

US shifts refueling mission to Poland

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force is moving its refueling mission from Germany to Poland for the foreseeable future, in a move aimed at reinforcing NATO's eastern flank, the Air Force said.

U.S. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard tankers most recently flew from Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany as part of Copper Arrow, an ongoing operation to boost air refueling capacity on the Continent.

In the coming months, 19 tanker units based stateside are slated to come to the west-central Polish town of Powidz, with several planned operations supporting NATO activities, U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa said in a statement.

The aircraft in Powidz could be tasked with refueling combat jets, including the world's most advanced fighter jet, the F-35A Lightning II, potentially extending the range of NATO missions. The Dutch air force recently deployed eight of the planes to Malbork Air Base in Poland.

The move "signifies U.S. European Command's ability to rapidly deploy large combat-credible forces and equipment throughout Europe," USAFE-AFAFRICA said Thursday in the statement.

The Air Force tankers are part of Detachment 1 and could include KC-135 Stratotankers, KC-10 Extenders or the Air Force's newest tanker, the KC-46 Pegasus. Tankers began flying from Powidz in early March, and on April 13, a Pegasus from the 931st Air Refueling Wing at McConnell Air Base, Kan., refueled Finnish air force F/A-18s, USAFE-AFRICA said last week.

The mission relies on units from the U.S. that send their tankers to Europe to support USAFE operations, the command said.

The stateside tankers "travel with Air Reserve Component members who voluntarily commit to rotations in the European" theater, said Col. Gary Dodge, Air National Guard adviser to the USAFE-AFAFRICA commander.

The 603rd Air Operations Center at Ramstein Air Base oversees the mission from

Germany, from vetting applicants to providing command and control, USAFE-AFRICA said.

American forces have surged into Europe since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Since the start of the war, the Pentagon has increased the number of U.S. troops on the Continent from about 80,000 to more than 100,000.

Over 10,000 of those forces are on Polish bases, U.S. ambassador to Poland Mark Brzezinski said in the Air Force statement.

The eastward surge is another example of U.S. efforts to create a durable presence in the former Warsaw Pact country, a vital NATO member that shares a border of more than 300 miles with Ukraine.

A month ago, the U.S. officially stood up its first permanent base in the country.

U.S. Army Garrison Poland in Poznan, about 60 miles west of Powidz, will support the Army's V Corps, which oversees NATO missions in the east. The corps also has a forward headquarters on the garrison.

Ukraine blamed in drone attack on Crimean navy base

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian-appointed authorities in Crimea said the military fended off a Ukrainian strike on a main naval base on Monday, while an exploding drone was also reportedly found in a forest near Moscow — attacks that come as Ukraine is believed to be preparing for a major counteroffensive.

The Moscow-appointed head of the port city of Sevastopol in Crimea, Mikhail Razvozhayev, said the military destroyed a Ukrainian sea drone that attempted to attack the harbor in the early hours and another one blew up. He said the powerful explosions shattered windows in several apartment buildings but didn't inflict any other damage.

The attack was the latest in a series of attempted strikes on Sevastopol, the main naval base in Crimea that Russia illegally annexed in 2014.

Ukrainian authorities didn't immediately comment on Monday's strikes. After previous attacks on Sevastopol and other areas,

Ukrainian officials stopped short of openly claiming responsibility but emphasized the country's right to strike any target in response to the Russian aggression.

Russian news reports also claimed Monday that a Ukrainian exploding drone was found in a forest about 19 miles east of the Russian capital.

While it didn't explode, the incident again underscored Ukraine's capability to reach deep inside Russia as the Ukrainian military is thought to be preparing for a spring counteroffensive to reclaim occupied areas.

Observers believe that the counteroffensive's most likely target would be the Russian-held parts of the southern Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. If the push is successful, it would allow Ukraine to cut the land corridor between Russia and Crimea.

In what could be preparations for such a move, Ukrainian forces have recently established a foothold near the town of Oleshky on the eastern bank of the Dnieper River, ac-

cording to the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank.

Ukraine has recently received sophisticated weapons from its Western allies, and new troops freshly trained in the West, giving rise to growing anticipation of an offensive.

American-made Patriot missiles arrived in Ukraine last week and military spokesman Yuriy Ihnat said Sunday on Ukrainian television that some have already gone into service.

Speaking after talks Monday with visiting Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas in the northwestern city of Zhytomyr, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy commended the Baltic nation for its decision to hand over all of its 122-mm and 155-mm howitzers to Ukraine.

"If each of the leaders and each of the states were as conscientious about the protection of our common freedom on the continent, Russia's aggression would have already known obvious defeats," Zelenskyy said.

Rear admiral tapped as 1st female Naval Academy chief

The Washington Post

A rear admiral who was the first Hispanic American woman to command a Navy warship is in line to become the first female superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy since its founding in 1845.

Rear Adm. Yvette Davids has been nominated for promotion to vice admiral, with assignment to lead the academy in Annapolis, officials announced Friday.

Her appointment, which would take effect in the summer, is pending Senate confirmation.

Davids graduated from Annapolis in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in oceanography. She also holds master's degrees from the Naval War College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

A native of San Antonio, Davids is described in official biographies as a career surface-warfare officer who has commanded ships including the frigate USS *Curts* and held numerous other positions in the Navy. On the *Curts*, she served in support of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and

Iraq.

She has twice been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, among numerous other honors. She was also recognized in 2008 by the national Latina organization MANA as a barrier-breaking Latina commander for her service on the *Curts*.

"Congrats to Rear Adm. Yvette Davids on being nominated to serve as the first female superintendent of the Naval Academy!" Rep. Mikie Sherrill, D-N.J., wrote on Twitter. "I am a proud alumna, particularly today as we celebrate this historic nomination."

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., also cheered the announcement on Twitter, writing, "As the first Latina to command a U.S. warship, she is a trailblazer and inspiration to our community. I look forward to her confirmation."

The academy in Annapolis educates more than 4,400 midshipmen who graduate as commissioned officers in the Navy or Marine Corps. Its current superintendent is Vice Adm. Sean Buck.

Navy aims to help recruits shape up for shipping out

By DOUG G. WARE

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy has launched a new training program that's designed to get future sailors in shape so they can pass physical fitness requirements, which are keeping many young Americans from joining the military amid serious recruiting challenges.

In recent years, three of the service branches — the Navy, Army and Air Force — have struggled to hit recruiting goals due to several factors. One of the biggest reasons is fewer than 25% of Americans between the ages of 17 and 24 can pass academic and physical testing to join the military, according to recent Pentagon data.

"We expect to be about 6,000 [recruits] short [this year]," Adm. Lisa Franchetti, vice chief of naval operations, said earlier this week during a congressional hearing about military readiness. "[We are] doing better than [when] we started, but about 6,000 short is our projection."

All three services are making significant efforts to improve recruiting, such as offering incentives for referrals and enlistees and developing various targeted strategies to help more young Americans meet eligibility requirements. The Navy launched its Future Sailor Preparatory Course Physical Fitness Track pilot program this month, which service leaders expect will help grow the candidate pool of qualified sailors. The idea is to get recruits on the path to physical fitness as early as possible so they can get a jump on passing the Navy Physical Readiness Test.

"The Future Sailor Preparatory Course is about building the complete person," said Rear Adm. Jennifer Couture, commander of the Naval Service Training Command. "The individuals who are participating have a sincere desire to serve their country."

The Navy's Future Sailor Preparatory Course — open to anyone with body fat within 6% above the maximum allowable amount — lasts for three weeks and is located at Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill.

Participants who don't improve enough in the Navy's program to qualify for basic training can retake the course as many as four more times.

Marine runway construction on Okinawa delayed until at least '32

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Construction of a runway designated the future home of Marine Corps air operations on Okinawa is only 14% complete and will take until 2032, at least, to complete, the Japanese defense minister said recently.

The runway at Camp Schwab on Okinawa's rural northern coast was originally scheduled to be finished by 2014, but a steady stream of lawsuits from successive Okinawa governors has slowed progress.

"The construction is steadily moving forward," Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada told Japan's National Security Committee on April 18, according to a video of his address. "We will keep working hard to realize the reversion of Futenma as soon as possible."

Hamada's estimate adds another two years to the most recent calculation by the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which said three years ago the airfield could be finished by 2030.

The airfield at Schwab is meant to replace Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in urban Ginowan. That base, surrounded by city neighborhoods, is considered dangerous by Japanese officials.

Work on the larger parcel has been on hold since April 21, 2020, when the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which represents the Defense Ministry on the island, asked Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki to approve changes to the construction plans. Tamaki declined, which spurred Tokyo to intervene.

The prefecture then filed three lawsuits, two of which have already been dismissed. Arguments for the third are scheduled for Wednesday.

Lawsuit could curb use of fire retardant

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — A legal dispute in Montana could drastically curb the government's use of aerial fire retardant to combat wildfires after environmentalists raised concerns about waterways that are being polluted with the potentially toxic red slurry that's dropped from aircraft.

A coalition that includes Paradise, Calif. — where a 2018 blaze killed 85 people and destroyed the town — said a court ruling against the U.S. Forest Service in the case could put lives, homes and forests at risk.

An advocacy group that's suing the agency claims officials are flouting a federal clean water law by continuing to use retardant without taking adequate precautions to protect streams and rivers.

The group, Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, requested an injunction blocking officials from using aerial retardant until they get a pol-

lution permit.

The dispute comes as wildfires across North America have grown bigger and more destructive over the past two decades because climate change, people moving into fire-prone areas, and overgrown forests are creating more catastrophic megafires that are harder to fight.

Forest Service officials acknowledged in court filings that retardant has been dropped into waterways more than 200 times over the past decade. They said it happens usually by mistake and in less than 1% of the thousands of drops annually, and that environmental damage from fires can exceed the pollution from retardant.

"The only way to prevent accidental discharges of retardant to waters is to prohibit its use entirely," government attorneys wrote. "Such a prohibition would be tantamount to a complete ban of aerial discharges of retardant."

Government officials and fire-

fighters say fire retardant can be crucial to slowing the advance of a blaze so firefighters can try to stop it.

"It buys you time," said Scott Upton, a former region chief and air attack group supervisor for California's state fire agency. "We live in a populous state — there are people everywhere. It's a high priority for us to be able to use the retardant, catch fires when they're small."

Forest Service officials said they are trying to come into compliance with the law by getting a pollution permit but that could take years.

"The Forest Service says it should be allowed to pollute, business as usual," said Andy Stahl, who leads the Eugene, Ore.-based group behind the lawsuit. "Our position is that business as usual is illegal."

A ruling from U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen is expected sometime after the opposing sides present their arguments during a Monday hearing

in federal court in Missoula.

Christensen denied a request to intervene in the case by the coalition that includes Paradise, other California communities and trade groups such as the California Forestry Association. The judge is allowing the coalition's attorney to present brief arguments.

As the 2023 fire season gets underway, California Forestry Association President Matt Dias said the prospect of not having fire retardant available to a federal agency that plays a key role on many blazes was "terrifying."

"The devastation that could occur as a result of the Forest Service losing that tool could be just horrific," Dias said.

More than 100 million gallons of fire retardant were used during the past decade, according to the Department of Agriculture. It's made up of water and other ingredients including fertilizers or salts that can be harmful to fish, frogs, crustaceans and other aquatic animals.

Sheriff's office hires officer who killed Breonna Taylor

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The former Louisville police officer who fatally shot Breonna Taylor has a new job in law enforcement in a county northeast of the city.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office on Saturday confirmed the hiring of Myles Cosgrove, who was fired from the Louisville Metro Police Department in January 2021 for violating use-of-force procedures and failing to use a body camera during the raid on Taylor's apartment, WHAS-TV reported.

Taylor, a Black woman, was killed March 13, 2020, by police executing a narcotics search warrant. None of the three white officers who fired into Taylor's home were charged by a grand

jury in her death.

Robert Miller, chief deputy in Carroll County, pointed to that fact in reference to Cosgrove's hiring.

A protest in Carroll County was planned Monday in response to his hiring.

Investigators said that Cosgrove fired 16 rounds into the apartment after the front door was breached and that Taylor's boyfriend fired a shot at them. Federal ballistics experts said they believe the shot that killed Taylor came from Cosgrove.

In November, the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council voted not to revoke Cosgrove's state peace officer certification.

That meant he could apply for other law enforcement jobs in the state.

NBCUniversal ousts CEO after probe of relationship

The Washington Post

NBCUniversal CEO Jeff Shell will leave the company "effective immediately" following an investigation into a complaint of inappropriate conduct, Comcast announced Sunday.

"Today is my last day as CEO of NBCUniversal. I had an inappropriate relationship with a woman in the company, which I deeply regret," Shell said in a statement Sunday. "I'm truly sorry I let my Comcast and NBCUniversal colleagues down, they are the most talented people in the business and the opportunity to work with them the last 19 years has been a privilege."

An outside law firm conducted the investigation, and Shell's departure was mutually agreed upon, the company stated. Com-

cast is NBCUniversal's parent company.

In a memo to employees, Comcast chairman and CEO Brian Roberts and Comcast President Mike Cavanagh stated that they were "disappointed to share this news."

"We built this company on a culture of integrity. Nothing is more important than how we treat each other. You should count on your leaders to create a safe and respectful workplace," they stated. "When our principles are violated, we will always move quickly to take appropriate action, as we have done here."

They added that NBCUniversal "is performing extremely well operationally and financially."

Shell was named NBCUniversal CEO in 2020.

Sudanese seek refuge from chaos

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — As foreign governments airlifted hundreds of their diplomats and other citizens to safety, Sudanese on Monday desperately sought ways to escape the chaos, fearing that the country's two rival generals will escalate their all-out battle for power once evacuations were completed.

The evacuations were a dramatic operation. In convoys, foreign diplomats, workers and families made their way past combatants at tense front lines in the capital of Khartoum to reach extraction points — or even drove hundreds of miles to the country's east coast.

A stream of European and Mideast military aircraft flew in all day Sunday, through the night and into Monday, to ferry them out.

France and Germany said more flights

were possible if security conditions permitted.

But for many Sudanese, the airlift was a terrifying sign that international powers, after failing repeatedly to broker cease-fires, only expect a worsening of the fighting that has pushed the population into disaster. During nine days of warfare in Khartoum and other cities, millions have been trapped in their homes by explosions, gunfire and armed fighters looting in the streets while food supplies run out and hospitals near collapse.

Many Sudanese, along with Egyptians and other foreigners who could not get on flights, risked the long and dangerous drive to the northern border into Egypt.

Amani el-Taweel, an Egyptian expert on Africa, warned of "horrific suffering" for Sudanese unable to leave.

While Sudanese who can afford it make

their way to Egypt or Chad, the poor "will suffer greatly as they will have no access to aid or food," said el-Taweel, with Egypt's Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies. Humanitarian aid can no longer reach Sudanese because of the clashes, and once evacuations are complete, "warring parties will not heed any calls for a truce or a cease-fire," she said.

Over 420 people, including 264 civilians, have been killed and over 3,700 wounded in the fighting between the Sudanese armed forces and the powerful paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF.

Amid continued gunfire, nationals from dozens of countries made their way to extraction points.

The exodus began with American special operations forces swooping in and out of Khartoum in helicopters early Sunday to evacuate U.S. Embassy personnel.

Probe begins over shots fired at Instacart driver

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A Florida prosecutor has ordered an investigation after a homeowner fired shots into a couple's car when they mistakenly turned onto his property while making a late-night Instacart delivery. Police closed the case without consulting the state attorney's office.

No one was injured by the gunfire in an upscale Fort Lauderdale suburb, but it is the latest in a spate of similar shootings across the U.S. where people have mistakenly turned onto the wrong property or gotten in the wrong car. One person has been killed and others seriously wounded. In this case, the shooter told police the car was being driven erratically, struck his leg, and made him fear for himself and his son.

Broward County State Attorney Harold Pryor issued a statement saying police investigators never contacted his office about the April 15 shooting in Southwest Ranches that put at

least two bullets into the car driven by 19-year-old Waldes Thomas Jr., who was with his 18-year-old girlfriend, Diamond Darville.

Pryor said his staff members were unaware of the shooting until they were contacted Friday by a reporter from WTVJ-TV, who interviewed the couple. The Davie Police Department has a contract with Southwest Ranches to provide service.

"I contacted the Davie Police Department to request a full investigation," Pryor said Friday, adding that his prosecutors will decide whether charges should be filed.

Davie police declined to comment Sunday but released the lead detective's report. He wrote that without any video, he couldn't determine whether either the shooter or couple committed a crime.

"Each party appeared justified in their actions based on the circumstances they perceived," the report concluded.

'Gender Queer' still tops list of challenged books

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With Florida legislators barring even the mention of being gay in classrooms and similar restrictions under consideration in other states, a report released Monday says books with LGBTQ+ themes remain the most likely targets of bans or attempted bans at public schools and libraries around the country.

The American Library Association announced that Maia Kobabe's graphic memoir "Gender Queer" was the most "challenged" book of 2022, the second consecutive year it has topped the list.

The ALA defines a challenge as a "formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness."

Other books facing similar trials include George M. Johnson's "All Boys Aren't Blue," Mike Curato's "Flamer," Stephen Chbosky's "The Perks of

Being a Wallflower," John Green's "Looking for Alaska," Jonathan Evison's "Lawn Boy" and Juno Dawson's "This Book Is Gay."

"All the challenges are openly saying that young people should not be exposed to LGBTQ materials," said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, who directs the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

The list also includes Toni Morrison's first novel, the 1970 release "The Bluest Eye," which has been criticized for its references to rape and incest; Sherman Alexie's "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" (sexual content, profanity) and Sarah J. Maas' "A Court of Mist and Fury" (sexual content).

The ALA last month reported there were more than 1,200 complaints in 2022 involving more than 2,500 different books, the highest totals since the association began compiling complaints 20 years ago.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Pride parade canceled as anti-drag law passes

FL PORT ST. LUCIE — Officials in a Florida city canceled a gay pride parade and restricted other pride events to people 21 years and older in anticipation of Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signing a bill meant to keep children out of drag shows.

The Pride Alliance of the Treasure Coast posted Wednesday on Facebook that the decision to change Pridefest events was made after multiple conversations with Port St. Lucie officials. The city is located about 110 miles north of Miami.

"We hope that everyone understands that this is definitely not what we wanted at all and are working with the city to assure our safety as well as produce a positive event," the post said.

The Florida House sent DeSantis a bill Wednesday that bans children from adult performances, a proposal aimed at the governor's opposition to drag shows.

The legislation would allow the state to revoke the food and beverage licenses of businesses that admit children to adult performances.

Some Waikiki sands blocked for seal pup

HI HONOLULU — The birth of an endangered seal at one of Hawaii's most popular tourism hubs is highlighting the tension between protecting the islands' fragile ecosystems and maintaining access to the pristine white-sand beaches that attract millions of visitors each year.

Hawaii officials fenced off a

large stretch of a popular Waikiki neighborhood to protect the Hawaiian monk seal, named Kaiwi, and her days-old pup.

Kaimana Beach is next to a mid-sized hotel and is a favorite swimming and sunbathing spot for locals and visitors.

Starting six years ago, monk seals have occasionally given birth there.

When the seals are in the water, law enforcement officers from the state Department of Land and Natural Resources will ride personal watercraft to keep people outside a 50-yard protective area around the animals.

Landlord to pay \$400K for tenant harassment

CT NEW LONDON — A former Connecticut landlord must pay \$400,000 to settle a federal lawsuit alleging he violated the Fair Housing Act by sexually harassing and victimizing his female tenants for at least five years, including evicting or threatening to evict those who objected to or refused his sexual advances.

In an agreement reached by the U.S. Justice Department's Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative and announced Thursday, \$350,000 of the funds will be deposited in a settlement account to benefit tenants harassed by landlord Richard Bruno. The remaining \$50,000 is a federal civil penalty.

Bruno, who managed multiple rental properties in New London, is currently serving a 16-year sentence in federal prison after pleading guilty in 2017 to producing child pornography with a tenant's minor child in one of the properties.

Bruno will now be permanent-

ly prohibited from owning and managing residential rental properties.

EPA to make state cut Chesapeake pollution

MD BALTIMORE — Pennsylvania must minimize its outsized role in polluting the Chesapeake Bay, according to a proposed settlement agreement announced Thursday that would subject the state to increased oversight from federal environmental officials.

The agreement comes after other jurisdictions in the bay's watershed — Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia — filed a lawsuit in 2020 that argued Pennsylvania wasn't pulling its weight in their collective effort to reach a 2025 pollution reduction goal. The states were looking to reduce harmful nutrient and sediment runoff that flows from farms and cities into the Chesapeake.

Environmental groups also filed a similar lawsuit around the same time, and the two were combined. Thursday's agreement between the plaintiffs and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would resolve both.

Records cleared for 2 after false convictions

CA LOS ANGELES — Two men who served nearly 17 years in prison after being wrongly convicted of attempted murder after a 2004 shooting were declared innocent Thursday by a California judge. Under a new law, the state is required to pay them each \$140 for every day they spent behind bars, or about \$900,000.

The verdicts for Dupree Glass

and Juan Rayford concluded a new trial that began in October after a state appeals court panel vacated their convictions and they were freed in 2020. The proceedings included a dramatic confession by the actual shooter, Chad Brandon McZeal, a gang member who's serving a life sentence for murder in an unrelated case, the defense team said.

After the judge ruled, Glass and Rayford embraced each other and their attorneys. Outside the courthouse, the men were cheered by family members and supporters. Rayford, clutching his baby daughter, called it an "amazing" feeling to have their records finally wiped clean and their reputations restored.

Defense attorneys said the case was the first brought under a law that guarantees compensation for defendants who have their cases thrown out and also allows them to present evidence proving their innocence.

State won't need tests for most public colleges

GA ATLANTA — Students applying to 23 of Georgia's 26 public universities and colleges next year won't need to take the SAT or ACT college tests to apply.

Regents voted Wednesday to let students apply without the tests through the 2024-25 school year, after University System of Georgia officials told them that renewed testing requirements would likely drive students to other colleges.

Tests will be required at the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech and Georgia College and State University in Millville.

— From wire reports

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Knicks top Cavs to take 3-1 series advantage

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Knicks have had so few chances to join the NBA postseason party that they might forget the real fun hasn't even started yet.

"There's nothing to celebrate," Jalen Brunson said. "There's nothing to be truly happy about."

One more win and that changes.

Brunson scored 29 points, RJ Barrett had 26 and the Knicks took a 3-1 lead over the Cleveland Cavaliers in their first-round series with a 102-93 victory on Sunday.

Josh Hart moved into the starting lineup and added 19 points and seven rebounds for the fifth-seeded Knicks, who can reach the second round for the first time since 2013 with a victory in Cleveland on Wednesday. New York would host Game 6, if necessary, on Friday at what has been a deafening Madison

Square Garden during the last two games.

"There's nothing like a big game at the Garden," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said.

There might be a few more to come, the way his team is defending.

New York forced Cleveland All-Star Donovan Mitchell into one of the worst games of his postseason career, finishing with just 11 points on 5-for-18 shooting. Darius Garland had 23 points and 10 assists for the Cavs, bouncing back nicely after going 4-for-21 in the Knicks' Game 3 romp. Jarrett Allen and Caris LeVert each scored 14 points.

"This (is) not over with," Mitchell said. "The way we lost sucks. We can't hang our heads and ultimately give up. We're not that type of group. Like I said, we'll be ready for Game 5."

Warriors 126, Kings 125: Stephen Curry scored 32 points but gave Sacramento a late

chance when he called a timeout host Golden State didn't have, and the defending champion Warriors held on to beat the Kings when Harrison Barnes missed a three-pointer at the buzzer, evening their playoff series at two games apiece.

De'Aaron Fox had 38 points, nine rebounds and five assists for Sacramento. His three-pointer with 28.7 seconds left pulled the Kings within one, and then Curry missed a 16-foot jumper on the other end and Keegan Murray corralled the rebound. With Curry and Draymond Green defending, Fox dished to Barnes, a former Warrior, for the potential game-winning three, which hit the back of the rim.

Klay Thompson made a baseline three-pointer to beat the third-quarter buzzer and another with 3:24 left, finishing with 26 points for the Warriors.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in

Sacramento.

Celtics 129, Hawks 121: Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum each scored 31 points and visiting Boston led nearly the entire way, holding off Atlanta for a commanding 3-1 lead in the opening-round playoff series.

The Celtics can deliver the clincher Tuesday night when the series returns to Boston for Game 5.

Tatum and Brown combined to score Boston's final 16 points.

Timberwolves 114, Nuggets 108 (OT): Anthony Edwards scored 34 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and host Minnesota avoided a four-game sweep.

Rudy Gobert added 14 points and 15 rebounds for Minnesota, which held on after Denver scored the final 12 points of regulation to force overtime. Mike Conley had 19 points for the Timberwolves.

Game 5 is Tuesday in Denver.

Hall, DeBrusk score 2 each as Bruins beat Panthers

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Linus Ullmark left the ice with a few minutes left to play, which ordinarily isn't a great thing for hockey goaltenders.

In this case, it only made the Boston Bruins appreciate him more.

Ullmark stopped 41 shots before leaving the game with 3:11 remaining after drawing a misconduct penalty — he wanted to fight Florida's Matthew Tkachuk as the highlight of a late-game scrum — and the Bruins beat the Panthers 6-2 on Sunday to move one game away from the second round of the playoffs.

"I love it," Bruins coach Jim Montgomery said of his goalie. "He's all in."

Taylor Hall had two goals and two assists, Jake DeBrusk scored twice, and the Bruins took a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference first-round series — with a chance to advance coming in Boston on Wednesday.

Brad Marchand and Tyler Bertuzzi also had goals for the Bruins, who got a second consecutive win on Florida ice.

Hall's goals came in the final 3:36, the second one an empty-netter.

But the talk of the locker room was Ullmark, for good reason.

"Tkachuk's kind of doing a lot of things to try and get under our skin but for the most part, we're doing a great job of keeping it between the whistles, and I'm proud of our group for doing so," Bruins defenseman Brandon Carlo said. "But at times, you've got to show a little passion and push back."

Game 5 is at Boston on Wednesday night.

Oilers 5, Kings 4 (OT): Zach Hyman scored at 10:39 of overtime as visiting Edmonton rallied from three goals down late in the first period to even the first-round series with Los Angeles at two games apiece.

Leon Draisaitl had two goals and an assist for the Oilers, Evan Bouchard had a goal and two assists while Evander Kane forced OT with his third-period goal. Connor McDavid had three assists, and Jack Campbell, who came in after Stuart Skinner was pulled after one period, made 27 saves against his former team.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Edmonton.

Stars 3, Wild 2: Tyler Seguin scored two power-play goals and Jake Oettinger made 33 saves as visiting Dallas evened the first-

round series at two games apiece.

Dadonov gave the Stars a 2-0 lead early in the third period just 8 seconds after escaping the penalty box. Klingberg scored for the Wild less than three minutes later. Seguin restored the Stars' two-goal lead with his third goal of the series late in the third before Gaudreau pulled Minnesota back within one with 1:20 left.

Game 5 will be in Dallas on Tuesday night.

Hurricanes 5, Islanders 2: Seth Jarvis scored twice as visiting Carolina snapped an eight-game postseason road losing streak and pushed New York to the brink of elimination.

Sebastian Aho added a goal and two assists and Antti Raanta made 27 saves in helping the Hurricanes win on the road in the playoffs for the first time since the second round in 2021.

Aho's goal was his record-setting 20th in the postseason with Carolina, breaking the franchise record he shared with Eric Staal.

Martin Necas and Mackenzie MacEachern also scored and Stefan Noesen had two assists. The Hurricanes can wrap up the best-of-seven series in Game 5 at home on Tuesday night.

NL-best Pirates win 7th straight game

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Vince Velasquez struck out 10 in seven innings, and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat Hunter Greene and the Cincinnati Reds 2-0 on Sunday for their seventh consecutive victory.

It was the most strikeouts for Velasquez (3-2) since May 10, 2018, when he had 12 for the Phillies against the Giants. He allowed two hits and walked two.

"Sometimes, you could be dominant and locate everything in the bullpen and when it goes to the game, you could be out of whack, out of sync," Velasquez said. "I wasn't trying to overthrow. Wasn't trying to locate too much. It was just staying within myself and trusting the stuff I have."

The Pirates improved to 16-7 for the franchise's best start since its last division title in 1992. Pittsburgh allowed six runs in the four-game series against Cincinnati after outscoring the Rockies 33-9 across a three-game sweep in Colorado.

It is Pittsburgh's longest streak since winning 11 straight in 2018.

David Bednar struck out two in the ninth for his eighth save, finishing a four-hitter.

Pittsburgh jumped in front in the first against Greene (0-1). Ke'Bryan Hayes led off with a double to the gap in right-center. He moved to third on Tucupita Marcano's single and scampered home when Andrew McCutchen grounded into a double play.

"It was really important. Hunter Greene is good," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "In games like this, where the margin of error is going to be so small, you have to make sure you take advantage of every opportunity."

Red Sox 12, Brewers 5: Masataka Yoshida homered twice during visiting Boston's nine-

run outburst in the eighth inning against Milwaukee.

Justin Turner and Yoshida started the eighth with back-to-back homers off Matt Bush (0-1) that gave the Red Sox a 5-4 lead. Yoshida then capped the inning with a grand slam off Javy Guerra.

Yoshida also had a sacrifice fly in the first and finished with six RBIs. He became the fifth Red Sox player to homer twice in one inning, and first since Hall of Fame slugger David Ortiz in August 2008.

Yoshida is the fourth rookie in major league history to hit two home runs in an inning and the first since Joe Pepitone for the New York Yankees in 1962, according to ESPN Stats & Info.

Rays 4, White Sox 1: Zach Eflin pitched five effective innings in his return from the injured list and host Tampa Bay hit two more home runs, beating slumping Chicago for its 13th consecutive home win to begin the season.

Tampa Bay (19-3) tied the 2009 Los Angeles Dodgers for the second-longest home winning streak to start a season since 1901. The 1907 New York Giants opened with 15 straight wins at home.

Luke Raley and Harold Ramirez went deep for the Rays, who have homered in each of their first 22 games — extending their major league record. Tampa Bay has 48 home runs, second-most in big league history through 22 games behind the 2000 St. Louis Cardinals (52).

Eflin (3-0) allowed one run and three hits in a game that took only 2 hours, 2 minutes. Yonny Chirinos followed with three perfect innings. Peter Fairbanks worked a 1-2-3 ninth to get his third save and run his team-record scoreless streak to 29 innings.

Blue Jays 5, Yankees 1: Kevin Gausman struck out 11 in seven shutout innings, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Daulton Var-

sho hit back-to-back homers following an error by rookie shortstop Anthony Volpe, and visiting Toronto handed New York its first series loss this season.

The Blue Jays won for the 12th time in 18 games, taking two of three in the Bronx. The Yankees had won or split their first six series, their longest streak to start a season since 2003.

New York had been 11-0 when facing a series loss and was the only major league team that hadn't dropped a series this year.

Gausman (2-2) bounced back nicely from allowing eight runs Monday at Houston and held the Yankees to three hits.

Rangers 5, Athletics 2: Jacob deGrom struck out 11 in six innings, showing no ill effects from the right wrist soreness that forced an early exit from his prior start, as AL West-leading Texas beat major league-worst Oakland.

Robbie Grossman hit a three-run homer and finished with four RBIs for the host Rangers.

DeGrom (2-0) allowed three hits and walked none, giving up a two-run homer to Shea Langeliers. Will Smith worked a scoreless ninth to complete the five-hitter and earn his second save.

Astros 5, Braves 2: Yordan Alvarez tied the game with a two-run single in the eighth inning, pinch-hitter Corey Julks had a go-ahead single in the ninth and visiting Houston won its fourth straight.

Atlanta's skid reached four games for the first time since August 2021.

Alvarez's two-out, bases-loaded hit off A.J. Minter (1-2) made it 2-all. Julks singled to left-center off Minter in the ninth.

Giants 5, Mets 4: Joc Pederson scored from first base on Mike Yastrzemski's one-out double in the eighth inning,

sending host San Francisco past New York.

Activated off the injured list before the game, Pederson drove in the Giants' first run with a single in the first and then started the winning rally with a walk against Drew Smith (1-1).

Phillies 9, Rockies 3: Trea Turner hit one of Philadelphia's four home runs and Zack Wheeler struck out 11 in six innings to lead host Philadelphia over Colorado.

Turner and Kody Clemens each had a solo homer. Bryson Stott and Brandon Marsh connected for two-run shots.

Guardians 7, Marlins 4: Logan Allen struck out eight in six innings in his major league debut and his Cleveland teammates helped him get the win over visiting Miami.

Dodgers 7, Cubs 3: Mookie Betts homered and drove in four runs in his first career start at shortstop, leading visiting Los Angeles past Chicago.

Orioles 2, Tigers 1 (10): Adam Frazier dashed home on a wild pitch by Mason Englert (0-1) in the bottom of the 10th inning to lift host Baltimore over Detroit for its sixth straight victory.

Twins 3, Nationals 1: Jorge Polanco homered and Bailey Ober pitched three-hit ball into the sixth inning as host Minnesota defeated Washington.

Padres 7, Diamondbacks 5: Yu Darvish pitched effectively into the sixth inning before leaving with leg cramps, and visiting San Diego beat Arizona.

Cardinals 7, Mariners 3: Lars Nootbaar homered on the first pitch of the game, Nolan Gorman added a three-run shot and visiting St. Louis beat Seattle to prevent a three-game sweep.

Angels 4, Royals 3: Taylor Ward, Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani hit consecutive homers in the sixth inning, helping host Los Angeles top Kansas City.

Busch wins under caution at Talladega

Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Running low on fuel and unsure he could make it to the end of a double-overtime finish, Kyle Busch and his new Richard Childress Racing team debated their late-race Talladega Superspeedway strategy.

If he stopped for a splash of gas, Busch would surrender valuable track position and essentially concede any chance at racing for Sunday's win.

Not stopping meant he'd be at the front of the field for the final restart, but with zero guarantee he had enough gas to complete two laps or challenge for the victory. As the debate raged, crew chief Randall Burnett called Busch in for fuel at the last second.

"Too late," replied Busch, who couldn't make the pit road entrance when he finally received the message.

The gamble and miscommunication paid off when Busch won under caution and in double overtime for his second win of the season and second at Talladega — 15 years after his other victory on NASCAR's biggest and fastest track.

"In my own mind, I was like there's no way you come to pit road and just throw away your

day. Like, your day is done," Busch said. "So I was just like, 'Why not just take the chance?' And so he said 'Pit, pit, pit' and it was too late, anyway.

"But also, I wouldn't have anyway. I would have just taken the chance and said 'You know what? Roll the dice. Let's go.'"

Busch, who spent 15 years driving for Joe Gibbs Racing before an offseason move to Richard Childress Racing, gave car owner Childress his 13th victory at Talladega. The bulk of those wins came from the late Dale Earnhardt, but Childress had last won at Talladega with Clint Bowyer in 2011.

Childress entered the post-race news conference carrying an open bottle of champagne from his vineyard.

"I think my stomach was in knots, but not as bad as the crew chief," Childress said. "Kyle said, 'Look, we done made this deal, we done made our decision, let's ride it out no matter what.' He just stayed out. We were on the border of running out of fuel. I was just holding my breath. It wasn't going to be fun if we run out of fuel.

"But Talladega has been so great to RC. I raced here in 1969. One of the biggest breaks I got. Here I am still racing."

Busch won under caution when Bubba Wallace surged into the lead but tried to block good friend Ryan Blaney three times — and the third block caused the race-ending wreck.

"Sometimes you've got to be lucky. Some of these races come down to that," Busch said. "You've got to take them when they come to your way."

NASCAR had to examine the final finishing order as Busch celebrated at the finish line. There were 57 lead changes.

Blaney for Team Penske was scored second and seemed frustrated with Wallace's blocks.

"In my mind you kind of triple move like that, triple block, and you can't block three times," Blaney said.

Wallace, who had team owner Michael Jordan watching from his pit stand, accepted responsibility.

"Close, close, close block," he said. "Not (Blaney's) fault. I honestly thought he would leave me high and dry coming back around. Hate it I caused that one. Man, I thought it would play out a little different, obviously not getting wrecked."

Chase Briscoe from Stewart-Haas Racing was third, followed by Chris Buescher and Brad Keselowski of RFK Racing as Ford

drivers were second through fifth.

The race was fairly clean and the first multi-car accident didn't occur until 48 laps remaining when Noah Gragson ran into the back of Harrison Burton, the leader at the time, to trigger a five-car crash.

The next caution was with five laps remaining when Daytona 500 winner Ricky Stenhouse Jr. gave Corey Lajoie a big push that rammed Lajoie into Joey Logano and sent Logano spinning into the wall.

That sent the race to its first overtime, which was an immediate disaster.

Ross Chastain shoved his car into the middle for a third lane and his car bounced off Gragson, who hit the wall to trigger the crash. Kyle Larson was knocked into the grass and his car shot back into the middle of traffic for a full-contact hit of Ryan Preece.

"Definitely probably one of the hardest hits that I've ever taken in my racing career," said Preece, whose visor on his helmet was knocked open with the hit.

Larson said he was fortunate he was not injured.

"Thankfully, I'm OK," Larson said. "My car is absolutely destroyed. The cockpit's a mess."

Vu wins first major at Chevron Championship in playoff

Associated Press

THE WOODLANDS, Texas — Lilia Vu relied on her grandfather's steady hand and calm demeanor to keep her grounded during difficult times.

He died in 2020, but on Sunday at the Chevron Championship with a chance to win her first major, Vu's thoughts of her grandfather helped her once again.

"I was getting really upset on the course, and I just had to remind myself, Grandpa is with you," she said. "And he'd be re-

ally disappointed if you were getting upset like this and that you didn't get your act together."

With his memory in her head, Vu finished strong with two straight birdies, then birdied the first playoff hole to beat Angel Yin in a dramatic finish on Sunday.

Yin's second shot came up short and left and splashed into the pond guarding the par-5 18th hole. Vu, after a huge tee shot, hit her approach safely just over the green. She went with putter

and came up well short, but she converted the birdie from about 10 feet.

"I knew on that last putt, all I had to do was just do my routine, read the putt how I usually do, and just hit this putt because I've hit that putt a million times," Vu said. "And I knew I could make it."

The 25-year-old Californian won for the second time on the LPGA Tour and took a celebratory leap into the pond, a tradition borrowed from this tournament's former venue at Mission

Hills in the California desert.

Vu closed with a 4-under 68 for a four-day total of 10-under 278, then waited as other contenders — including Yin — faltered.

But Yin, after bogeys on the 16th and 17th holes, birdied the 18th to force the playoff.

"Obviously in the playoff hole, I just didn't hit a good shot," Yin said. "It just kind of spoke a lot about today."

Yin had her second runner-up in a major. She tied for second in the 2019 U.S. Women's Open.