this lineup."

Angels 8, Rangers 3: Mike Trout left Los Angeles' win at Texas after being hit in his left hand by a pitch, but the team said X-rays were negative and the three-time AL MVP is day to day.

Mike Mayers (1-0) retired two of three batters to end the fifth for starter Jose Suarez. The Angels have won three straight for the first time since August.

Adolis Garcia hit a two-run home run for the Rangers, who have lost three straight and are 2-7 to open the season for the first time since 2006. Texas starter Martin Perez (0-2) allowed four runs, three earned, in four innings.

Mets 5, Diamondbacks 0: Pete Alonso hustled around the bases to spark the pivotal rally and later hit a two-run homer that helped host New York beat Arizona.

Pinch-hitter J.D. Davis delivered an RBI single in a three-run sixth inning and five Mets pitchers combined on a five-hitter for New York's third shutout in 10 games this season.

Padres 2, Braves 1: Yu Darvish rebounded from the shortest outing of his career by dominating into the seventh inning and host San Diego beat Atlanta despite having just three hits.

Darvish (1-1) struck out eight in 6⅓ innings after covering just 1⅓ innings and allowing nine runs against San Francisco on Tuesday. He allowed his only run on Marcell Ozuna's homer in the seventh as the Pa-

dres split the four-game series.

Orioles 5, Yankees 0: Rougned Odor broke a scoreless tie with a two-run single in the eighth inning and host Baltimore beat New York.

Odor, who played for the Yankees last year, came on to pinch-hit with the bases loaded and two outs. He singled sharply up the middle against Jonathan Loáisiga (0-1).

Cubs 6, Rockies 4: Seiya Suzuki hit his fourth home run, extending an impressive start to his major league career, and Chicago won at Colorado.

Suzuki is batting .400 and has hit safely in eight straight games with an at-bat. Willson Contreras also went deep for the Cubs.

Giants 8, Guardians 1: Thairo Estrada homered and drove in four runs, Alex Wood continued host San Francisco's superb starting pitching as it completed a three-game sweep of Cleveland.

Estrada hit a two-run homer off Aaron Civale (0-1) in the second inning and Brandon Belt added a two-run shot in the seventh as the Giants won their fifth straight.

Blue Jays 4, Athletics 3: Alek Manoah struck out six over six innings to win his second straight start, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had two hits and scored twice, and host Toronto beat Oakland.

Manoah (2-0) allowed two runs and four hits for the AL East-leading Blue Jays.

Red Sox 8, Twins 1: Michael Wacha pitched five shutout innings in his Fenway Park debut with Boston and Trevor Story drove in his first two runs in his new home in a win over Minnesota.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 5: Tyrone Taylor hit a two-run double in the seventh inning and host Milwaukee outlasted Albert Pujols and St. Louis Cardinals.

Rays 9, White Sox 3: Randy Arozarena doubled twice and finished with three hits Tampa Bay won at Chicago to stop a four-game slide.

Mariners 7, Astros 2: Ty France hit a three-run homer, rookie starter Matt Brash took an odd no-hit bid into the sixth inning, and host Seattle took three of four from Houston.

Marlins 11, Phillies 3: Jazz Chisholm Jr. tripled, doubled and drove in three runs, and host Miami beat Zack Wheeler and Philadelphia.

Pirates 5, Nationals 3: Michael Chavis drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as host Pittsburgh came from behind and took a four-game series against Washington.

Spurgeon scores in OT, Wild top Sharks

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Jared Spurgeon scored his second goal of the game 1:05 into overtime, tipping a shot from Kevin Fiala, to send the Minnesota Wild to the playoffs with a 5-4 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Sunday.

Fiala, Dmitry Kulikov and Matt Boldy also scored and Marc-Andre Fleury made 26 saves to help Minnesota wrap up its 12th playoff berth.

The Wild have 101 points, one behind St. Louis for second place in the Central Division after the Blues beat Nashville on Sunday. The Predators and idle Dallas have 91 points as the top two wild card teams.

"We almost got what we deserved tonight," Minnesota coach Dean Evason said. "We were very fortunate really to have success in that game. We talked after the game that it's rare that we even talk about this anymore. So, it has to be a one-off. For the most part here now for a long time we've played the right way."

Rudolf Balcers, Matt Nieto, Noah Gregor and Nick Bonino scored for San Jose. The Sharks trailed 2-0 midway through the first period, then nearly stalled Minnesota's playoff bid for a day.

Maple Leafs 4, Islanders 2: Jack Campbell made 27 saves and host Toronto set franchise records for victories and points, beating New York without NHL goals leader Auston Matthews.

William Nylander, Mitch Marner, Pierre Engvall and David Kampf scored to help the Maple Leafs improve to 50-20-6 and reach 106 points.

Panthers 6, Red Wings 1: Anton Lundell scored twice and Florida extended its winning streak to 10 games with a win at Detroit.

Blues 8, Predators 3: Calle Rosen, Brayden Schenn and Jordan Kyrou each scored twice and St. Louis set a franchise record for goals in a period with seven in the second in a win at Nashville.

Ducks 6, Blue Jackets 4: Troy Terry scored twice, Trevor Zegras had a goal and an assist and host Anaheim beat Columbus.

Gerry Mayhew, Cam Fowler and Derek Grant also scored and John Gibson made 29 saves.

Sabres 5, Flyers 3: Victor Olofsson and Tage Thompson each scored twice and Buffalo won at Philadelphia to sweep a weekend home-and-home series.