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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Tariffs a jolt to US weapons production

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military relies on a network of countries around the world to produce the sophisticated weapons and equipment that arm its warfighters.

It imports missiles from Norway and specialized technology from France and Italy for fighter jets. It equips Army soldiers with a recoilless rifle produced by a Swedish company and depends on Canada to assemble combat vehicles such as the Stryker.

"There's not a single weapon system that I know of that doesn't have some type of foreign content," said Bill Greenwalt, a former Defense Department acquisition official now at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, a Washington think tank.

That global supply chain, built up for decades, could now be under threat as President Donald Trump's administration seeks to lessen American reliance on imports and bring more manufacturing back to the U.S.

Tariffs imposed in recent weeks on nearly all foreign-made products and the prospect of more levies to come could make American weapons more expensive, dampen weapon sales abroad and tarnish the reputation of the U.S. as a reliable partner, according to some

experts and lawmakers.

"In the short term, the announced tariffs alone will increase costs for U.S. defense industrial supply chain companies," Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., wrote in a recent letter to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. "In the long term, tariffs will drive up the Department of Defense's contracting and procurement costs, limit the Department of Defense's buying power and ultimately harm the warfighter and our military readiness."

In addition to 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum, the Trump administration has implemented a blanket 10% tariff on most U.S. trading partners. A plan to introduce higher tariffs on nearly 60 countries has been paused until July while a trade war with China has raised tariffs on Chinese imports to 145%.

A Pentagon official said Friday that the department is "closely monitoring existing tariffs and their impacts on procurement and manufacturing of goods overseas with international partners and allies."

The Defense Department has agreements with 28 partner countries that allow it to override congressionally mandated "Buy American" requirements and engage in billions of dollars of defense trade with countries such as the U.K., Germany and Japan, according to the

Government Accountability Office, a federal watchdog. It is unclear how those arrangements will be affected by Trump's tariffs and whether the defense industry will be strategically carved out of the levies.

"Right now, you just have to operate on the fact that prices are going to go up because there is foreign content," Greenwalt said.

Dak Hardwick, vice president of international affairs at the Aerospace Industries Association, said the trade group has received an assurance from the Trump administration that duty-free entry for materials destined for the military would continue. The nearly 300 aerospace and defense companies who are members of the association continue to seek clarity from the administration and are engaging with their foreign counterparts, he said.

Defense companies have, for the most part, expressed optimism that they will be able to weather the changing tariff policies with minimal impact on business, with Northrop Grumman saying Tuesday that it did not yet see significant risk to its programs. But RTX, formerly Raytheon Technologies, cautioned it could take a \$850 million hit in profit if tariffs and separate levies on steel and aluminum and goods from China, Canada and Mexico remain in effect through the year.

Navy head cancels Biden-era climate change policy

By CAITLYN BURCHETT

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Navy Secretary John Phelan has canceled the Navy's Climate Action 2030 program, which was enacted by the Biden administration in 2022 to improve the service's energy efficiency.

"We need to focus on having a lethal and ready naval force, unimpeded by ideologically motivated regulations," Phelan said in a pre-recorded video posted Tuesday to his official X account.

The rescinded plan had committed the Navy to reducing its overall emissions by 65% by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Net-zero emissions mean some greenhouse gases are released but are offset by

the removal of an equivalent amount of the gases from the atmosphere.

Scientists have said rising sea levels, recurrent flooding and more frequent and destructive hurricanes result from man-made climate change and are a particular challenge for the Navy.

In 2010, a two-day storm dumped more than 14 inches of rain on Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington, Tenn., causing a levee to fail and flood the base and surrounding community. The flood displaced military families from their homes, caused extensive damage to base auxiliary buildings, impacted critical information technology systems, and cost the Navy approximately \$154 million.

Hurricane Sandy, in 2012, caused \$50 million in damage to Naval Weapons Sta-

tion Earle, a critical ammunition resupply base in New Jersey.

The Navy combined \$1.9 million in defense funds with \$61 million from the local county to restore the beaches and salt marsh to protect the installation from storm surge. Those efforts were still underway in 2020 when Hurricane Sally significantly damaged more than 600 facilities at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. The Navy deferred \$49 million in sustainment and modernization requirements to fund initial response and repairs to withstand future storms.

In mid-March, the Defense Department announced it would flush climate change policies and initiatives deemed "inconsistent with our core warfighter mission."

Marines test air-defense system at Balikatan

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO, Philippines — Tracer rounds flashed toward the setting sun Friday along the west coast of Luzon, the Philippines' main island, as U.S. Marines put a new air-defense system through its paces.

The 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment recently fielded the Marine Air Defense Integrated System, or MADIS, and fired it for the first time in January at its home station in Hawaii.

They brought MADIS — equipped with Stinger missiles, a 30 mm cannon and 7.62 mm machine gun — on its first overseas trip for annual combat drills running through May 9 in the Philippines.

The Balikatan exercise — Tagalog for “shoulder to shoulder” — brings together approximately 9,000 American and 5,000 Filipino

troops for island-defense training.

MADIS is designed to defend against low-flying threats such as helicopters, planes and armed drones, which have proliferated in modern conflict zones in the Middle East and Ukraine.

Unmanned aircraft are expected to be no less of a threat should conflict break out over Taiwan or in the South China Sea, where Manila and Beijing have clashed repeatedly over disputed maritime territory.

During Friday's live-fire drill, the regiment's anti-air battalion deployed five light tactical vehicles mounted with MADIS at Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioqui, a coastal training area near Subic Bay. Dozens of target drones were on hand to take flight, but the Marines focused their fire on ground-based targets along the coast.

“These things have become prolific on the battlefield,” Col. John Lehane, commander of the littoral regiment, told Stars and Stripes before the drill began, referring to the drones.

The Iraq War veteran, who flies a hobby remote-control quadcopter in his free time, added: “We want to make sure we are proficient at taking them out.”

MADIS includes radar capable of detecting aircraft from 30 to 30,000 feet and at ranges of nearly 20 miles, according to the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, a Virginia-based group that lobbies for missile-defense development and deployment.

“The rapid rise of UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems), used for surveillance, targeting and attacks, has made advanced air-defense systems like MADIS critical to protecting our Marines and preserving our combat effective-

ness,” Lt. Col. Craig Warner, a future weapons systems manager at Marine Corps Systems Command, said in a Dec. 13 service news release.

“MADIS not only detects, tracks and defeats aerial threats but also serves as a powerful deterrent, signaling to adversaries that their aerial assets will not succeed against U.S. forces,” he added.

The regiment also brought another new weapon to the Philippines — the Navy-Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System, or NMESIS. Littoral Marines will train with the mobile system in northern Luzon and the Batanes Islands, Lehane said.

NMESIS fires naval strike missiles capable of hitting targets at ranges of about 115 miles. It includes launchers mounted on a 7-ton vehicle and two light tactical ones.

Hegseth said to have unsecured internet line set up in his office

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth had an internet connection that bypassed the Pentagon's security protocols set up in his office to use the Signal messaging app on a personal computer, two people familiar with the line told The Associated Press.

The existence of the unsecured internet connection is the latest revelation about Hegseth's use of the unclassified app and raises the possibility that sensitive defense information could have been put at risk of potential hacking or surveillance.

Known as a “dirty” internet line by the IT industry, it connects directly to the public internet where the user's information and the websites accessed do not have the same security filters or protocols that the Pentagon's se-

cured connections maintain.

Other Pentagon offices have used them, particularly if there's a need to monitor information or websites that would otherwise be blocked.

But the biggest advantage of using such a line is that the user would not show up as one of the many IP addresses assigned to the Defense Department — essentially the user is masked, according to a senior U.S. official familiar with military network security.

But it also can expose users to hacking and surveillance. A “dirty” line — just like any public internet connection — also may lack the recordkeeping compliance required by federal law, the official said.

All three spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter.

USS Lawrence makes Navy's 2nd Taiwan Strait trip of year

BY JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy sent a guided-missile destroyer on a solo transit of the Taiwan Strait on Wednesday, the second Navy trip through the contentious waterway this year, according to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

The USS William P. Lawrence made a routine transit through the 110-mile-wide waterway “where freedoms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law,” according to an email Friday from an INDOPACOM spokeswoman.

The strait separates the Chinese mainland from Taiwan, a self-governing democracy Beijing considers a wayward province it promises to reclaim.

The Lawrence's transit “demonstrates the United States'

commitment to upholding freedom of navigation for all nations as a principle,” wrote INDOPACOM spokeswoman Air Force Maj. Susan Harrington.

China in September asserted sovereignty over the strait, a claim disputed by other countries. Even so, international law allows “innocent passage” by warships through territorial waters.

A spokesman for China's Eastern Theater Command denounced the passage as a publicity measure and the American justification for it as a distortion.

The last Navy transit of the strait took place Feb. 11-12 when the guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson and the survey ship USNS Bowditch moved southwest from the East China Sea to the South China Sea.

ICE deports immigrant mother of an infant

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers have in recent days deported the Cuban-born mother of a 1-year-old girl — separating them indefinitely — and three children ages 2, 4 and 7 who are U.S. citizens along with their Honduran-born mothers, their lawyers said Saturday.

The three cases raise questions about who is being deported, and why, and come amid a battle in federal courts over whether President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown has gone too far and too quickly at the expense of funda-

mental rights.

Lawyers in the cases described how the women were arrested at routine check-ins at ICE offices, given virtually no opportunity to speak with lawyers or their family members and then deported within three days or less.

The American Civil Liberties Union, National Immigration Project and several other allied groups said in a statement that the way ICE deported children who are U.S. citizens and their mothers is a "shocking — although increasingly common — abuse of power."

Gracie Willis of the National

Immigration Project said the mothers, at the very least, did not have a fair opportunity to decide whether they wanted the children to stay in the United States.

"We have no idea what ICE was telling them, and in this case what has come to light is that ICE didn't give them another alternative," Willis said in an interview. "They didn't give them a choice, that these mothers only had the option to take their children with them despite loving caregivers being available in the United States to keep them here."

The 4-year-old — who is suffering from a rare form of cancer

— and the 7-year-old were deported to Honduras within a day of being arrested with their mother, Willis said.

In the case involving the 2-year-old, a federal judge in Louisiana raised questions about the deportation of the girl, saying the government did not prove it had done so properly.

Lawyers for the girl's father insisted he wanted the girl to remain with him in the U.S., while ICE contended the mother had wanted the girl to be deported with her to Honduras, claims that weren't fully vetted by U.S. District Judge Terry Doughty in Louisiana.

Judge blocks Trump order on collective bargaining

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Friday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from implementing an executive order that a labor union says would cancel collective bargaining rights for hundreds of thousands of federal employees.

U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman ruled that a key part of President Donald Trump's March 27 order can't be enforced at roughly three dozen agencies and departments where employees are represented by the National Treasury Employees Union.

The union, which represents nearly 160,000 federal government employees, sued to challenge Trump's order. The union said it would lose more than half of its revenue and over two-thirds of its membership if the judge denied its request for a preliminary injunction.

Friedman said he would issue an opinion in several days to explain his two-page order. The ruling isn't the final word in the lawsuit. He gave the attorneys until May 2 to submit a proposal

for how the case should proceed.

Union president Doreen Greenwald said the judge's order is "a victory for federal employees, their union rights and the American people they serve."

"The preliminary injunction granted at NTEU's request means the collective bargaining rights of federal employees will remain intact and the administration's unlawful agenda to silence the voices of federal employees and dismantle unions is blocked," Greenwald said in a statement.

Some agencies, including the FBI, are exempt from a law requiring federal agencies to bargain with labor organizations over employment matters. Presidents can apply the exemption to agencies that have a "primary function" of performing intelligence, counterintelligence, investigative or national security work.

But no president before Trump tried to use the national security exemption to exclude an entire cabinet-level agency from the law's requirements, according to the employees' union.

Mangione pleads not guilty to federal murder charge

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Luigi Mangione pleaded not guilty Friday to a federal murder charge in the killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson. Prosecutors formally declared their intent to seek the death penalty, and the judge warned Justice Department officials to refrain from making public comments that could spoil his right to a fair trial.

Mangione, 26, stood between his lawyers and leaned toward a tabletop microphone as he entered the plea in Manhattan federal court. He responded "yes" when U.S. District Judge Margaret Garnett asked if he understood the indictment that charges him with gunning down Thompson outside a midtown hotel last December.

Asked how he wished to plead, Mangione said simply "not guilty" and sat down.

A cause célèbre for people upset with the health insurance industry, Mangione's federal arraignment drew dozens of people to court, including former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, who served prison time for stealing classified diplomatic

cables.

Some lined up for hours in front of the courthouse steps, trying to snag a seat inside. Others rallied across the street as a pair of advertising trucks drove around playing videos denouncing the health insurance industry and the death penalty.

Mangione, an Ivy League graduate from a prominent Maryland real estate family, faces separate murder charges in federal and state court, where he faces a maximum punishment of life in prison.

Prosecutors had expected the state case to go to trial first, but Mangione's lawyers said Friday that they want the federal case to take precedent because it involves the death penalty. Because of the many legal issues involved in capital cases, Mangione's federal case will move at a slower pace than non-death penalty prosecutions.

Mangione is next due in federal court on Dec. 5, a day after the one-year anniversary of Thompson's death. His next appearance in the state case is set for June 26. No trial date has been set in either case.

Vehicle plows into festival crowd in Canada

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Vancouver police ruled out terrorism in a car ramming attack that killed 11 people at a Filipino heritage festival in the Canadian city, saying the suspect has a history of mental health issues.

Dozens of others were injured, some seriously, as the ramming shook the country ahead of federal elections.

A man driving a black Audi SUV entered the street just after 8 p.m. Saturday and struck people attending the Lapu Lapu

Day festival. A Vancouver man was arrested.

"It is the darkest day in Vancouver's history," Vancouver Police Interim Chief Steve Rai told a news conference.

"The person we have in custody does have a significant history of interactions with police and health care professionals related to mental health," he said.

Video of the aftermath shows the dead and injured along a narrow street in South Vancouver lined by food trucks. The front of the driver's SUV is

smashed in.

Kris Pangilinan, who brought his pop-up clothing and lifestyle booth to the festival, saw the vehicle enter past the barricade slowly before the driver slammed on the gas in an area that was packed with people after a concert. He said hearing the sounds of bodies hitting the vehicle will never leave his mind.

"He sideswiped someone on his right side and I was like, 'Oh, yo yo.' And then he slammed on the gas," he said. "And the sound of the acceleration, it

sounds like an F1 car about to start a race.

"He slammed on the gas, barreled through the crowd. And all I can remember is seeing bodies flying up in the air higher than the food trucks themselves and landing on the ground and people yelling and screaming. It looked like a bowling ball hitting hitting bowling pins and all the pins are flying into the air."

A 30-year-old man was arrested at the scene and the department's Major Crime Section is overseeing the investigation, police said.

Russia launches a drone assault against Ukraine

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia launched a sweeping drone assault and airstrikes across Ukraine overnight into Sunday, killing at least four people, officials said, after U.S. President Donald Trump cast doubt over Russian President Vladimir Putin's willingness to end the war.

Three people died and four were wounded Sunday morning in airstrikes on Kostyantynivka in the Donetsk region, the regional prosecutor's office said. Another person died and a 14-year-old girl was wounded in a drone attack on the city of Pavlohrad in the Dnipropetrovsk

region, which was hit for the third consecutive night, local Gov. Serhii Lysak said.

The attacks came hours after Russia claimed to have regained control over the remaining parts of the Kursk region, which Ukrainian forces seized in a surprise incursion last August. Ukrainian officials said the fighting in Kursk was still ongoing.

Trump said Saturday that he doubts Putin wants to end the more than three-year war in Ukraine, expressing new skepticism that a peace deal can be reached soon. Only a day earlier, Trump had said Ukraine and Russia were "very close to a

deal."

"There was no reason for Putin to be shooting missiles into civilian areas, cities and towns, over the last few days," Trump wrote in a social media post as he flew back to the United States after attending Pope Francis' funeral at the Vatican, where he met briefly with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Trump also hinted at further sanctions against Russia.

The new doubts aired by Trump come as the president and top aides intensify their push to come to a deal to end the war that began in February 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine.

Ukraine.

The comments also sharply contrasted with Trump's positive assessment that the two sides were "very close to a deal" after his special envoy, Steve Witkoff, met with Putin in Moscow on Friday.

The Trump-Zelenskyy conversation on the sidelines of the pope's funeral was the first face-to-face encounter between the two leaders since they argued during a heated Oval Office meeting at the White House in late February.

Zelenskyy called it a "good meeting" on social media after the funeral.

Iran's president visits injured after deadly port blast

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran's president on Sunday visited those injured in a huge explosion that rocked one of the Islamic Republic's main ports, a facility purportedly linked to an earlier delivery of a chemical ingredient used to make missile propellant.

The visit by President Ma-soud Pezeshkian came as the toll from Saturday's blast at

the Shahid Rajaee port outside of Bandar Abbas in southern Iran's Hormozgan province rose to 40 with about 1,000 others injured.

While Iran's military sought to deny the delivery of ammonium perchlorate from China, new videos emerged showing an apocalyptic scene at the still-smoldering port. A crater that appeared meters deep sat surrounded by burning smoke so dangerous that authorities

closed schools and businesses in the area.

Containers appeared smashed or thrown as if discarded toys, while the burned carcasses of trucks and cars sat around the site.

Authorities described the fire as being under control, saying emergency workers hoped that it would be fully extinguished later Sunday. Overnight, helicopters and heavy cargo aircraft flew repeatedly

sorties over the burning port, dumping seawater on the site.

Provincial Gov. Mohammad Ashouri gave the latest death toll, Iranian state TV reported. Pir Hossein Kolivand, head of Iran's Red Crescent society, said that only 190 of about 1,000 injured remained hospitalized on Sunday, according to a statement carried by an Iranian government website. The governor declared three days of mourning.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

City eyes drug policy focusing on abstinence

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Reeling from drug overdose deaths and scenes of people smoking fentanyl on sidewalks, San Francisco moved closer Thursday to adopting a “recovery first” drug policy that sets abstinence from illicit drugs as its primary goal, a proposal that has prompted heated debate in the city that pioneered harm reduction.

Opponents of Supervisor Matt Dorsey’s proposal say its emphasis on stopping drug use alienates those who are not ready to quit, while proponents say the city has been far too permissive and making drug use safer does not help break the cycle of addiction.

Dorsey, himself recovering from alcohol and drug addiction, amended the proposal in his public safety committee to clarify that distributing safer-use paraphernalia and linking people to social services regardless of whether they are using remain critical to the city’s response. But more than an hour of public comment with cheers and boos from both sides underscored just how touchy the issue remains.

Senate OKs bill related to gender treatments

TX AUSTIN — Health insurers that cover gender treatments would also be required to cover any adverse effects or reversal procedures under a bill the Texas Senate passed Thursday.

“If the health insurance company pays for that transition, they have to pay for the damage caused by that, for the compli-

cations and for the detransition, if that’s what the patient wants,” Sen. Bryan Hughes, a Mineola Republican who authored the proposal, said shortly before Thursday’s vote.

Senate Bill 1257 — which passed 20-11 — would require health insurers that cover or previously covered gender treatments to provide coverage for all adverse effects, necessary annual testing or screening and care needed to manage, reverse or recover from gender transition surgery or treatment.

It would require such coverage regardless of whether the person who received treatments did so while enrolled in the plan at the time.

Cheer camp dad kills man wielding shotgun at shop

FL MIAMI — A father accompanying his child at a Miami-Dade cheer camp Thursday was forced to become a hero when a disgruntled man at a nearby auto mechanic shop decided to shoot a man with a shotgun, sources told The Miami Herald.

Around 1 p.m., parents at Idol Cheer, a cheerleading training camp, saw a man armed with a shotgun shoot what appeared to be an employee at Priced Right Motors, sources at the camp said. The unidentified father rushed to the children and frantically searched for somewhere to shelter them. When he thought the gunman might open fire at the kids — he pulled out his own gun and shot him before that could happen, sources said. He then rushed the children to safety.

Miami-Dade Sheriff’s deputies soon swarmed the warehouse district not far from Trop-

ical Park in response to the shooting. Three people were wounded, including the gunman, who later died, according to a source close to the investigation.

Politician in cosmetic surgery scandal pardoned

NV LAS VEGAS — President Donald Trump has pardoned a Nevada Republican politician who was awaiting sentencing on federal charges that she used money meant for a statue honoring a slain police officer for personal costs, including plastic surgery.

Michele Fiore, a former Las Vegas city councilwoman and state lawmaker who ran unsuccessfully in 2022 for state treasurer, was found guilty in October of six counts of federal wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

In a statement Thursday on Facebook, the Trump supporter expressed gratitude to the president while also accusing the U.S. government and “select media outlets” of a broad, decade-long conspiracy to “target and dismantle” her life.

New England’s ‘dirty rain’ caused by western dust

NH CONCORD — No, New England, that wasn’t a new strain of spring pollen coating your cars. It was dust carried across the country in a phenomenon known as “dirty rain.”

April showers are supposed to bring May flowers, but the light rain that fell across the region last Friday and Saturday brought dirt instead. Christian Bridges, a meteorologist with WGME-TV in Portland, Maine, was as perplexed as anyone un-

til he checked the satellite imagery.

“You could see that dust got picked up in New Mexico two days before on Thursday by the same storm system,” he said. “It then brought it up into the far northern part of the U.S. and then eventually brought it all the way to New England.”

Strong wind brought the dust to an altitude of around 10,000 feet, he said, below the level of rain clouds.

Parts of Wisconsin, Michigan and the northern Great Lakes region also reported “dirty rain” or “mud rain” before it hit Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Bridges said such rain is similar to the way smoke from Western wildfires makes it way east.

State executes man who said he deserved to die

AL ATMORE — An Alabama man who dropped his appeals and said he deserved to die for a 2010 rape and murder was executed Thursday evening, using his final words to apologize to the woman he killed.

James Osgood, 55, was pronounced dead at 6:35 p.m. following a three-drug injection at a south Alabama prison, authorities said.

A jury in 2014 convicted Osgood of capital murder in the death of Tracy Lynn Brown in Chilton County. Prosecutors said Osgood cut her throat after he and his girlfriend sexually assaulted her.

“I haven’t said her name since that day,” Osgood said, adding that was because he was unsure if he should say it. “Tracy, I apologize.”

— From wire reports

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Thunder complete sweep of Grizzlies

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 38 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder advanced to the Western Conference semifinals by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 117-115 on Saturday to complete a four-game sweep.

Jalen Williams added 23 points for the top-seeded Thunder, who led the NBA with a 68-14 record this season and became the first team to reach the second round. They will await the fourth-seeded Denver Nuggets or No. 5 Los Angeles Clippers in the next round.

"I didn't feel like my mindset was any different," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "Every night I step on the floor to be the best version of myself. I hadn't been in the past (games), but tonight I was pretty close to it. I think because I kept the same mindset, it

allowed me to just play free."

Gilgeous-Alexander made his first seven shots, was 13-for-24 from the field, and finished with 38 points to go with six assists.

"He was pretty consistent with his floor game in all these games," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said.

The Grizzlies played without star guard Ja Morant, who bruised his left hip in a hard fall in Game 3. The Thunder erased a 29-point deficit after he left, the second-biggest comeback in a postseason game since detailed play-by-play began being kept in 1996-97.

"Their fight tonight was impressive," Daigneault said. "Down 3-0, down Morant and down 11 with four (minutes) to go. Lot of respect for them competitively."

Chet Holmgren, Isaiah Hartenstein and Isaiah Joe had 11

points apiece for the Thunder, with Hartenstein adding 12 rebounds.

Scotty Pippen Jr. matched his career high with 30 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Desmond Bane and Santi Aldama had 23 points apiece.

"Scotty did a tremendous job throughout the end of the season. He was very consistent on both ends," Grizzlies interim coach Tuomas Iisalo said.

The game was close through three quarters with neither team building a significant advantage. Oklahoma City led 88-85 entering the fourth. At that point, the Thunder were 4-for-29 from 3-point range.

Williams' 3-pointer with 5:41 left in the game gave the Thunder a 102-92 lead, the first time either team reached a double-digit advantage. The lead would reach 11 before Memphis rallied

and a 3-pointer from Bane with 7.1 seconds left cut it to 116-114.

Williams split a pair of free throws with 6 seconds left and the Thunder fouled Bane intentionally. He made the first but Memphis could not rebound his intentional miss of the second.

"We could have been a little bit tighter when we built the lead (to 11 in the fourth quarter)," Daigneault said. "I thought we got a little bit loose on defensive possessions specifically. Once it tightened up, I thought everything from execution to clock management ... was all very positive."

After six lead changes and five ties in the half, Oklahoma City led 60-59 at the break.

"We fought, everybody on this team. Like, there was zero quit in this team," Iisalo said, adding the Grizzlies just couldn't close out the game."

Cavs hand Heat worst-ever playoff loss for 3-0 lead

Associated Press

MIAMI — Donovan Mitchell didn't have a great shooting day. Darius Garland was in street clothes, out with an injury.

And Cleveland rolled anyway, moving to the brink of Round 2.

Jarrett Allen scored 22 points, De'Andre Hunter added 21 and the Cavaliers — bullying Miami around all day — handed the Heat their worst playoff loss with a 124-87 win Saturday to take a 3-0 lead in their Eastern Conference first-round series.

The Cavs took control with a 33-5 run early, outrebounded Miami 46-29 and outscored the Heat 60-30 in the paint.

"Our guys knew that was the key, rebounding and winning the rebounding battle," Cavaliers coach Kenny Atkinson said. "We really executed defensively."

Evan Mobley scored 19 points and Max Strus added 18 for Cle-

veland. Ty Jerome had 13 points and 11 assists in 22 minutes — he was plus-33 — and Mitchell scored 13 on 4-for-14 shooting.

They didn't need more from him and didn't need anything from Garland, their All-Star guard who was out with a sprained toe.

"Look, our guys really want this and it probably looks like our guys don't," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "But I know what our last six weeks have been like, just to fight and scratch and claw to get into this."

Bam Adebayo scored 22 and Davion Mitchell added 16 for Miami. The worst Heat playoff loss before Saturday was a 36-point defeat in Game 3 of the 2013 NBA Finals at San Antonio.

It was all Miami for the first 5½ minutes. After that, it was all Cleveland, the Cavaliers taking full control of the game over the next eight minutes with their 33-5 run.

Nuggets 101, Clippers 99:

Aaron Gordon slammed down Nikola Jokic's miss as time expired to lift visiting Denver over Los Angeles to tie their playoff series 2-2.

Video review confirmed the ball left Gordon's hands above the rim just before the buzzer sounded after the Nuggets had blown a 22-point lead.

"Nice pass," Gordon said, smiling.

Jokic had 36 points, 21 rebounds and eight assists to lead the Nuggets. Michael Porter Jr. and Christian Braun had 17 points apiece.

Kawhi Leonard scored 24 points for the Clippers. Norman Powell added 22 and Ivica Zubac had 19 points, 12 rebounds and six assists.

The Nuggets split their two games at the new Intuit Dome. Game 5 is Monday in Denver.

"It's still a series, best-of-three," Clippers star Kawhi Le-

onard said. "We'll see what happens."

Warriors 104, Rockets 93: Stephen Curry eventually found his shooting groove while Houston tried everything to stop him, finishing with 36 points, nine assists and seven rebounds to lead host Golden State past the Rockets without Jimmy Butler for a 2-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Playoff Steph delivered while Playoff Jimmy became his biggest cheerleader on the bench — in a full-length fur coat.

Buddy Hield had 17 points off the bench with five 3-pointers as the Warriors won their sixth straight Game 3 in the opening round. Gary Payton II scored 11 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter.

Game 4 in the best-of-seven series is Monday night at Chase Center. The biggest question will be whether Butler can heal in time to contribute.

Lightning finally strike, roll in Game 3

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Lightning were in an early hole against the Florida Panthers, again.

In the first two games of their first-round playoff series, that spelled disaster for Tampa Bay.

Not this time.

The Lightning turned the deficit into a rout in Game 3, beating the Panthers 5-1 Saturday and tightening the series to 2-1.

Andrei Vasilevskiy was nearly perfect, stopping 33 of 34 shots, and the Lightning got goals from Jake Guentzel, Brayden Point, Nick Paul and Luke Glendening. Anthony Cirelli added an empty-netter with five minutes left, and Nikita Kucherov had three assists.

"To be honest, you would have never known sitting in the locker room after Game 2 that we were down 0-2," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "It wasn't going to

guarantee the result, but I knew (darn) well how the effort was going to be."

The Lightning will try to even things up in Game 4 on Monday at Sunrise. The defending Stanley Cup champion Panthers, however, are 5-0 after taking a 2-0 lead in a playoff series.

Paul gave the Lightning their first lead of the series when he slipped a shot just inside the pad of Panthers goalie Sergei Bobrovsky in the second period. Guentzel made it a two-goal lead just 21 seconds into the third before the Lightning pulled away with Glendening and Cirelli's goals.

Matthew Tkachuk scored for the Panthers, his third goal of the series. Bobrovsky finished with 17 saves.

"We've got lots of room to get better. I'm sure they do, too," Panthers coach Paul Maurice said, "so I'm not feeling today

like there's an aberration to how I thought this would go. This was going to be a grinder straight through."

Tkachuk, who scored twice in the opener, got on the board 2:43 into the game when he tapped a feed from Sam Bennett past Vasilevskiy for his 20th playoff goal with the Panthers. The Lightning responded when Guentzel's shot bounced off Point and past Bobrovsky later in the first to give the NHL's highest-scoring team in the regular season its first goal in nearly five periods.

Vasilevskiy had given up seven goals in the first two games but was huge on Saturday. He bounced back from Tkachuk's quick goal and withstood a flurry of Florida shots in the second and third. The Panthers had 71 total shot attempts.

"I think it's a huge win for our team. It gives us some confidence and some life in the se-

ries," Guentzel said.

The Lightning were playing without forward Brandon Hagel, who was suspended for the game after a hard hit on Aleksander Barkov that knocked the Florida captain out of the final 10 minutes of Game 3. Barkov played on Saturday, along with Panthers defenseman Aaron Ekblad, who returned from a 20-game suspension for violating the NHL and NHL Players' Association's policy on performance-enhancing drugs.

"I feel good. That's why I was out there," Barkov said.

Things got more physical as the game went on, and Tkachuk was assessed a five-minute major for a late hit on Guentzel before Tampa's empty-netter.

When asked his thoughts on Tkachuk's hit given Hagel's suspension, Cooper shrugged.

"The only players we hit," he said, "are the ones with pucks."

Golden Knights top Wild in OT, pull even in series 2-2

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Some puck luck finally went the Vegas Golden Knights' way and they avoided getting pushed to the brink of elimination.

Ivan Barbashev scored at 17:26 of overtime and the Golden Knights beat the Minnesota Wild 4-3 in Game 4 on Saturday to even their first-round playoff series.

Nicolas Roy and Tomas Hertl each had a goal and assist, and Shea Theodore also scored for the Pacific Division champion Golden Knights. Adin Hill made 29 saves.

Late in the extra period, Smith forced a Wild turnover deep in their own zone. Roy's centering attempt deflected off Wild defenseman Jake Middleton and Barbashev knocked in the loose puck off a scramble in front. It was his first goal of the playoffs after scoring 23 in the

regular season.

"It seems like those are the bounces we weren't quite getting the first couple of games. To have some of those go in and get some confidence from it is pretty big going forward," Theodore said.

Vegas killed a power play earlier in the extra frame.

Marco Rossi, Marcus Foligno and Jared Spurgeon scored for Minnesota. Filip Gustavsson made 42 saves, including a pair of sprawling left pad saves of Reilly Smith's attempts with 3:49 left in regulation.

"This is a series. They're a heck of a team. Not going to be easy," Foligno said. "It was a good game both sides. This is what we expect. Best out of three going back to Vegas, and yeah, we're in a good spot. Keep our heads up here."

The Wild are now 0-5 all-time in Game 4 when holding a 2-1 se-

ries lead.

Game 5 is in Vegas on Tuesday.

"We lost home ice, we got it back. It's been hard fought, every inch of ice there, so that's how I'm looking at it. Emotionally, we're gonna enjoy it, but, tomorrow we'll rest and then get back to work," Vegas coach Bruce Cassidy.

Senators 4, Maple Leafs 3 (OT): Defenseman Jake Sanderson scored on a long wrist shot from the left boards at 17:42 of overtime and Ottawa beat visiting Toronto to force a fifth game in the first-round series.

Sanderson kept the puck in at the blue line and fired the wrist shot that sailed through traffic and past goalie Anthony Stolarz into the top, right corner.

The teams needed extra time for the third straight game, with Ottawa breaking though after 3-2 overtime losses in Games 2

and 3. Toronto missed a chance for its first sweep since beating Ottawa in the 2001 first round.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Toronto.

Avalanche 4, Stars 0: Colorado captain Gabriel Landeskog scored his first NHL goal in nearly three years, Logan O'Connor had a short-handed tally and the Avalanche beat visiting Dallas in Game 4 to even their first-round series.

Nathan MacKinnon added a power-play goal. Mackenzie Blackwood made 23 saves for his first postseason shutout.

Landeskog's snap shot in the second period made it 3-0 and sent the capacity crowd into a frenzy. It was Landeskog's first goal since June 20, 2022, against Tampa Bay in the Stanley Cup Final. He helped the Avalanche hoist the Cup six days later.

The series moves back to Dallas for Game 5 on Monday.

Torkelson, Tigers take 2 from Orioles

Associated Press

DETROIT — Riley Greene hit a three-run homer in the second game that helped send Charlie Morton to his sixth straight loss, and the Detroit Tigers swept a doubleheader from the Baltimore Orioles 4-3 and 6-2 on Saturday.

Spencer Torkelson hit his eighth homer, and Javier Báez had three hits from the ninth spot in the batting order in the first game.

Gunnar Henderson's RBI double off Keider Montero put Baltimore ahead in the third of the nightcap, but left fielder Zach McKinstry prevented a second run by throwing out Cedric Mullins at the plate.

Greene hit his fourth homer of the season in the bottom half on a fastball from Morton (0-6), who relieved Keegan Akin in the second and allowed three runs, three hits and five walks in 3 1/3 innings. Morton leads the majors in losses.

Torkelson made it 5-2 with a two-run double in a three-run seventh that included McKinstry's RBI double off Grant Wolfram.

Detroit is 7-2 on its homestand.

Baltimore has lost five of six and dropped to 1-4 on its trip.

Guardians 5-3, Red Sox 4-7: Jarren Duran had Boston's first straight steal of home since Jacoby Ellsbury exactly 16 years earlier, and the Red Sox split a doubleheader at Cleveland after losing the opener.

Duran tripled in the third inning and took off against Doug Nikhazy (0-1), a 25-year-old left-hander who was making his major league debut.

As Nikhazy went from the windup, Duran broke for home, slid headfirst and slapped his right hand on the plate ahead of Bo Naylor's tag. Umpire Brock Ballou's safe call was upheld in a video review.

Ellsbury had Boston's previous straight steal of home

against the New York Yankees' Andy Pettitte on April 26, 2009.

Twins 5, Angels 1: Ty France doubled, singled and drove in a run as Minnesota matched its season high with 13 hits and beat visiting Los Angeles for its fourth win in five games.

Carlos Correa had two singles and two RBIs, while Brock Lee had a single, a double and drove in a run.

Simeon Woods Richardson (2-2) gave up one run and four hits in 5 1/3 innings with no walks and seven strikeouts. Four pitchers combined on one-hit relief.

Cardinals 6, Brewers 5: Nolan Arenado homered off Trevor Megill in the ninth inning, giving St. Louis a win over visiting Milwaukee after wasting a five-run lead.

Ryan Helsley (1-0) entered with a 5-3 advantage but blew a save for the second time in six chances. Isaac Collins singled leading off the ninth and Jackson Chourio, who had four hits and three RBIs, followed with his sixth homer on a first-pitch slider.

Reds 6, Rockies 4: Noel Marte hit a two-run homer, Austin Hays added two solo drives and Cincinnati sent host Colorado to its 13th loss in 14 games.

Colorado lost its fifth game in a row and is 4-22, the worst 26-game start in franchise history. The Rockies have been outscored by 62 runs. The next-worst differential in the major leagues is the Chicago White Sox at minus-31.

Mets 2, Nationals 0: Francisco Alvarez hit a two-run homer in his second game after returning from a broken hand, and Clay Holmes combined with five relievers on visiting New York's fifth shutout of the season.

Francisco Lindor had three hits and raised his average to .314 as the Mets won for the eighth time in nine games and

set a team record for April wins with 17.

Giants 3, Rangers 2: Pinch-hitter Patrick Bailey singled home the winning run with one out in the ninth inning, and host San Francisco overcame a two-run deficit to beat Texas.

Willy Adames hit a two-run single in the fifth, ending Tyler Mahler's career-best 20-inning scoreless streak.

Phillies 10, Cubs 4: Jesús Luzardo pitched six effective innings, and Philadelphia stopped a five-game slide with a victory at Chicago.

Luzardo (3-0) allowed two unearned runs and three hits in his first win since April 4. The left-hander has yielded two runs or fewer in five of his first six starts.

Bryce Harper, Kyle Schwarber and Max Kepler each had two RBIs for Philadelphia, which scored a total of 13 runs during its losing streak. Bryson Stott had two hits and scored twice on a blustery afternoon at Wrigley Field.

White Sox 10, Athletics 3: Michael A. Taylor hit three doubles and drove in three runs, Luis Robert Jr. homered and visiting Chicago beat the Athletics.

Chicago, which had lost 10 of 12 coming in, scored four times in the first and twice more in the second off Jeffrey Springs (3-3).

Royals 2, Astros 0: Michael Wacha scattered four hits over six innings, Vinnie Pasquantino homered and Kansas City beat visiting Houston for the second straight night to run its winning streak to six.

Wacha (1-3) once again received little run support, but the veteran right-hander made the meager production stand up on a chilly evening at Kauffman Stadium. He struck out six while walking two and never allowed a runner past second base.

Braves 8, Diamondbacks 7 (10): Matt Olson scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the

10th inning as Atlanta overcame Eugenio Suárez's four home runs to win at Arizona.

Suárez became the 19th player in major league history to hit four homers in a game, but it wasn't enough for the Diamondbacks, who dropped their fourth straight.

Suárez's fourth homer — off closer Raisel Iglesias (1-2) — tied it at 7 in the ninth, but Atlanta rebounded in the 10th when reliever Justin Martinez (1-1) uncorked a wild pitch that allowed Olson to score easily.

Rays 4, Padres 1: Ryan Peipot allowed just three hits in six innings and Brandon Lowe homered for Tampa Bay, which won at San Diego for its season-best fourth straight victory.

Peipot (2-3) extended the Padres' scoreless streak to 30 innings before Tyler Wade tripled to center leading off the sixth and scored on Fernando Tatis Jr.'s one-out single to center. Wade's fly ball fell just in front of the glove of diving center fielder Chandler Simpson and rolled almost to the warning track. Gavin Sheets then grounded into a double play.

Dodgers 8, Pirates 4: Teoscar Hernández lined a tiebreaking homer to left field to lead off the eighth inning, Shohei Ohtani had a triple and two doubles, and Los Angeles beat visiting Pittsburgh to snap a three-game skid.

After Hernández took Colin Holderman (0-1) deep, pinch-hitter Kiké Hernández followed with a three-run home run against Joey Wentz, the eighth pinch homer of his career.

Mariners 14, Marlins 0: Julio Rodriguez and Jorge Polanco led off with back-to-back home runs in host Seattle's six-run first inning and Polanco connected again in the fourth in a win over Miami.

Right-hander Luis Castillo (3-2) allowed one hit in six innings. He had five strikeouts and walked two.