

Iran, US threaten to resume fighting

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

Both the United States and Iran are signaling readiness to resume hostilities as U.S. officials travel to Pakistan on Monday for another potential round of talks before a two-week ceasefire expires.

The effort at diplomacy comes as the situation in the Strait of Hormuz has become more volatile. Over the weekend, Iran fired on commercial vessels and the U.S. seized an Iranian-flagged ship in the Gulf of Oman.

Khatam al-Anbiya, the operational headquarters of Iran's armed forces, vowed Monday to take "necessary action" against the U.S. following its capture of the commercial ship.

Iran targeted U.S. ships with drone strikes in retaliation, according to the semiofficial Tasnim news agency, though there

were no reports of damage as of Monday morning.

The ceasefire has prevented a return to full-scale hostilities, but it has also been marked by conflicting public statements and accusations of violations, as both sides continue to clash over control of the Strait of Hormuz, which has been effectively closed since the start of hostilities nearly two months ago.

With the ceasefire set to expire Wednesday, both parties appear far apart on key issues, including Iran's nuclear development. The U.S. insists that Iran turn over its supply of enriched uranium, while Iranian officials reject the demand as a nonstarter.

President Donald Trump on Sunday vowed once again to attack Iran's civilian infrastructure if a deal is not reached. In a post to Truth Social, Trump said the U.S. will "knock out every

single Power Plant, and every single Bridge, in Iran," adding "NO MORE MR. NICE GUY!"

Restoring commercial traffic in the Strait of Hormuz is a top priority for the U.S. and international community, which has seen a surge in fuel prices since Iran imposed shipping restrictions on the corridor.

But for now, the U.S. military is focused on imposing its own naval blockade, which aims to apply economic pressure on Iran by further restricting shipping through the strait.

On Sunday, U.S. forces aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Spruance intercepted the cargo ship M/V Touska after it ignored six hours of repeated warnings, according to CENTCOM.

U.S. forces then directed the crew to clear its engine room and fired several rounds from the destroyer's 5-inch Mk 45

gun into the ship.

CENTCOM on Monday released video footage of Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit seizing the Iranian-flagged Touska. The grainy footage shows Marines leaving the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli and rappelling from helicopters onto the vessel.

Meanwhile, there is continued uncertainty about the status of talks, which would be held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

U.S. officials said Vice President JD Vance will lead the U.S. delegation. But Tehran has not yet decided whether to attend, an Iranian spokesman said Monday, accusing the U.S. of showing a lack of seriousness when it comes to diplomacy, according to Tasnim.

If fighting resumes, it would mean more disruption to a region that is already reeling from conflict.

Renovated USS Kearsarge on display in Houston

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

HOUSTON — The tour groups moving through the USS Kearsarge as part of the city's first Fleet Week are getting a glimpse of the amphibious assault ship at its finest. The paint is near-perfect, the gym equipment brand new and the flight deck smooth and gleaming in the Texas sunshine.

The more than 30-year-old ship is about seven months out of dry dock at its home station of Norfolk, Va., where it received a nearly \$300 million renovation. It took about two years to complete and made the ship a more comfortable and efficient space

for sailors, while also enabling it to support the F-35B Lightning II, the Marine Corps' most modern fighter jet.

"There's things that have to be done because of the engines, the way the engine actually thrusts with a lot of exhaust down on the deck to do a vertical takeoff and landing," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle said.

The work was part of an ongoing Navy effort to upgrade all Wasp- and America-class ships, he said.

These amphibious warships are also known as landing helicopter dock (LHD) ships, or landing helicopter assault

(LHA) ships, and are designed to get Marines to the shore with a combination of aircraft and landing craft.

To accommodate the F-35, the Kearsarge and similar ships need to have the flight deck upgraded to materials that can handle the extreme heat created by the jet. The ships were initially built to support the AV-8 Harrier, an attack aircraft capable of vertical or short takeoff and landing.

As part of Fleet Week Houston, the first in a Texas city, the Kearsarge's flight deck did not include an F-35 for display. It instead held a training aircraft that sailors use to gain familiar-

ity with moving a jet in and out of the ship's hangar. It also had two landing craft, air cushion hovercraft on display in its well deck, which would be used to move personnel and vehicles to shore.

Outside of operations, the renovations touched nearly every aspect of sailor life — berthing, the galleys, the gym and even the addition of the Liberty Center, where sailors and Marines can play video games, watch movies and check out gear, such as fishing poles. The center was paid for through a grant and is managed by the ship's fun boss, a civilian who manages onboard recreation.

USS Gerald R. Ford again in Red Sea

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy—The aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford is operating in the Middle East following a nearly monthlong sojourn in the Mediterranean Sea.

Ford, along with the destroyers USS Winston S. Churchill and USS Mahan, left the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations late last week, a U.S. official confirmed to Stars and Stripes on Monday on condition of anonymity.

The carrier, with embarked Carrier Air Wing 8 and more than 4,500 sailors and personnel, transited the Suez Canal and now is operating in the Red Sea, USNI News reported Sunday, citing unidentified U.S. officials.

It wasn't clear when exactly Ford made the Suez Canal transit, which would put it in the U.S.

Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet operating area.

But on Thursday, an open-source intelligence analyst spotted a Navy P-8 Poseidon patrol and reconnaissance aircraft flying near the canal, saying it could indicate that Ford's transit was imminent.

Along with three destroyers and two supply ships, the carrier was spotted in the Eastern Mediterranean on April 13, presumably receiving an underway replenishment.

Ford's move into the Middle East comes after it set a record on Wednesday with 296 days on deployment. That broke the post-Vietnam War carrier deployment record of 295 days held by USS Abraham Lincoln.

Ford departed its homeport in Norfolk, Va., in late June for a routine deployment to Europe.

Since then, the carrier has operated in the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Red seas. It likely will go into a record-breaking 11th month of operations, the Navy's top official has said.

This is at least the second time Ford has been on duty in the Middle East during its current deployment.

In early March, Ford entered the Red Sea, continuing its role in Operation Epic Fury, the joint U.S.-Israel campaign against Iran.

On March 12, a fire broke out in the ship's main laundry areas, causing damage to multiple compartments and displacing some 600 personnel. Three sailors suffered injuries that were not life-threatening.

Ford then returned to Naval Support Activity Souda Bay on the Greek island of Crete on March 23 for an assessment and

repairs, including rehabilitation of seven berthing compartments.

The Navy has offered few details about the fire, which remains under investigation.

After a port visit to Split, Croatia, for scheduled maintenance and crew rest, Ford resumed operations April 3, remaining in the Mediterranean until last week.

Meanwhile, the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush, long expected to relieve Ford, was operating last week in waters off the south coast of Africa, presumably taking a lengthy route around the Cape of Good Hope as it heads for the Middle East.

Lincoln has been operating in the Middle East since January. Last week, the carrier was spotted in the Gulf of Oman in support of the U.S. blockade against Iran.

US strikes another alleged drug boat

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military continued its campaign against suspected narco-traffickers on Sunday, launching another strike on a boat in the Caribbean Sea that killed three people, U.S. Southern Command said.

The strikes, which began in early September, have killed at least 181 people in the Caribbean and the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

"Intelligence confirmed the vessel was transiting along known narco-trafficking routes in the Caribbean and was engaged in narco-trafficking operations," SOUTHCOM said in a statement.

SOUTHCOM posted an 11-

second video showing the strike. No U.S. forces were harmed in the operation.

Operation Southern Spear, the Pentagon's name for the campaign against drug trafficking in Latin America, continues despite the U.S. military's focus on the Middle East and the conflict with Iran. Sunday's strike was the fifth in eight days.

President Donald Trump's administration has asserted that the U.S. is in an "armed conflict" with cartels and will treat their members as "unlawful combatants." The administration, however, has offered little evidence to support its claims of killing "narcoterrorists."

Two soldiers hurt after bear incident during drill

Anchorage Daily News

A bear attacked and injured two soldiers who were participating in a training exercise in a remote location at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska on Thursday, military and state wildlife officials said Friday.

The U.S. Army 11th Airborne Division soldiers were hurt in the encounter with a brown bear while participating a "land navigation training event" at the base's Arctic Valley training area, Lt. Col. Jo Nederhoed, a public affairs officer for the division, said.

The military was withholding details about their condition pending notification of their next of kin, she said.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game officials said in a Friday af-

ternoon statement that the attack occurred in a remote area of the base with limited access, west of the Glenn Highway.

The timing of the encounter is unclear, though it appeared to have been a defensive attack from a bear that had recently emerged from its den, wildlife officials said.

The bear hadn't been located as of Friday, according to the Fish and Game statement.

While state wildlife officials said there wasn't an elevated risk of another bear encounter in that area given its location, JBER closed the area of the attack to recreation.

Both soldiers were carrying bear spray and used it during the encounter, officials said.

La. police: Man killed his own kids

*The Times-Picayune/
The New Orleans Advocate*

Some of the children killed in a Shreveport, La., mass shooting Sunday were shot execution style by their own father, Shreveport Police spokesperson Christopher Bordelon confirmed.

The shooting, which occurred in two houses, left eight children dead and two adult women wounded.

One of the women shot was the wife of the gunman, identified as Shamar Elkins, The Associated Press reported Monday. Elkins and his wife, identified by family members as Shaniequa Elkins, were separating and had been due in court Monday, Crystal Brown, a cousin of a woman shot in the attack, told AP.

Officials said the children — three boys and five girls — ranged in age from 3 to 11 years old. Another child jumped off the roof of the house and was expected to survive.

AP reported that the shooting erupted before dawn, when Elkins shot a woman at a home in a neighborhood south of downtown. He then went to the other house a few blocks away and began shooting the children, police said.

To fund DHS, Senate girds for budget vote-a-rama this week

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The Senate faces an expected budget vote-a-rama this week as Republicans seek to start the process of funding immigration enforcement without the support of Democrats.

A resolution from Senate Budget Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., is expected to provide instructions for roughly \$70 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection. That would allow the agencies to be funded for a minimum of three years, or through the end of President Donald Trump's term, without needing to go through the regular appropriations process.

Democrats have repeatedly expressed an unwillingness to fund the immigration agencies without significant operational reforms, and the Homeland Security Department is still partially shut down with no regular appropriations for the current fiscal year.

The decision to go forward with a budget resolution brings with it the scheduling

complication of a “vote-a-rama,” in which senators have a limited time for debate but can offer unlimited amendments to try to get colleagues on the record with politically difficult votes.

It's an arduous process that usually includes at least one all-night session. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., told reporters last week the plan was to try to craft the budget resolution in a way that the House can adopt it as-is, a procedural move that would prevent an additional vote-a-rama in the Senate.

“We're communicating as much as we can, making sure that we're syncing this up and doing it in the way that meets the requirements that both bodies have, and then also ... engaged, obviously, with the White House on all this too,” Thune said.

The process already requires at least two of the marathon voting sessions — one on a budget resolution and one on an eventual budget reconciliation bill — in order to get through to passage with a simple majority vote required.

“Anything we can do to avoid extra vote-a-ramas would be nice,” Thune said.

But the timing and sequencing may be further complicated this week because of the state of play on reauthorizing and updating controversial surveillance authorities.

Over the weekend Trump signed a short-term extension of the intelligence tools under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, but that only gives negotiators until the end of the month to come up with a longer plan after compromise efforts fell apart in the House last week.

Senate Intelligence Chairman Tom Cotton, R-Ark., last week introduced a three-year extension that could be the basis for the Senate's next move.

Meanwhile in the House, it's an energy and environment week on the House floor, where the key legislation includes a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act.

But much of the focus in the House will be at the committee level, where it's a big week for fiscal 2027 budget hearings and appropriations markups.

Calif. marijuana study affirms negative effect on youth

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — A new University of California San Diego study strengthens the growing body of evidence that marijuana use impacts adolescent brain development.

Researchers observed slower gains in cognitive tests that measured memory, focus and thinking speed among middle and high school-age kids who used cannabis when compared to those who abstained.

Scheduled for publication online Monday in the journal *Neu-*

ropsychopharmacology, the study analyzes how 11,000 kids across the nation enrolled in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study, a \$440 million effort that the National Institutes of Health calls “the largest long-term study of brain development and child health ever conducted in the United States.”

Annual testing started in 2016 when participants were 9 or 10 years old, finishing its initial decade-long collection period at 21 sites nationwide this fall.

A range of cognitive tests, re-

peated every other year, were chosen for their ability to stimulate the areas of the brain thought to be most affected by marijuana use in adolescence. Picture sequencing asks kids to sort images in the same order they were originally presented. Pattern comparison measures how quickly subjects can identify whether two pictures are identical. And another designed to measure verbal recall repeats a list of words five times, followed by a “distractor list, the original list, then a long delay.”

Whether or not they used cannabis, all kids showed progress as they moved from childhood toward adulthood.

But, the pace of improvement that researchers observed is somewhat slower for kids known to have used cannabis.

Natasha Wade, the study's lead author and a clinical neuropsychologist at UCSD, said there was enough difference to underline what has become standard advice for parents: Keeping kids away from the drug is wise during teen years and early adulthood.

Poll: Cuban Americans support US attack

Miami Herald

MIAMI — Cubans and Cuban Americans in South Florida overwhelmingly support U.S. military intervention in Cuba and reject negotiations between the Trump administration and the communist government that could result in anything other than regime change, according to a new poll conducted for the *Miami Herald*.

The survey asked 800 Cubans and Cuban Americans living in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe counties whether they would support a U.S. military intervention in Cuba geared at regime change, addressing the humanitarian situation on the island, or both — or if they reject any sort of military action.

A strong majority, 79%, said they support a military intervention, including 36% who said they would support military action to topple the government and 38% who said they would support an intervention to

change the regime and deal with the humanitarian crisis in Cuba.

At a time Americans are questioning the Trump administration's war on Iran, such a high level of support for an intervention surprised the pollsters.

"It might as well be 1961 once again," when Cuban exiles attempted to invade Cuba with U.S. support, said Fernand Amandi, an expert on the Cuban community and president of Bendixen & Amandi International, one of the two firms that conducted the poll for the *Herald*. "What the community is saying here is they're giving a green light to the Trump administration to go in militarily in Cuba and do whatever it is that they have to do to remove the regime."

The poll, conducted from April 6-10, surveyed 800 randomly selected Cubans and Cuban Americans living in South Florida.

Haydée Freire, one of the survey's respondents, arrived in the United States 20 years ago. She supports negotiations between the U.S. and Cuba — though not with the current Cuban government — because she said she desires genuine change on the island.

"I support military intervention, but I would not want to see bloodshed," said Freire, 76.

Another survey participant, Andrés Catalas, 57, said he believes military intervention is the only way to force the current government out of power because the regime holds the weapons and continues repression against opposition.

"I feel terrible about it, because the ones who will die are the young people currently serving in the military," said Catalas, who completed his own service in Cuba in the 1990s.

Military conscription is mandatory in Cuba for men over the age of 18, who undergo two years of military training.

The survey comes at an extraordinary moment in U.S. foreign policy, when President Donald Trump has embarked on military actions in Venezuela and Iran and has threatened to "take Cuba" and said that the island is "next."

The poll results also come amid a flurry of reporting about back-channel negotiations that have taken place between the U.S. and members of the Castro family and statements by Cuban leader Miguel Diaz-Canel rejecting political concessions.

The poll shows the Cuban American and Cuban exile community backs President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio on their handling of Cuba policy, blames the Cuban government for its profound economic crisis and has hardened its views, supporting extreme measures to end the regime in Havana and rejecting any negotiations that could open up the economy but leave the government in place.

China deploys warship for drills in Western Pacific

Bloomberg News

The Chinese navy is pushing beyond a chain of archipelagos to hold rare military drills that could be seen as a challenge to U.S. dominance in the Western Pacific.

The Chinese navy has dispatched a naval task group led by a Chinese warship to transit through the Yokoate Waterway and conduct training in the Western Pacific Ocean, according to a statement from the PLA's Eastern Theater Command on Sunday.

The excursion signals China's efforts in breaking through the first island chain, a string of Pacific archipelagos encompassing U.S. allies and partners including Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines, forming a key de-

fensive line aimed at containing Chinese maritime expansion.

The drills are designed to test the forces' far-seas operational capabilities, the statement said, adding that they are a routine training exercise and not directed at any specific country or target.

The move comes after the PLA Eastern Theater Command announced on Saturday it conducted joint naval and air readiness patrols aimed at testing joint naval and air capabilities in the East China Sea.

On Friday, China criticized the presence of a Japanese Self-Defense Forces vessel in the Taiwan Strait. At a press briefing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun described the move as "provocative."

Navy to hold outreach week events at national parks

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy on Thursday announced a week of outreach events at national parks across the country taking place in late April.

National Parks Navy Week will see sailors engage with communities via musical performances, demonstrations of Navy technology, service projects and other events from Sunday to April 26, the service said in a news release. The week will also connect ships with their namesake locations or communities.

Unlike most Navy Weeks, which focus on a single location, the National Parks week will take place in multiple areas. The national parks with a Navy Week event include:

- Hot Springs, in Arkansas
- Zion, in Utah
- Great Smoky Mountains, in North Carolina and Tennessee
- Olympic, in Washington state
- Mesa Verde, in Colorado
- Everglades, in Florida
- Cuyahoga Valley, in Ohio
- The National Mall, in Washington, D.C.

The week is part of the Navy's "Road Trip to 250," itself part of a military-wide effort to honor the United States' 250th birthday.

The Navy Week program began in 2005 and has served as the Navy's main mechanism for outreach into areas of the country without a significant Navy presence.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Trio damage cop vehicle after street-car takeover

NY NEW YORK — A brazen trio jumped on the hood of a marked New York Police Department vehicle, cracking its windshield after police responded to a massive car takeover early Saturday morning in Queens, officials said.

Police rushed to the scene of a drag-racing street takeover after multiple 911 calls around 1:50 a.m. As the officers arrived and turned on their patrol car flashing lights and sirens, the crowd of spectators and drivers dispersed.

But three unidentified individuals jumped on top of one of the police cars, cracking its windshield, police said.

The disorderly trio then hopped into a vehicle and fled.

Wild video of the car takeover shared on social media showed multiple cars doing tire-screaming donuts near a ring of fire on the street.

Sheriffs slammed after confusing 'Nancy' post

AZ TUCSON — The Pima County Sheriff's Department in Arizona is facing backlash not just for its investigation into Nancy Guthrie's abduction but for posting that it had found another elderly Nancy, leading many to believe it was the woman who's been missing for more than two months.

The department shared on X late Thursday, "Update: Nancy has been located," along with the word "LOCATED" stamped over the missing person's poster for Nancy Radakovich, which identified the 82-year-old as a vulnerable adult.

One user slammed the sheriff's office as "absolutely brain dead to not know people would think this was Nancy Guthrie, they even look alike."

Another asked why the department even identified the missing woman by just her first name: "Of all the posts you've made about a missing person being located ... you chose THIS ONE to use first name only?"

Colleges to pull sociology from general ed offerings

FL TAMPA — Saying the course promotes ideology, Florida's State Board of Education on Friday removed sociology from the list of general education offerings available at the state's 28 public colleges.

With its unanimous vote, the board directed trustees at the 23 schools that included sociology on their course lists for 2026-27 to remove them as soon as possible. Education Commissioner Anastasio Kamoutsas contended that the course has strayed from education into indoctrination, "pushing ideological narratives instead of fostering genuine critical thinking."

Thief targeted cemeteries in bone-robbing spree

PA PHILADELPHIA — Delaware County prosecutors on Friday expanded their already-sprawling case against Jonathan Christian Gerlach, filing new burglary charges tied to break-ins at cemeteries in Luzerne and Lancaster counties.

Gerlach, who was arrested in January, is charged with more than 500 offenses stemming from a series of break-ins in Mount Moriah Cemetery, which spans both Philadelphia

and Yeadon Borough.

He faces charges that include burglary, theft, abuse of a corpse, and related crimes.

Prosecutors have said Gerlach vandalized at least 26 mausoleums and underground vaults, pried open caskets, and stole more than 100 human bones and remains.

State: Preventing water crisis will cost \$174B

TX DALLAS — The cost of preventing a water crisis in Texas over the next half century has soared to \$174 billion, according to newly released official estimates.

The three-member Texas Water Development Board voted Thursday to publish an initial draft of the 2027 State Water plan, providing a glimpse into how the state would need to prepare for conditions during a drought of record — when demands are high and supplies are lowest.

The new total is more than double the previous \$80 billion price tag from a few years ago.

Planners said the significant increase in costs to implement the most-urgent projects was expected for a variety of reasons, including inflation in construction costs, extending the planning horizon to 2080, and lingering supply chain impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vet sentenced for threat over disrupted trans care

NC RALEIGH — A transgender man was sentenced to 13 months in federal prison earlier this month after threatening a mass shooting in Raleigh because he said he could not receive continued gender-affirming care.

Federal court documents refer to the person as Ashley Moore. Moore was undergoing treatment for gender dysphoria via the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Michigan before moving to North Carolina.

Moore did not immediately receive the same care after moving to Raleigh in the summer of 2025, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Eastern District of North Carolina.

"There will be a bloodbath in Raleigh come Monday," Moore wrote in an email to VA employees in South Carolina shortly after moving to Raleigh in the summer of 2025.

"Ending with my blood. My mass shooting will be the catalyst for the better treatment of veterans, especially LGBTQ veterans and I will be the FORCED martyr."

Ex-cop freed amid appeal on murder conviction

NY NEW YORK — A state appellate judge has ordered Sgt. Erik Duran released on \$300,000 bail as Duran fights his manslaughter conviction for killing a drug-deal suspect in the Bronx by hurling a heavy, ice-filled cooler at him, his union said Friday.

Several attorneys for the Sergeants Benevolent Association, including Andrew Quinn, Arthur Aidala, and Barry Kamins, a retired Criminal Court judge, secured the bail approval Friday morning.

"We are very pleased but not surprised that the Appellate Division found that there are legitimate appellate issues in Sgt. Duran's case," Aidala told the Daily News.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

SGA, Thunder trounce Suns in Game 1

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 25 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder began their title defense with a 119-84 rout of the Phoenix Suns in Game 1 of their first-round Western Conference playoff series Sunday.

The reigning league MVP made just 5 of 18 field goals, but went 15 of 17 at the foul line before sitting out the fourth quarter.

Jalen Williams scored 22 points and Chet Holmgren added 16 for top-seeded Oklahoma City, which will host Game 2 on Wednesday.

Devin Booker scored 23 points and Dillon Brooks scored 18 on 6-for-22 shooting for Phoenix, which shot 34.9% from the field.

The Suns broke out to a 5-0 lead as the Thunder started cold following a week off.

OKC heated up quickly. Brooks was called for a flagrant-one foul in the first quarter for hitting Holmgren in the face.

The Thunder went on a 12-2 surge after that to take a 24-14 lead.

Celtics 123, 76ers 91: Jayson Tatum had 25 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists in his first playoff game since rupturing his right Achilles tendon last season, and host Boston rolled past Philadelphia in Game 1 of the first-round series.

Jaylen Brown scored 26 points and Neemias Queta added 13 for the second-seeded Celtics.

Tatum scored 21 points in the first half, playing in just his 17th game this season after surgery last May to repair his Achilles tendon.

Boston never trailed, building a 35-point lead as coach Joe Mazzulla gave minutes to 12 players. Boston connected on 16 3-pointers.

Tyrese Maxey had 21 points and eight assists for the 76ers, who played without Joel Embiid. The 2023 MVP continues to recover following an appendectomy April 9. It's unclear when he will be able to return.

Paul George scored 17 points and V.J. Edgecombe added 13. Philadelphia was 4 of 23 from 3-point range.

Maxey was hounded by a Celtics defense that contested 12 of

his 14 shot attempts in the first half and held him to 8 of 20 from the field.

Philadelphia's 64-46 halftime deficit was its largest in a playoff game against Boston since 1982.

Spurs 111, Trail Blazers 98: Victor Wembanyama scored 35 points in his playoff debut and host San Antonio rolled to a victory over Portland in Game 1 of their first-round Western Conference playoff series.

Wembanyama's 21 first-half points set an NBA record for the most in the opening half of an NBA playoff debut since the league's play-by-play era began in 1997. His 35 total points set a Spurs franchise record for the most in a playoff debut, surpassing Tim Duncan's 32 in 1998.

Stephon Castle and De'Aaron Fox each added 17 points and combined for 15 assists for San Antonio.

Deni Avdija had 30 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Trail Blazers, who beat Phoenix 114-110 in Tuesday's play-in game to earn the No. 7 seed.

Scot Henderson, the No. 3 pick in the 2023 draft behind Wembanyama and Charlotte's

Brandon Miller, added 18 points.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in San Antonio before the series heads to Portland for Games 3 and 4.

Magic 112, Pistons 101: Paolo Banchero had 23 points, nine rebounds and four assists to lead eighth-seeded Orlando to a win over top-seeded Detroit in Game 1 of their first-round series, extending the longest home playoff losing streak in NBA history.

The Pistons have dropped 11 straight home games in the postseason, a drought that dates to 2008.

Detroit will get another chance against the Magic on Wednesday night in Game 2.

The Pistons' Cade Cunningham scored a playoff career-high 39 points and Tobias Harris added 17, but the rest of their teammates were quiet offensively.

Franz Wagner scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter to help seal the victory for Orlando, which never trailed. The Magic's Desmond Bane and Wendell Carter scored 17 points each and Jalen Suggs had 16.

49ers agree to 2-year, \$50M contract with tackle Williams

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers and star left tackle Trent Williams agreed Monday to a two-year, \$50 million contract that gives the team clarity about the future of one of its most important players before the NFL draft.

Williams' agency, Elite Loyalty Sports, announced the deal that includes \$37 million of fully guaranteed money and a \$22 million signing bonus. Williams had been owed about \$33 million this season in the final year of a three-year, \$82.3 million deal he had signed before the 2024 season before agreeing to the new contract.

San Francisco got the deal done on the first day of its offseason program and three days before the start of the draft. The 49ers have the 27th pick in the first round and had been linked to some tackles, but that could be less of a priority now that Williams is under contract for two more seasons.

Williams turns 38 in July but is still playing at a high level after making the Pro Bowl and earning second-team All-Pro honors.

San Francisco originally acquired Williams from Washington for a third and fifth-round pick during the 2020 draft and resigned him to a six-year, \$138.1

million contract the following offseason. The sides did a reworked three-year deal just before the start of the 2024 season after Williams held out of training camp.

There was much less drama this time around as the two sides came to the agreement before the start of the offseason program.

Williams is coming off his 12th Pro Bowl season — the most for any offensive tackle — and is two shy of tying Hall of Famer Bruce Matthews' record for any offensive lineman.

Williams made three straight All-Pro teams from 2021-23 be-

fore being hampered by injuries in 2024. He was healthy for most of last season, playing 16 games for the first time since 2013.

Williams' 40 pressures allowed last season were his most since his rookie season with Washington in 2010, according to Pro Football Focus, but he still remained one of the top left tackles in the game in both run and pass blocking.

The Niners have not drafted a tackle with a Day 1 or Day 2 draft pick since acquiring Williams, leaving them with no obvious succession plan for when Williams' tenure in San Francisco is finished.

O'Connor, Wedgewood help Avs beat Kings

Associated Press

DENVER — Logan O'Connor scored for the first time in more than a year, Scott Wedgewood stopped 24 shots in his first Stanley Cup playoffs start and the top-seeded Colorado Avalanche beat the Los Angeles Kings 2-1 in Game 1 on Sunday.

O'Connor's third-period tally was his first since Game 4 of a playoff series against Dallas on April 26. He missed most of this season with a hip injury. Artturi Lehkonen had a second-period goal for the Presidents' Trophy-winning Avalanche.

Wedgewood got the nod in net over Mackenzie Blackwood after leading the league in goals-against average and save percentage. Wedgewood made four career playoff appearances in relief before Sunday's start.

Game 2 is Tuesday in Denver. Artemi Panarin scored a pow-

er-play goal with 2:22 left to make it 2-1. Shortly after, forward Joel Armia was called for high-sticking and the Kings were unable to tie it up.

Anton Forsberg stopped 28 shots in his NHL postseason debut.

Sabres 4, Bruins 3: Mattias Samuelson scored with 3:24 left and host Buffalo overcame a two-goal deficit in the final eight minutes to beat Boston in the Sabres' first playoff game in 15 years.

Tage Thompson scored goals 3:42 apart to tie it, and Alex Tuch sealed the victory by scoring into an empty net with 1:12 left and nearly blowing the roof off the arena.

Buffalo hosts Game 2 of the first-round series Tuesday night.

The playoff win was Buffalo's first at home — and first overall — since a 1-0 victory over Phila-

delphia in Game 4 of a first-round series April 20, 2011. The Sabres proceeded to lose the series in seven games. The Sabres won their first Atlantic Division title this season and snapped an NHL-record 14-season playoff drought.

Golden Knights 4, Mammoth 2: Nic Dowd redirected Noah Hanifin's shot from the point to put host Vegas ahead at 7:20 of the third period and the Golden Knights beat Utah in Game 1 of their first-round series.

Game 2 is Tuesday in Las Vegas.

The Golden Knights, who twice trailed before scoring three third-period goals, have not lost in regulation since John Tortorella (8-0-1) took over as coach.

The Mammoth lost in the franchise's first playoff game since 2020. They are in their second

season in Utah after leaving Arizona.

Colton Sissons had a goal and assist for the Golden Knights and Mark Stone and Ivan Barbashev also scored. Carter Hart stopped 32 shots. Hanifin had two assists.

Canadiens 4, Lightning 3 (OT): Juraj Slafkovsky scored his third power-play goal 1:22 into overtime and visiting Montreal beat Tampa Bay in Game 1 of their first-round series.

Slafkovsky fired a slap shot from the left circle that beat Andrei Vasilevskiy to the far side for the hat trick.

Game 2 is Tuesday at Benchmark International Arena, where Tampa Bay has lost eight of its last nine home games in the postseason.

Josh Anderson also had a goal for Montreal and rookie goalie Jakub Dobes made 20 saves.

Reddick tops Larson in OT for 5th Cup win of season

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — NASCAR driver Tyler Reddick is riding the kind of Cup Series hot streak that Michael Jordan once enjoyed in his playing days.

Oh, you can bet the NBA Hall of Famer is enjoying this one, too.

Reddick roared by Kyle Larson on the final lap of overtime to win at Kansas Speedway on Sunday, becoming the fourth driver to win five of the first nine races in NASCAR's top series in a season. Chase Briscoe wound up third while Denny Hamlin, who co-owns 23XI Racing along with Jordan, had to watch from fourth as his driver reached victory lane yet again.

"This kid is on fire. I don't know what to say. I don't think I can cool him down," Jordan said. "When you win it's always fun, and right now it's fun for everybody at 23XI. Me being here and being able to see all the wins, I am so happy for the team."

All four of the 23XI cars finished in the top 15 on a banner day for the team.

Sunday's race had been caution-free except for stage breaks until Cody Ware spun as the white flag was about to fly.

Hamlin was leading at that point, and it looked as if he was about to win his record-

extending fifth race at Kansas. Instead, all of the leaders had to pit, and even though Hamlin beat Reddick off pit road, the field was bunched up for the overtime restart.

Larson, trying to end a 32-race winless streak, lined up behind Hamlin on the inside, and he launched to the lead when the green flag flew. Chaos ensued behind them as Christopher Bell bounced off Reddick and Hamlin and the No. 5 car began to pull away.

Reddick came charging down the backstretch on the final lap, though, and he pulled alongside Larson as they went through the final corners. The No. 45 edged ahead as the checkered flag flew, and Jordan began to pump his fist in the pits in celebration.

The last driver to win five of the first nine Cup Series races was Dale Earnhardt in 1987.

Hamlin was happy Reddick won again. But it came at his expense, and he was decidedly unhappy about that. Asked of his frustration level, Hamlin replied: "Obviously it's not winning. It's Cody Ware, six laps down, wrecking. I don't know. Add it up."

Larson, the defending race winner, said his car's balance was off after taking two tires on the final stop, leaving him on the podium for the third time without a win this season. Briscoe and Hamlin were followed across by an-

other 23XI driver, Bubba Wallace.

"It was good execution for the restart there," Larson said. "I got to the lead and I thought I could cruise right there to the checkered."

Except that Reddick is the only one who seems to be doing that these days. Even when he doesn't win, he's had his Toyota running up front. He was fourth last week at Bristol and has been in the top 15 in every start this season.

He's a big reason Toyota is the first manufacturer since Chevrolet in 2007 to win seven of the first nine races in a season.

Stage winners

Hamlin won the first stage, giving him three consecutive stage wins at Kansas going back to last fall and eight for his career. Larson snapped the streak in Stage 2 with his third stage win of the season.

Wrong way AJ

Ryan Blaney was accelerating out of his pit box during the first stage when he got into the rear of AJ Allmendinger, who was trying to pit, sending him into a half-spin. It took Allmendinger a while to get straightened out, putting him several laps down.

Surging Braves sweep slumping Phillies

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Michael Harris II homered and had three hits as the streaking Atlanta Braves defeated the slumping Philadelphia Phillies 4-2 on Sunday night to complete a three-game sweep of their NL East rivals.

Ozzie Albies hit an RBI double and Austin Riley also drove in a run for Atlanta, which has won five in a row and nine of 11. It was the Braves' first series sweep of at least three games at Philadelphia in 10 years.

Kyle Schwarber went deep for the Phillies, who have lost five straight and 10 of 13. They were outscored 56-33 on a 2-7 homestand against Arizona, the Chicago Cubs and Atlanta, leaving Philadelphia 6½ games behind the first-place Braves in the division standings.

Raisel Iglesias escaped trouble in the ninth inning for his fifth save. The Phillies put runners on first and second with one out, but Trea Turner struck out and Schwarber lined out to right field on an excellent running catch by Ronald Acuña Jr.

Cardinals 7, Astros 5 (10): Masyn Winn cleared the bases with a double down the third base line, and visiting St. Louis won its fifth straight game, beating Houston.

The Astros had the tying run on in the bottom of the 10th, but Christian Walker grounded into a fielder's choice for the final out.

It's the Cardinals' first sweep of a three-game series in Houston since April 20-22, 2004. They are 5-0 in games decided in extra innings.

Reds 7, Twins 4 (10): TJ Friedl hit a go-ahead, three-run double in the ninth inning, Rece Hinds added a two-run double in the 10th and visiting Cincinnati rallied past Minnesota for a three-game sweep.

The Reds scored six runs over the final two innings to win their third extra-inning game this season, matching their total from 2025.

Austin Martin tied it in the bottom half of the ninth with an RBI double against Emilio Pagan (2-0), who blew a save for the second time this season.

Cubs 2, Mets 1 (10): Nico Hoerner hit a sacrifice fly off Craig Kimbrel in the 10th inning, and host Chicago sent New York to its 11th consecutive loss by rallying for a victory.

Pinch-hitter Michael Conforto tied it for the Cubs in the ninth with an RBI double off closer Devin Williams.

It's the longest losing streak for the Mets since they also dropped 11 in a row from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8 in 2004. They have been outscored 62-19 during the slide, and they are averaging just 2.9 runs over 17 games in April.

Nationals 3, Giants 0: Curtis Mead hit a two-run homer, Andrew Alvarez (1-0) worked 4½ sharp innings in relief and host Washington beat San Francisco to avoid a three-game sweep.

Keibert Ruiz had a run-scoring double and a single for the Nationals, who earned their first shutout since Sept. 1, 2025 against Miami. The Giants were blanked for the fourth time this season.

Pirates 6, Rays 3: Bryan Reynolds drove in three runs, Mitch Keller (2-1) pitched seven strong innings and host Pittsburgh defeated Tampa Bay.

Reynolds' two-run single to left field capped a three-run fifth and put the Pirates ahead 4-2. The hit came after Nick Gonzales' tying single drove in Joey Bart, who hit a leadoff double.

Yankees 7, Royals 0: Aaron Judge hit a two-run homer in the first inning, Ben Rice went deep for the fourth straight game in the second and host New York beat reeling Kansas City to complete a three-game sweep following a long rain delay.

Ryan Weathers (1-2) bounced back from allowing four homers to the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday and permitted five hits

in 7½ innings for his first win with the Yankees. The left-hander struck out eight and walked one.

Guardians 8, Orioles 4: José Ramírez homered twice, Brayan Rocchio had three hits and three RBIs, and host Cleveland beat Baltimore to take three of four.

Ramírez went deep in the fourth and fifth innings off Trevor Rogers (2-2), increasing his franchise record for multi-homer games to 28. He also moved past Earl Averill into second place in team history with 138 home runs at home.

Marlins 5, Brewers 3: Eury Pérez allowed three hits in six strong innings after host Miami dinged Jacob Misiorowski for three runs in the first, and the Marlins beat Milwaukee.

Pérez (2-1) yielded an unearned run and a walk, striking out seven to help Miami snap a four-game skid, avoid a series sweep and win for the second time in nine games.

Rockies 9, Dodgers 6: Mickey Moniak hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the seventh, and host Colorado held on to give Los Angeles its first losing streak of the season.

Shohei Ohtani doubled twice to extend his on-base streak to 51 games, and Ryan Ward had two hits and an RBI in his major league debut.

White Sox 7, Athletics 4: Rookie Munetaka Murakami and Miguel Vargas hit two of Chicago's four homers off Jeffrey Springs, and rookie Noah Schultz allowed one hit in five innings for his first major league win as the visiting White Sox beat the Athletics.

Making his second career start, Schultz (1-1) gave up Darel Hernaiz's solo home run in the second inning. The left-hander struck out six and walked one in the rubber game of the series.

Padres 2, Angels 1: Mason Miller closed out a combined two-hitter for visiting San Die-

go to extend his scoreless streak to 32½ innings, and the Padres got RBI singles Sunday from Xander Bogaerts and Bryce Johnson in a victory over Los Angeles.

Michael King (3-1) allowed one hit over five shutout innings, striking out six and walking four while working through traffic. Ron Marinaccio, Kyle Hart, Bradgley Rodriguez and Miller held down the Angels the rest of the way.

Mariners 5, Rangers 2: Bryan Woo (1-2) pitched seven strong innings, Rob Refsnyder homered on the first pitch of the bottom of the first and host Seattle topped Texas.

J.P. Crawford and Randy Arozarena each hit two-run homers for the Mariners, who won for the second consecutive day to take two of three in the series after losing their previous four games.

Blue Jays 10, Diamondbacks 4: Kazuma Okamoto hit a solo homer and had three RBIs, Nathan Lukes added a three-run double and visiting Toronto used an eight-run first inning to cruise past Arizona for a victory that prevented a three-game sweep.

The first eight Blue Jays batters reached base on five singles, two doubles and a walk. Ryne Nelson (1-2) finally struck out Brandon Valenzuela, but Lukes followed with a bases-clearing double for an 8-0 lead, ending Nelson's day after only 30 pitches.

Tigers 6, Red Sox 2: Dillon Dingler hit a three-run homer during Detroit's four-run fifth inning against Boston's struggling ace Garrett Crochet, leading the Tigers over the Red Sox at chilly and rainy Fenway Park.

Dingler also had an RBI double off Crochet in the first inning and had four hits overall, helping Detroit to its eighth win in nine games a day after it halted its longest road losing streak in 16 years.