

Carrier leaves Tokyo Bay for Indo-Pac patrol

By ALEX WILSON
AND JONATHAN BAEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The aircraft carrier USS George Washington steamed out of Tokyo Bay on Saturday to start its second Indo-Pacific patrol since returning to the home of the U.S. 7th Fleet in 2024.

The carrier departed around 2 p.m. without fanfare, though about 70 family members gathered along the base's shoreline to wave goodbye to their loved ones. The ship was initially slated to leave Friday, according to announcements posted on the Yokosuka city government's website.

For Jennifer Belviy and her children, it was a chance for one last wave goodbye to her husband, Cmdr. Jeremy Blanchette, a cryptologic warfare officer with Task Force 70.

"We're definitely going to miss him, but we're looking forward to seeing him again soon," she said at the shoreline.

Ship spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Mark Langford confirmed the George Washington was underway for routine operations in the Indo-Pacific.

"Sailors were afforded time with loved ones so that we can now remain focused on safe operations at sea," he wrote in an email about three hours after the carrier left port.

The carrier's Memorial Day weekend departure came about one week after a brief underway period, likely for sea trials, May 10-17.

Seventh Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Matthew Comer declined on May 12 to confirm whether that initial departure was a training period, citing operational security, but said "U.S. Pacific Fleet forces con-

tinuously operate at sea to sharpen our Sailors' warfighting edge."

Carrier Air Wing 5, the ship's aviation component, concluded 10 days of field carrier landing practice on May 17.

The aircraft and their crews, based at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni near Hiroshima, typically join the George Washington at sea.

The carrier's departure Saturday signaled the start of an approximately six-month patrol, which typically includes a brief return to Yokosuka around the halfway point for rest, repair and resupply.

During its 2025 deployment between June and December, the George Washington made port calls on Guam, South Korea and the Philippines and participated in a variety of training, including Talisman Sabre in Australia.

The carrier's mid-deployment stop in October coincided with President Donald Trump's tour of Asia.

He addressed U.S. and Japanese troops from the ship's hangar bay alongside Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takachi.

This year's patrol begins as the Navy faces operational strain from the war with Iran.

Two aircraft carriers — the USS Abraham Lincoln and USS George H.W. Bush — and the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli are operating near the Arabian Sea, according to USNI's May 18 Fleet Tracker.

The aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford returned May 16 to Naval Station Norfolk, Va., from the Middle East, concluding a 326-day deployment that included Operation Epic Fury and patrols in the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Red seas.

Democrats renew push to prevent action against Cuba

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — A trio of Senate Democrats is trying again to rein in President Donald Trump's ability to order military action against Cuba.

Sens. Tim Kaine, D-Va., Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., have introduced a war powers resolution that would direct Trump to "remove the United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Cuba, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or a specific authorization for use of military force," according to draft bill text.

The resolution comes after the Trump administration unveiled a criminal indictment against former Cuban President Raúl Castro, which Democrats fear could

be a pretext for military action, in the same way the administration used criminal charges against Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro as justification for a military raid there.

It also comes on the heels of Senate Democrats notching a procedural win on their months-long effort to end the war in Iran through a war powers resolution tailored to that country.

"The last thing that our country needs right now is a regime change war in Cuba based on imaginary threats to the homeland that would devastate the Cuban people and generate a man-made migration crisis," Kaine said in a statement. "As President Trump continues to threaten Cuba with direct military action, we

will continue to give our Senate colleague every opportunity to stop the chaos."

Under the 1973 War Powers Resolution, Kaine, Schiff and Gallego will be able to force an initial procedural vote on their measure after 10 days. The same trio previously introduced a Cuba war powers resolution in March, but Republicans successfully derailed the measure.

In April, Republicans raised a point of order that the resolution was not entitled to privileged status under the War Powers Resolution since U.S. troops aren't actively engaged in combat against Cuba. The point of order was sustained in a mostly party-line vote of 51-47.

Since then, though, the Trump

administration has intensified its threats against Cuba.

On Wednesday, federal prosecutors charged Castro, the 95-year-old brother of longtime Cuban leader Fidel Castro who served as defense minister for decades, with ordering the 1996 downing of civilian planes that killed four Cuban Americans.

U.S. Southern Command also announced Wednesday that the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz and its associated strike group had entered the Caribbean Sea. The Nimitz had been participating in exercises with Brazil and is now in the process of transiting to Virginia for decommissioning, but the public announcement of its arrival in the Caribbean raised eyebrows amid the Cuba tensions.

EUCOM honors the fallen, US-Europe bond

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

HENRI-CHAPELLE, Belgium — Americans honoring their war dead should also remember the enduring bond between the United States and Europe, the head of U.S. European Command said Saturday at a Memorial Day ceremony in eastern Belgium.

Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich, speaking at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, said U.S. history “is not just our history.”

“We share a common past, one that unified free peoples on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean to defeat tyranny,” Grynkeiwich said. “That past and that history still connects us today.”

Grynkeiwich, an Air Force four-star general who also serves as NATO supreme allied commander Europe, was among several American and Belgian officials who spoke at the cemetery, where nearly 8,000 Americans killed in World

War II are buried.

Some 20,000 Americans were killed in the Battle of the Bulge, one of the deadliest battles for Americans during the war, which was fought in Belgium and neighboring Luxembourg.

More than 1,000 Americans also were killed in Belgium during World War I.

“As we remember the American service members laid to rest here on Belgian soil, we should also reflect on our trans-Atlantic bond,” Grynkeiwich said, describing the bond as “unbreakable.”

Grynkeiwich’s remarks came amid uncertainty in Europe about the future U.S. military posture on the Continent.

President Donald Trump recently said thousands of American troops would be withdrawn from Germany.

However, on Thursday, he announced on his Truth Social website that an additional 5,000 troops would be sent to Poland, to the surprise of Polish officials.

The families of 15 service members buried at the Henri-Chapelle cemetery attended Saturday’s ceremony, along with one family whose relative was later repatriated to the United States.

The cemetery is the final resting place for Americans who died during two major campaigns: the U.S. First Army’s advance in September 1944 through northern France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg into Germany, and the Battle of the Bulge.

“To all of them, to those who lie here, and to those who never came home, we say: ‘Belgium will never forget,’ ” Gen. Frederik Vansina, Belgium’s chief of defense, told attendees. “We remember not only their sacrifice, but the values for which they stood: freedom, democracy, and solidarity among nations.”

“It is our duty not only to remember, but to be worthy of their sacrifice,” Vansina added.

Senators: Repair limits hurt readiness and waste money

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

Democratic and Republican senators are renewing a bipartisan push to give U.S. troops broader authority to repair their own military equipment, arguing the current system hurts combat capability and wastes taxpayer money.

In a May 19 letter to leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services committees, Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Tim Sheehy, R-Mont., urged Congress to include the Warrior Right to Repair Act in the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act, the latest version of an annual bill that outlines defense priorities and spending.

The proposal would require defense contractors to provide the Pentagon with technical data and materials needed for

troops and military maintenance units to repair equipment without relying as heavily on outside companies.

In their letter, Warren and Sheehy cited several examples of contracting restrictions they said caused delays in repairs and increased costs.

For instance, they cited a report showing how the Navy had to spend thousands of dollars to fly in a contractor from Norway to change two fuses on a search-and-rescue boat and how the Air Force paid \$900 per page for updates to some contractor-owned maintenance manuals.

“We write with concern about the ability of our service members to repair their own equipment quickly and securely,” the senators wrote, adding that limits on repair rights affect military readiness, service members’ skills and maintenance costs.

New charges added against former Fort Hood OB-GYN

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Army prosecutors on Wednesday filed new charges against an Army physician accused of secretly recording OB-GYN examinations of nearly 100 women while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, and other installations, service officials said.

Prosecutors added more than 100 new specifications of Uniform Code of Military Justice violations against Maj. Blaine McGraw, who has been suspended from practicing since before he was first charged with crimes in December. McGraw, 48, now faces 273 counts.

Those include 92 counts of sexual abuse and assault; 92 counts of assault consummated by battery; one count of attempted sexual assault; 66 counts of indecent recording; 18 counts of conduct unbecoming;

one count of extramarital sexual misconduct; one count of attempted subornation by perjury; one count of willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer; and one count of dereliction of duty, according to the Office of Special Trial Counsel, which is prosecuting the case.

Prosecutors said the charges include 96 alleged victims — up from 73 when the Army last levied new charges against McGraw in April. He was initially charged with violations against 44 women in December after alleged victims first reported abuse in October.

The new charges for the first time include allegations he violated female patients while stationed in Hawaii before his time at Fort Hood.

McGraw is expected in court at Fort Hood this week to review the charges against him.

Secret Service kills man who opened fire

Bloomberg News

A man was shot by U.S. Secret Service agents near the White House on Saturday after he opened fire with a handgun, according to a statement from the agency.

The man had been pacing along the street for some time before he approached a police checkpoint, pulled a pistol from his bag and began firing indiscriminately, said a person familiar with the matter who was granted anonymity to describe a sensitive investigation.

Officers returned fire, striking the suspect, who was taken to an area hospital, where he later died, the Secret Service said in the statement.

A bystander was also struck during the shooting. It wasn't clear whether the person was hit by the suspect's initial gunfire

or in the exchange that followed.

The suspect was identified as 21-year-old Nasire Best, according to the person.

He had a previous encounter with authorities near the White House in July 2025, when he was arrested for unlawful entry after walking into a restricted area at a pedestrian checkpoint, court records show.

He had been involuntarily held for a mental assessment by the authorities weeks earlier, in June 2025, after obstructing a vehicle entrance to the White House complex, according to the records.

The shooting occurred near 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, outside the White House complex.

Reporters were hustled off the White House lawn and into the building as the

campus was briefly locked down.

More than two hours before the incident, White House Communications Director Steven Cheung posted that President Donald Trump was in the executive mansion.

Trump was the only Secret Service protectee at the White House at the time of the shooting, the person said.

FBI Director Kash Patel posted on X that his agency is also assisting the Secret Service.

Saturday's incident comes a little under a month after federal agents arrested a man at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner for attempting to assassinate Trump.

The suspect attempted to charge through a security checkpoint with firearms.

Chemical tank in Calif. at risk of exploding

The Orange County Register

California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in Orange County early Saturday afternoon as the temperature inside a malfunctioning chemical storage tank in Garden Grove rose to dangerous levels while crews attempted to head off a disastrous explosion and tens of thousands of residents remained under evacuation orders.

Crews who "put themselves in harm's way" overnight realized that the interior temperature of the tank — which authorities previously believed had been dropping — was not actually cooling, officials said.

That left fire officials on Saturday morning still racing to find an "out of the box" solution to the compromised tank at GKN Aerospace in Garden Grove, amid dire predictions that it could either explode — potentially unleashing a fireball and chemical plume — or crack as 7,000 gallons of chemicals pour out.

Officials did express hope of another option that would allow their current strategy — dousing

the tank with water — to slow a potential chemical reaction that would ignite an explosion.

Meanwhile, officials said around 50,000 people in portions of six cities — Garden Grove, Stanton, Westminster, Cypress, Buena Park and Anaheim — along with unincorporated county land were under evacuation orders by mid-Saturday.

Orange County Fire Authority crews first responded to GKN Aerospace on Thursday afternoon, following reports that an overheated tank had begun venting vapors. Firefighters sprayed the tank down with water to cool the chemical in the tank — methyl methacrylate, a toxic and highly flammable liquid chemical.

On Friday, worsening conditions forced authorities to set up a roughly one-mile buffer around the tank. Fire officials on Friday offered a bleak assessment: The tank would fail and spill 7,000 gallons of "very bad chemicals" into a parking lot. Or the tank would go into "thermal runaway" and blow up, a more dire scenario.

Gabbard to resign post as spy chief

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, whose anti-war views spurred tension with the White House, said she was resigning from the post to help her husband confront a bone-cancer diagnosis.

Gabbard notified President Donald Trump during an Oval Office meeting of her decision and her last day is expected to be June 30, she said in a resignation letter she posted to social media.

"My husband, Abraham, has recently been diagnosed with an extremely rare form of bone cancer," Gabbard said in the letter. She said her office had made significant progress "advancing unprecedented transparency and restoring integrity to the intelligence community."

Gabbard, a long-time skeptic of American involvement in overseas wars, had seemed increasingly out of step with the White House as Trump launched two military campaigns against Iran and ordered a raid to capture Venezuela's

president, Nicolas Maduro. She had been cut out of months of planning for the mission to seize Maduro, people familiar with the matter said at the time.

Her exclusion from meetings became so well-known that some White House aides joked that the acronym of her title, DNI, stood for "Do Not Invite," the people said.

As Director of National Intelligence, Gabbard oversaw the nation's 18 intelligence agencies. But she had taken a back seat to CIA Director John Ratcliffe, who played a prominent public role in the decision to oust Maduro and flew to Cuba this month for meetings with government leaders.

"Tulsi has done an incredible job, and we will miss her," Trump said in a social media post.

He said her deputy, Aaron Lukas, would take over in an acting capacity.

Gabbard, 45, is a veteran of the Iraq War who continues to serve as an officer in the Army Reserve.

US approves \$108M sale for Ukraine air defense

By PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

The United States has approved a potential \$108.1 million foreign military sale to Ukraine to help sustain the country's HAWK air defense systems, the State Department announced.

The HAWK, or Homing All the Way Killer, is a U.S.-made medium-range air defense system that Ukraine has used to defend against Russian missile and drone attacks.

The proposed package is intended to keep the systems in operation by providing equipment and services, including spare parts and technical, software and contractor engineering support, the State Department said in a statement Thursday.

"This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and na-

tional security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political and economic stability in Europe," the State Department said.

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of the proposed sale, which must still be approved before it can proceed.

The principal contractor will be Sierra Nevada Corp. of Englewood, Colo.

More than four years after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, fighting continues with both sides regularly launching long-range drone and missile strikes.

Kyiv came under a massive Russian drone and missile attack Sunday, Ukrainian authorities said, hours after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the U.S. Embassy warned of an im-

minent strike, Bloomberg News reported.

Zelenskyy said Sunday that Russia used the powerful hypersonic Oreshnik ballistic missile during the attack, The Associated Press reported.

Authorities in the capital said missile debris fell in at least three city districts, damaging mostly residential houses and vehicles.

At least one person was injured, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram.

Zelenskyy said on social media earlier that Ukraine received intelligence, including from U.S. and European partners, that Russia was preparing a ballistic missile attack on Ukraine.

The Trump administration temporarily paused military aid and intelligence sharing with Ukraine in March 2025 while reviewing its policy toward the

war, though some assistance later resumed and the U.S. has continued approving certain military support packages for Kyiv, according to Reuters.

The U.S. began shipping HAWK interceptors to Ukraine in 2022, Reuters reported. In 2024, the State Department approved a \$138 million package for HAWK sustainment and upgrades, including missile recertification, refurbishment work and spare parts.

Washington has provided more than \$66 billion in defense articles and services to Kyiv between the start of the invasion and December 2025, according to the latest figures posted on the website of the Special Inspector General for Operation Atlantic Resolve, a U.S. European Command military operation aimed at deterring Russia and reassuring NATO allies in eastern Europe.

Building in Philippines collapses; at least 1 dead

Staff and wire reports

A nine-story building under construction in a city north of the Philippine capital collapsed before dawn Sunday, leaving at least one Malaysian tourist dead and at least 21 mostly workers trapped in the rubble, officials said.

Two were located alive but could not be immediately extricated.

At least 24 workers either managed to dash out of the building, where they mostly slept on the ground floor, or were rescued after it crumbled around 2:30 a.m. in a crowded neighborhood of budget hotels, cafes, spas and rural houses outside what was once an active U.S. Air Force base, officials said.

A Malaysian tourist died and another guest was injured in a lodging house, which was partly

hit by debris from the collapsing building in Angeles City in Pampanga province, Fire Superintendent Maria Lea Sajili said.

Nearly 200 police officers were helping in the rescue, which would proceed overnight "until all are accounted for," regional police director Brig. Gen. Jess Mendez said.

Angeles City hosted one of the largest U.S. Air Force bases outside of the American mainland until it closed in the early 1990s, helping develop Angeles and outlying cities and towns into entertainment and commercial hubs in the main northern Philippine region of Luzon.

The former American air base, which is now a bustling industrial and tourism enclave called the Clark Freeport Zone, lies about about 50 miles north of Manila.

Ebola outruns containment as contact tracing falters

Bloomberg News

Ebola is spreading faster than responders can track it in eastern Congo, where health workers managed to follow up with barely one in five identified contacts in a single day.

Authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo reported 83 confirmed infections, more than 900 suspected cases and 1,603 identified contacts as of Thursday, according to the health ministry. Yet health workers were able to follow up with only 342 contacts that day — about 21% of the total under monitoring — according to ministry data released Friday.

The figures suggest the response is falling behind the outbreak itself, even as governments and international agencies ramp up emergency measures after the World Health Organization declared the epi-

demic a public health emergency May 17.

The outbreak has now spread across three provinces including South Kivu, where officials confirmed a case this week near Bukavu, a major city near Congo's border with Rwanda.

Uganda on Saturday confirmed three additional Ebola cases tied to earlier infections, including a health worker, as authorities struggle to contain regional spread.

The epidemic is unfolding in "one of the most challenging operational environments possible," the WHO's emergency committee said Friday.

Ebola treatment tents run by the aid group Alima were set on fire during the unrest, and six patients fled the facility, including three confirmed Ebola cases, according to reports from the area.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Screens would be banned until second grade

CA LOS ANGELES — Computers — and all other digital screens — would be banned for Los Angeles public school students until second grade, according to a draft plan to limit screen time.

The ban would start at the beginning of the school year this fall. Older students would see screen-time limitations phased in over the 2026-27 school year.

One reason for the delay is that the district wants to develop a way to monitor how much technology students are using, Chief Academic Officer Frances Baez said at Tuesday's Los Angeles Unified school board meeting.

The plan wouldn't change district policy on students' personal cellphones, because their use already is prohibited on campus.

For grades two through five, screen-time limits would begin in November; middle and high schools in January 2027.

The initiative represents a hard turn from decades of movement toward increasing online instruction, as district leaders formerly prioritized getting computers into the hands of every student every day, at home and on campus.

Woman died of trauma, heat in manhole mishap

NY NEW YORK — Dornika Gocaj, the 56-year-old woman who was killed falling into an open manhole in Midtown Manhattan, died as a result of the intense heat inside the manhole beneath the streets and trauma from the fall, ac-

ording to the city's medical examiner.

An autopsy revealed Gocaj's cause of death as a combination of scald burns with inhalational thermal injury and blunt force trauma of the torso, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner said Wednesday.

The Briarcliff Manor resident had just parked her Mercedes-Benz SUV before stepping out of her vehicle around 11:20 p.m. and into the open manhole a moment later, cops said.

Con Edison said in a statement that it was still investigating, but that it appears a heavy truck rolling over the manhole cover may have dislodged it.

18 bodies found in hidden room at mortuary ID'd

CO PUEBLO — State investigators now know the names of 18 people whose remains were left to decompose in a hidden back room of a Pueblo mortuary for over a decade.

All of the remains identified from Davis Mortuary so far are from people who died between 2010 and 2012, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation said in a news release.

The remains of six people are still unidentified, and investigators continue to use forensic genetic genealogy — working with a private lab to match DNA to public databases and find distant relatives — to try to identify them, a necessity because of the lack of mortuary records, the poor condition of the remains and degraded DNA.

The CBI is still investigating “multiple containers of bones, cremains and probable human tissue representing an unknown number of deceased individu-

als” that were also found at the mortuary.

Drug-laced ‘candy’ found at school; parents jailed

MN MOORHEAD — Charges could come this week for Moorhead parents whose child allegedly brought suspected recreational drugs from home to middle school, where several youngsters fell ill from what was described as candy.

The incident on May 18 at Horizon Middle School East led to police searching the couple's home the next day and arresting them.

The 40-year-old father and 43-year-old mother remain jailed on May 21 on suspicion of illegal drug possession.

Horizon East Principal Spencer Stowers sent a message to families saying one of his students “allegedly shared candy with approximately 10 classmates. Shortly after consuming it, some students began feeling nauseous. ... After being assessed by emergency medical personnel on-site, two students required transportation to a medical facility.”

Researchers identify new ancient marine species

TX DALLAS — As the saying goes, everything's bigger in Texas — it just so happens that applies to ancient marine lizards, too.

On Thursday, researchers at the American Museum of Natural History, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science and Southern Methodist University announced they have identified a school-bus-sized lizard that

once prowled the seas above North Texas. The research team detailed its findings in a study published in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History.

The species, called *Tylosaurus rex*, is a mosasaur, or a marine reptile that lived alongside dinosaurs.

This “*T. rex* of the sea” ranged from 25 to 45 feet long and was one of the later kinds of mosasaurs.

Originally classified as *Tylosaurus proriger*, another mosasaur, the new species is distinguished by its serrated, steak knife-type teeth, a larger body and significantly stronger musculature, as evidenced by enlarged attachment sites on the fossil for larger and more powerful jaw and neck muscles.

US hurricane season forecast is ‘below normal’

FL MIAMI — The 2026 Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be “below normal,” largely due to an El Niño weather pattern, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

NOAA's hurricane season outlook, released Thursday, forecasts 8 to 14 named storms, including three to six hurricanes and one to three major hurricanes.

Forecasters say there's a 55% chance of a below-normal season, a 35% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of an above-normal season.

An average season has 14 named storms with seven hurricanes, including three major hurricanes, according to NOAA.

Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends Nov. 30.

— From wire reports



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Knicks near sweep with win over Cavaliers

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Jalen Brunson scored 30 points, Mikal Bridges added 22 and the New York Knicks moved within one game of their first NBA Finals appearance since 1999 with a 121-108 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Saturday night.

New York can wrap up the Eastern Conference Finals and sweep its second straight series with a win Monday night. Knicks fans — who were boisterous throughout the night — were chanting “Knicks in four!” as the final seconds of Game 3 ticked away.

New York is the seventh team in NBA history to win at least 10 straight during a postseason run. The last team to do it was Boston, which went on a 10-game run on its way to the 2024 title. Cleveland, San Antonio and the Los Angeles Lakers have done it twice.

All but one of the Knicks’ wins have been by double digits, with an average margin of victory of 22.5 points.

“We’ve just have to keep our mind on the task at hand. The game is over and we found a way to win. We have to execute at a high level in Game 4,” said Karl Anthony-Towns, who had 13 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

OG Anunoby had 21 points as New York led the entire game. The Knicks not only made 55.8% of their shots from the field, they also had 11 3-pointers and were 24-for-27 from the foul line.

Evan Mobley scored 24 points, Donovan Mitchell had 23 points and James Harden added 19 for the Cavaliers. They were 12 of 41 on 3-pointers and 12 of 19 from the foul line.

Not even an appearance by the superstar couple of Taylor Swift and Cleveland Heights native Travis Kelce could spur the

Cavs to beat New York.

“I think their physicality and energy, we couldn’t get to that level to combat it,” Cleveland coach Kenny Atkinson said. “They’re on a hell of a run. We haven’t been able to stop the momentum. We had one chance in that first game I thought to stop it, but they haven’t been able to halt their momentum.”

The Knicks led 91-82 at the end of the third quarter but put it out of reach in the fourth when Landry Shamet made three 3-pointers in a 99-second span to make it 105-94.

“Our guys were locked in from the beginning of the game and it showed from the first few minutes of the game. We got a lot of great contributions,” New York coach Mike Brown said. “I thought throughout the whole game we did a good job trying to play fast. We don’t want to go against their set defense all the time, so we’ve got to keep trying

to play fast. And then our guys did a better job in the second half trying to defend without fouling.”

The Knicks made their first four shots en route to a 9-1 lead less than two minutes into the game. New York was 12-for-17 from the field in the quarter and was up 37-27 after 12 minutes.

The Cavaliers rallied to tie it at 50-all on a jumper by Harden before the Knicks countered with a 10-1 run. They went into halftime with a 60-54 advantage.

Brunson had six of his 12 points during an 8-1 run midway through the third quarter as New York extended its lead to 83-70 with 3:41 remaining.

“It’s the next-man-up mentality and the guys found me a few times,” Shamet said. We knew we were going to get a real good punch from that team, and we weathered their best punches tonight.

Ehlers’ OT goal lifts Canes past Canadiens in Game 2

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes knew they had to play more to their style to get back into the Eastern Conference Final series against the Montreal Canadiens.

They got that most of Saturday night for Game 2, along with a huge performance from offseason addition Nikolaj Ehlers.

Ehlers got loose up the center of the ice and popped the puck past Jakub Dobes at 3:29 of overtime to lift Carolina past Montreal 3-2 on Saturday night to level the Eastern Conference Final at one game apiece.

Ehlers scored twice for the Eastern Conference’s top seed, the first with a highlight-reel individual effort in the second period against two Canadiens defenders.

And when the game went to OT, the guy the Hurricanes landed as a sought-after free agent carried them to the finish line.

“He’s a special talent,” Carolina coach Rod Brind’Amour said, “and it was on full display tonight.”

The winning sequence started with a re-treating Jalen Chatfield bouncing the puck back into the neutral zone to Mark Jankowski.

Jankowski had a quick redirection to Ehlers entering the zone at full speed for a clean look at Dobes for the sudden winner.

“We didn’t get a second breath,” said Dobes, who had 23 saves. “It was over pretty quick.”

As the puck hit the net, that sent a tense home crowd into a relieved but jubilant roar — along with a screaming Ehlers.

“I can barely talk right now, but I was yelling pretty loudly after that OT winner,” Ehlers said.

“It was a great pass ... and then just try to get some speed and get the puck off my stick as quick as possible and try to surprise the goalie,” Ehlers said. “Seeing that go in, seeing how the fans reacted was pretty cool.”

Eric Robinson also scored for the Hurricanes, who improved to 4-0 in overtime in the playoffs — including 3-2 home wins in extra time during Game 2 in all three playoff series so far.

Carolina was facing massive pressure to regroup from Thursday’s 6-2 loss in the series opener that only magnified the team’s long-running troubles in the Eastern Final. Now the series is level as it shifts to Canada

for Monday’s Game 3.

Josh Anderson scored twice for Montreal, the second coming at the 12:51 mark of the third period to ultimately force the overtime at 2-2.

The Canadiens won Game 1 by jumping on a Hurricanes team coming off an 11-day break after sweeping through the first two rounds — the longest wait to start a series in more than a century — for four goals in the opening 11½ minutes.

Montreal repeatedly got loose for clean breakouts and breakaways for high-danger chances against Frederik Andersen in that one.

But Carolina looked much closer to its earlier playoff form with its aggressive fore-check and defensive pressure, holding the Canadiens to 12 shots on goal and giving up far fewer of those quick transition chances that Montreal kept burying in Game 1.

“It’s hard to go 200 feet and produce offense unless you execute a little bit through that pressure,” Canadiens coach Martin St. Louis said.

“I felt today we weren’t terrible, we just weren’t as good” as Thursday.

'Gloomy' around track after Busch's death

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — NASCAR driver Connor Zilisch found himself in bed scrolling through social media on his phone, growing more depressed with each post he read about Kyle Busch.

For the first time in his life, Zilisch had a hard time getting himself motivated to go to the racetrack.

He's not the only one grappling with the sudden and tragic death of the sport's 41-year-old superstar.

On Sunday night, 39 Cup Series drivers return to the track for the Coca-Cola 600 just three days after the death of Busch, who had more wins (234) than anyone across NASCAR's three national series.

Severe pneumonia progressed into sepsis and resulted in rapid and overwhelming complications that led to Busch's death, according to a statement released Saturday by his family.

"It just doesn't feel like a real race weekend," Zilisch

said.

"Like the entire vibe in the garage, it's eerie here. It's gloomy. It's just, it's gonna be tough come Sunday for sure. There's gonna be a lot of emotion. It's gonna be sad."

Rain washed out qualifying on Saturday and the gray, overcast sky served as a fitting background for the somber mood enveloping Charlotte Motor Speedway and its 1½-mile track.

Former Busch rival Joey Logano said there is simply nothing normal about this weekend.

"It's definitely a very different vibe. I never really felt anything like this before at the racetrack," Logano said.

"... You just kind of see less smiles and everybody is sad. It's an emotion that we're all feeling — as raw as it can be — and we're all trying to handle it in our own way. There are some pretty heavy emotions on our hearts."

Added driver Zane Smith: "This doesn't seem real. ... He was Superman."

Defending race champion Ross Chastain said he knows only one way to deal with Busch's death.

"Go race," said Chastain, who celebrated the come-from-behind 2025 win by slamming watermelons on the track from the roof of his car, his signature move.

"I know with Kyle, that's what he would want to do. So, no question in my mind about coming in and going to work and going to race," Chastain added.

"It's what we do."

There are reminders of Busch everywhere.

The track's oversized video board features an in memoriam photo of Busch. The scoring tower on the infield lists just one number on the very top: 8.

That's been Busch's car number the past four seasons since he made the move from Joe Gibbs Racing to Richard Childress Racing.

Every car in the field will carry a black No. 8 decal on Sunday to honor the two-time

Cup Series champion.

Despite the overwhelming sense of sadness at the track, NASCAR CEO Steve O'Donnell never considered postponing the race.

"Kyle Busch would probably be pretty (ticked) off if we didn't race, so we're going to honor his memory," O'Donnell said.

Normally, Charlotte Motor Speedway goes above and beyond to honor the military on Memorial Day weekend, with several tributes to fallen soldiers, including listing their names on the windshields.

But this weekend also will be about paying tribute to Busch.

So racing they will go, which Zilisch said may not be a bad thing.

"I don't really wanna go to the track," Zilisch said.

"But at the same time, though, this place is home. And I feel like it's easier to accept it here than it is laying in my bed and just scrolling on (social media) and continuing to see posts about it."

Ukraine's Kostyuk reaches second round of French Open

Associated Press

PARIS — Marta Kostyuk's first-round win at the French Open became one of her toughest matches after she found out beforehand that a missile almost hit her parents' home in Ukraine.

Kostyuk fought back tears after beating Oksana Selekhmeteva 6-2, 6-3 on Court Simonne-Mathieu on the opening day of the clay-court Grand Slam at Roland Garros in western Paris.

"I think it was one of the most difficult matches of my career," the 15th-seeded Kostyuk said. "This morning, 100 meters away from my parents' house, the missile destroyed the building and it

was a very difficult morning for me ... I didn't know how I would handle it, I've been crying part of the morning."

She received a message at 8 a.m. and could not stop thinking what could have happened.

"I felt sick," she said. "If it was 100 meters closer, I probably wouldn't have a mom and a sister today."

Her mother, sister and great aunt were in the house at the time of the strike, she said, among 17 people in total, so her relief was enormous that no one was injured.

"I don't want to think what I would do if something worse happened, but I knew

that this is the day to go out and play," she said. "It didn't cross my mind today that I shouldn't go out, because, you know, at the end of the day, everyone is alive."

After the match, she thanked fans and received an ovation. Then she explained how she found the emotional and mental resources to play.

"I think it's important to keep going. My biggest example is Ukrainian people, I woke up in the morning today and," the 23-year-old Kostyuk said, becoming tearful before repeating and finishing the sentence.

"I looked at all these people who woke up and kept

living their life, kept helping people who are in need," she said. "I knew a lot of Ukrainian flags would be here today and a lot of Ukrainian people would come out, support. My friends from Ukraine came as well."

When Kostyuk first served for the match at 5-1 she got broken. But she served it out on her next opportunity and waved to fans holding up a Ukraine flag in the upper deck.

She next plays unseeded American Katie Volynets and Kostyuk's countrywoman Elena Svitolina— a recent winner at the Italian Open in Rome —faces Anna Bondar on Monday.

Dodgers bullpen stays scoreless in rout

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Teoscar Hernández homered and matched a career high with six RBIs, and Los Angeles' bullpen extended its streak of scoreless innings to 36 in the Dodgers' 11-3 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on Saturday night.

It's the longest shutout streak for a bullpen in franchise history since at least 1901. According to Sportradar, it's the longest by any major league bullpen since September 2017, when Cleveland relievers threw 39 straight scoreless innings.

"They're on a heater," Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said after the game. "It's one of those things: When it doesn't go well, they get the blame. And when it does go well, they don't get a lot of the credit. But they are getting the credit now, and it's earned."

Alex Vesia, Kyle Hurt, Tanner Scott and Jonathan Hernández each pitched an inning in relief of starter Roki Sasaki (3-3). Only one of Milwaukee's five hits came in the final seven innings.

The last time the Dodgers bullpen allowed a run was in a 6-2 loss to the San Francisco Giants on May 12.

"We've got really good arms and anyone can pitch in any situation," said Scott, whose four saves match Edwin Díaz for the team lead. "That's huge."

Cardinals 8-6, Reds 1-7: Bryan Torres hit a two-run homer and also singled in his major league debut at age 28, helping visiting St. Louis beat Cincinnati in the opener of a day-night doubleheader.

Jordan Walker also hit a two-run homer and Andre Pallante (5-4) allowed one run and two hits over six innings in the makeup of Friday's rainout. Pallante retired his last 13 batters.

In the nightcap, Spencer Steer scored the winning run in the 11th inning with a headfirst slide on Blake Dunn's one-hop-

per to shortstop, and the Reds outlasted the Cardinals for a doubleheader split.

Elly De La Cruz hit a three-run homer and Nathaniel Lowe launched a two-run shot as Cincinnati took a 5-1 lead in the fifth. But St. Louis scored twice in the ninth and tied it 6-all on a two-out RBI single by Walker, who started the comeback with a three-run homer in the sixth.

Astros 3, Cubs 0: Christian Walker homered twice with three RBIs, and visiting Houston blanked Chicago to extend the Cubs' losing streak to seven, their longest skid in four years.

Kai-Wei Teng (3-3) allowed two hits in six innings, struck out six and walked three as the Astros won their second straight and third in four games. Three relievers followed, with Bryan King working around a ninth-inning single to finish a three-hitter for his sixth save.

Chicago's losing streak is its longest since a nine-game slide from July 7-16, 2022. The Cubs, who have lost 11 of 13, also had a pair of 10-game winning streaks this season.

Blue Jays 5, Pirates 2: George Springer hit his 65th leadoff home run and host Toronto sent Paul Skenes to losses in consecutive starts for the first time this season, beating Pittsburgh for its fourth straight win and seventh in 10 games.

Tyler Heineman also homered for the defending AL champions, his first since last July 19.

Skenes (6-4), the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner, allowed four runs and a career-high nine hits and one walk in five-plus innings with two strikeouts, just his second time with fewer than five this season. His ERA rose to 3.00.

Royals 5, Mariners 0: Stephen Kolek threw a complete-game shutout and Carter Jensen had two RBIs as host Kansas City beat Seattle to end a

four-game losing streak.

Kolek (3-0) allowed a walk, four hits and struck out two. He only needed 108 pitches to go all nine innings in a game that lasted just two hours and six minutes. The 108 pitches were four more than his previous career high.

The Royals took a 3-0 lead in the first inning. Maikel Garcia led off with a double and scored on a fielder's choice grounder by Vinnie Pasquantino. Jensen had a RBI grounder and Pasquantino later scored on Jac Caglianone's single.

Marlins 4, Mets 1: Max Meyer (5-0) threw seven shutout innings of one-hit ball with eight strikeouts, Liam Hicks homered twice and host Miami beat punchless New York.

Owen Caissie drove in two runs with a double for the Marlins, who have allowed only one run and three hits in each of the first two games of the series. Otto López doubled in the third and leads the majors with 69 hits.

Twins 4, Red Sox 2: Trevor Larnach matched his career-high with four hits, Taj Bradley allowed one run over five innings in his return from a chest muscle injury and visiting Minnesota beat Boston for its ninth win in 13 games.

Benches and bullpens cleared briefly in the fourth inning after the Red Sox's Willson Contreras collided with catcher Victor Caratini when he was tagged out trying to score after running through a late stop sign from third base coach Chad Epperson. No punches were thrown.

Nationals 2, Braves 0: Jake Irvin (2-4) held the Braves hitless over five innings before leaving with an injury, and visiting Washington defeated Atlanta with a combined one-hitter.

Dylan Crews and Jorbit Vivas homered off starter Grant Holmes for the only runs of a game that was delayed 41 min-

utes in the middle of the second by rain.

Giants 10, White Sox 3: Harrison Bader hit a grand slam for the second time in six days, and host San Francisco beat Chicago.

Casey Schmitt homered and drove in three runs, and Willy Adames also went deep to help the Giants end a four-game skid. Luis Arraez, Matt Chapman and Daniel Susac each had two hits.

Phillies 3, Guardians 0: Zack Wheeler pitched six shutout innings and Bryson Stott hit a two-run single as host Philadelphia defeated Cleveland, ending its seven-game winning streak.

After the start was delayed nearly two hours by rain, Wheeler (4-0) allowed just two hits and struck out six while running his scoreless streak to 13 innings.

Padres 2, Athletics 0: Lucas Giolito and four relievers combined on a five-hitter as host San Diego beat the Athletics.

Fernando Tatis Jr. and Ty France each drove in a run for the Padres, who have won six of eight. They mustered only two hits themselves, but took advantage of six early walks by A's starter J.T. Ginn (2-3).

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 4: Ketel Marte hit a two-run homer and scored twice in host Arizona's victory over Colorado.

Nolan Arenado had a two-run double and Marte finished with three of the Diamondbacks' 11 hits. Zac Gallen (3-4) gave up three runs and six hits in 5½ innings. He struck out six and walked two.

Angels 5, Rangers 2: Mike Trout hit a two-run homer, Nolan Schanuel added an RBI double and host Los Angeles clinched a series win with a victory over Texas.

Walbert Ureña (2-4) threw five innings, allowing one run and five hits while striking out six. Kirby Yates earned his first save of the season by pitching a hitless ninth.