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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Chinese phones sold on bases pose risk

BY WILL MORRIS

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Chinese-made smartphones that the heads of U.S. intelligence have urged Americans not to buy are being sold to servicemembers across Germany at on-base exchange facilities.

The Huawei phones, which are being sold by TKS, an Army and Air Force Exchange Service concessionary and subsidiary of Vodafone, could be used to gather sensitive information, according to U.S. intelligence agencies. They are banned for official government use in most cases.

The Defense Department asked whether Huawei mobile phones were being sold at exchange facilities but has not offered any other direction, said AAFES senior spokesman Chris Ward.

“We responded ‘yes’ and

have had no other inquiries,” Ward said in an email response. “Should there be an official determination made by law enforcement officials that these phones present a security risk, the Exchange will instruct its vendors to remove impacted products from their assortment.”

Officials at Ramstein Air Base, where Europe’s largest exchange and a TKS concessionary operate, said they are aware that the phones are being sold on base.

Although officials did not address Huawei specifically, they said that servicemembers should adhere to operational security standards when they post anything online, take pictures or configure their location settings.

“Servicemembers need to pay attention,” said Lt Col. Joel Harper, an 86th Airlift Wing spokesman. “Regardless of where the device is purchased,

on base or off base, servicemembers should practice good [operational security].”

In February, the director of national intelligence, along with the heads of the CIA, FBI, National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, testified before a Senate committee that Americans should not use Huawei products because of the security risks they pose.

The concern about Huawei first focused on routers, switches and other high-bandwidth commercial products but later expanded to consumer mobile phones.

FBI Director Christopher Wray testified that Huawei products provide the Chinese government with the ability to maliciously modify or steal information and to conduct undetected espionage. “We’re deeply concerned about the risks of allowing any company or entity

that is beholden to foreign governments that don’t share our values to gain positions of power inside our telecommunications networks,” Wray said.

Huawei is also one maker of personal mobile internet modems, also called “pucks,” which in recent years have been sold to U.S. troops at a coalition base near Irbil, the capital of Iraq’s Kurdish region. Some soldiers may have purchased similar devices made by Chinese telecom company ZTE, which was sanctioned by the U.S. government for violating trade embargoes by sending U.S.-made components to Iran inside its devices.

Huawei is a private company started by a former People’s Liberation Army officer. U.S. intelligence officials say the company has very close ties to the national Chinese government. Spokesmen for the company have repeatedly denied claims their devices pose security risks.

Wasp strike group ends Western Pacific patrol

BY JAMES BOLINGER

Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — After more than a month at sea accompanying the USS Wasp amphibious warship and F-35B stealth fighters on their first patrol of the Western Pacific, 2,300 Marines are back on Okinawa.

The Wasp Expeditionary Strike Group dropped the Marines off Saturday at White Beach Naval Facility, Okinawa, after a monthlong patrol that included air defense exercises with Air Force F-35A and Navy F/A-18 aircraft, live-fire drills, simulated Tomahawk missile strikes and anti-submarine warfare training, a Navy state-

ment said.

The Wasp, which arrived at its new homeport of Sasebo Naval Base in January, also conducted a “ready-for-sea assessment” and trained alongside a Japanese amphibious transport dock ship in the East China Sea.

Sailors and Marines with the strike group practiced raiding a beach with small boats and amphibious assault vehicles, evacuating civilians, treating wounded, providing disaster relief and seizing a smuggler’s vessel, the Navy statement said.

The patrol, which included a pair of Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers — the USS Dewey and USS Steret — was a “proof of concept” for the Navy and Marine Corps,

Task Force 76 commander Rear Adm. Brad Cooper told Stars and Stripes.

“[It’s] not your grandfather’s amphibious readiness group,” he said. “It’s a lethal, capable, integrated naval force that is designed to conduct both the sea-control mission, which is what we do in the Navy, as well as project power ashore.”

Combining the F-35B with destroyers is a big advantage, giving the strike group the ability to hunt enemy submarines and ships and engage in surface-to-surface combat, Cooper said.

Sensors on the destroyers’ Tomahawk missiles are able to detect enemy aircraft at long range, while the F-35B can defend amphibious forces.

Sensors aboard the ships give commanders a robust picture of the battlespace, he said.

Capt. Ed Thompson, who led the strike group as commodore of Amphibious Squadron 11, said in the statement that his ships, aircraft, sailors and Marines “created a highly capable, flexible force ready for the spectrum of operations at sea.”

The destroyers have left the strike group and will eventually return to their homeport in San Diego, the statement said. Navy leaders are already reviewing lessons learned on the patrol and will incorporate those into future deployments, Thompson added.

3 midshipmen face dismissal for drugs

The (Annapolis, Md.) Capital

The superintendent of the Naval Academy has recommended disenrolling three midshipmen from the school for using illegal drugs, spokesman Cmdr. David McKinney said in a statement last week.

The academy announced five students would be disciplined for using cocaine, mushrooms, ketamine and ecstasy in March.

Another four are being disciplined for failing to report the behavior.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service's investigation into suspected drug use continues, McKinney said. The investigation has been underway since late November when two midshipmen reported suspected drug use.

"Military justice options remain available after the full NCIS investigation has concluded," he said.

Vice Adm. Ted Carter made the recommendation as part of the administrative disciplinary process, McKinney said.

Protesters try to stop convoy to S. Korea THAAD base

BY KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A convoy delivered construction material and other equipment to the military base housing a controversial U.S. missile defense system Monday after riot police scuffled with protesters trying to block the road, according to officials and witnesses.

South Korea's Ministry of National Defense said it decided to make the move despite continued protests because of an urgent need to improve living conditions of the U.S. and South Korean soldiers on the former golf course-turned-base in the southeastern area of Seongju.

"The MND decided it couldn't delay the construction anymore," it said Monday in a statement. "We have decided to begin transporting personnel, material and equipment necessary for construction today in cooperation with police."

Ministry officials have tried to persuade the protesters to allow peaceful passage of the trucks, saying the equipment is needed

to fix leaky roofs, build sewage treatment facilities and do other maintenance. But residents and activists, who fiercely object to the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, suspect it's a ruse to build military infrastructure.

The Yonhap News Agency reported that 22 vehicles carrying construction material, equipment and workers entered the THAAD base about three hours after police began removing about 200 protesters staging a sit-in on a bridge. Police placed four air mattresses under the bridge in case of falls.

About 1,500 riot police were deployed to provide security, and several protesters and officers were injured in scuffles, but none of the injuries was serious, according to a local officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to the media. No U.S. military forces or vehicles were involved, he said.

U.S. Forces Korea has said contractors have conducted site surveys for basic maintenance and routine repairs and no construction was being done to enhance THAAD operations.

Air Force aims to arm F-15s with lasers by '21

Dayton (Ohio) Daily News

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE — The Air Force has targeted arming an F-15 fighter jet with a laser by 2021, one of what could become a wider use of directed-energy weapons for everything from aerial refueling tankers to military bases, a leading researcher says.

Facing increased competition from Russia and China, the Air Force launched an office at Wright-Patterson to explore experimental technologies and bring them to the battlefield faster, according to Thomas A. Lockhart, director of the Strategic Development Planning and Experimentation Directorate.

"We're trying to push technology faster, grab it and give it to our warfighter," Lockhart said.

The Wright-Patterson experimentation directorate was meant to make it easier to bridge the "valley of death" to bring new technologies out of the lab and into the field, Lockhart said. "The purpose of this office is to kind of blend with the acquisition community and our (science and technology) community so we can do acquisitions a lot quicker," he said.

One of its key priorities is an expanding use of lasers both on the ground and in the skies.

Air Force researchers also have aimed to test a laser on what will likely be an aerial refueling tanker by 2021, he said. Air Force Special Operations Forces have shown a growing interest in arming an AC-130 with an air-to-ground laser, and the defense industry has been asked for proposals to using lasers and high-powered microwave beams to protect military bases, Lockhart said.

A directorate experiment to show how directed-energy weapons could guard military installations will launch this fall at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

But two big technical challenges are yet to be proven:

generating enough power in a miniaturized laser to shoot down or disable a target and aiming the weapon through changing atmospheric conditions, Lockhart said.

Richard J. Mason, a Rand Corp. senior engineer in Santa Monica, Calif., said lasers won't replace missiles or guns anytime soon but could add to the firepower of an aircraft.

"If your expectations for the laser are too high, you'll be disappointed," he said. "It's not going to replace the gun ... but there are certain things that it could do well."

He's cautiously optimistic because of a revolution in electric-powered lasers after "decades upon decades" of promised laser weapons.

"Lasers are good for hitting small, fast things," he said. "We don't currently shoot air-to-air missiles out of the sky and maybe we could with a laser weapon so it's opening up a new capability."

The Air Force Special Operations Command has explored putting an air-to-ground laser on an AC-130 aircraft. A laser could potentially be quieter, target more precisely and avoid collateral damage compared with heavy machine guns and bombs, said Mason, who studied the issue for the service branch.

"They don't want the noise; they don't want the collateral damage," he said.

Richard Aboulafia, a senior aerospace analyst with the Teal Group in Fairfax, Va., said lasers are on the horizon but it will take time.

"We'll see the use of (lasers) as on board weapons eventually, but as with all new technologies it will take longer than expected," he said in an email.

"The good news is of course they provide weight savings," don't run out of ammunition as conventional weapons like missiles "and they have potentially impressive range capabilities."

Travel ban brings Trump policy to high court

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has so far had little to say about Donald Trump's time as president, even as the nation has moved from one Trump controversy to another. That's about to change.

The justices' first deep dive into a Trump administration policy comes in a dispute over the latest version of the administration's ban on travel from some countries with majority Muslim populations. Opponents of the policy and some lower courts have labeled it a "Muslim ban," harking back to Trump's campaign call to keep Muslims from entering the U.S.

The high-stakes arguments at the high court on Wednesday could offer some indication about how a court that runs on respect for traditions and precedent will deal with a president who regularly breaks with convention.

Trump's presidential tweets about the

travel ban and last fall's retweets of inflammatory videos that stoked anti-Islam sentiment all could feature in the court's discussion of the travel ban's legality.

"The court could get to the right outcome without getting into the question of his tweets," said Cecillia Wang, the American Civil Liberties Union's deputy legal director. "But I think the president set it up so that it's virtually impossible to ignore him when he's shouting from the rooftops about what his purpose was in the three versions of the ban."

Solicitor General Noel Francisco, who will argue the administration's case, said in a court filing that the ban is well within the president's authority and is not based on prejudice against Islam.

One key issue will be how the court evaluates administration actions.

The policy under review at the court applies to travelers from five countries

with overwhelmingly Muslim populations — Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. It also affects two non-Muslim countries, blocking travelers from North Korea and some Venezuelan government officials and their families. A sixth majority Muslim country, Chad, was removed from the list this month after improving "its identity-management and information sharing practices," Trump said in a proclamation.

The justices are confronted with the administration's view that Trump has broad discretion to impose limits on immigration and that the courts don't have a role to play. The Justice Department has said throughout the course of the legal fight that the lawsuits challenging the policy should be dismissed without ever reaching the challengers' claims. The administration says foreigners have no right to enter the United States and no right to challenge their exclusion in American courts.

Bill Cosby sex assault trial close to ending

Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Jurors in Bill Cosby's sexual assault retrial won't hear old deposition testimony from a confidante of his chief accuser, a judge ruled Monday, dealing a blow to his lawyers' effort to undermine her credibility.

As the trial entered its home stretch, Judge Steven O'Neill said there's "no persuasive" reason to let Cosby's lawyers read Sheri Williams' deposition testimony into the record. The defense wanted to use the testimony from Andrea Constand's 2005 civil lawsuit against Cosby, 80, after failing to reach Williams with a subpoena, but O'Neill rejected the request, saying a prosecutor should have the right to cross-examine her.

Cosby settled Constand's lawsuit for nearly \$3.4 million.

Constand testified at Cosby's first trial last year that she and Williams were good friends and were in touch as she went to police in January 2005 with allegations the TV star drugged and molested her.

Cosby's lawyers said they expected Williams' testimony

to refute Constand's claims she was unaware he was romantically interested in her. They said she'd show Constand "could not have been the unwitting victim" prosecutors have portrayed.

After blocking her deposition, O'Neill said closing arguments in the retrial are expected Tuesday. The jury in Cosby's first trial deadlocked last year, setting the stage for the comedian's retrial on three counts of aggravated indecent assault. Cosby said his 2004 sexual encounter with Constand was consensual.

The judge also prevented jurors from hearing testimony that Constand was once hooked on hallucinogenic mushrooms or had her sights set on becoming a millionaire, but that hasn't stopped the defense from airing the explosive claims about her in the court of public opinion.

Cosby's lawyers were expected to call an agent and an aviation consultant to the witness stand Monday as they continue to make the case that he never visited his suburban Philadelphia mansion in January 2004, the month Constand says he knocked her out with pills and molested her there.

Waffle House shooting suspect now in custody

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The suspect in a quadruple homicide at a Nashville Waffle House was taken into custody Monday, police said.

Authorities had mounted a massive manhunt for Travis Reinking, 29, after the Sunday morning attacks.

Authorities announced the arrest Monday afternoon on Twitter, but did not immediately give details.

More than 80 Nashville police officers continued to search for Travis Reinking, joined by agents with the FBI, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and troopers with the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

Reinking was wearing only a green jacket when he opened fire with an AR-15 in the Waffle House parking lot and then stormed the restaurant, police say. Four people were killed, and four others were injured before a customer wrestled the assault weapon away.

Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson said at a news conference that Reinking, 29, was last seen Sunday in a wooded area near an apartment

complex where he lived, wearing only pants and no shirt or shoes.

Anderson said it's not clear why Reinking opened fire on restaurant patrons, though he may have "mental issues."

He may still be armed, Anderson said, because he was known to have owned a handgun authorities have not recovered.

"He's on foot," Anderson said. "Unless he's been picked up by a car, he would be fairly close. We don't want to alarm people, but certainly, everybody should take precautions. It could be he's in an unoccupied house. We want everybody to be concerned. Neighbors should check on each other."

Nashville public schools will go into "lock-out" mode if Reinking isn't found in time for class Monday, officials said. That means students will be free to move about the building, but no guests or visitors will be allowed to enter.

The victims fatally shot in the parking have been identified as Taurean Sanderlin, 29, of Goodlettsville, and Joe Perez, 20, of Nashville.

Sanderlin was an employee at the restaurant.

Afghan officials say Taliban attacks kill 14 police, troops

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban attacks in western Afghanistan killed 14 soldiers and policemen on Monday as Kabul residents prepared to bury their loved ones slain in a horrific bombing by Islamic State that targeted a voter registration center the day before, killing 57.

Prayer services were held for the Kabul victims as families of those killed in Sunday's bombing carried the bodies of their kin and dug the graves at a cemetery in the hills above the Afghan capital.

The first of Monday's nearly simultaneous attacks in western Badghis province hit army units in the district of Ab Kamari, killing nine soldiers, said Ghulam Sarwar Haidari,

the deputy provincial police chief.

Moments later, another large group of insurgents struck police in Qadis district, killing five policemen.

Sharafuddin Majidi, spokesman for the provincial governor, confirmed the casualty tolls. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the Badghis attacks in a statement to the media.

The attacks came on the heels of Sunday's suicide blast in Kabul. The staggering casualty toll — 57 dead and 119 wounded — underscored the struggles the government faces to rein in militant assaults even in large and well-protected urban centers.

Afghan security forces have struggled to prevent a recent surge in attacks by the local

ISIS affiliate as well as the more firmly established Taliban. The attacks increased after the U.S. and NATO concluded their combat mission in Afghanistan at the end of 2014.

Both groups regularly carry out attacks, with the Taliban usually targeting the government and security forces and ISIS targeting the country's Shiite minority.

In violence elsewhere in Afghanistan, four policemen were killed and three were wounded on Monday in a Taliban attack in western Farah province, in Bala Buluk district, according to Mohammad Naser Mehri, spokesman for the provincial governor. Three Taliban fighters were killed and two others were wounded in the gunbattle there that lasted two hours, Mehri said.

Woman fined for bringing apple through Customs

The Washington Post

An apple one day did not keep customs away, a Colorado woman has learned.

Crystal Tadlock was given an apple sealed in a wrapper on her Delta flight from Paris on Wednesday. She was not hungry at the time and figured it would be a good snack for her second leg back to Denver, she told FOX 31 in Denver.

Tadlock likely passed by numerous signs and alerts warning of items that Customs says must be declared at the port of entry in Minneapolis. That would include fresh fruit, Customs and Border Patrol says.

A random search brought Tadlock in contact with a Customs agent who found the contraband apple.

"He had asked me if my trip to France was expensive and I said, 'yeah.' I didn't really get why he was asking that question, and then he said, 'It's about to get a lot more expensive after I charge you \$500,'" Tadlock told the station. She was then issued a \$500 citation and a revocation of her global entry status, she said.

That status is earned through a screening process and allows expedited clearance for international travelers.

Tadlock, who lives in the Denver suburb of Arvada, could not be reached for comment. It was not immediately clear when the incident occurred.

Delta would not comment publicly about Tadlock's case, but in a statement provided by spokesman Michael Thomas, the airline said it encourages its customers to "adhere to Customs and Border Protection policies and requirements."

In a statement, the CBP declined to speak about the case details or any specific inspection, citing privacy policies. However, agency spokesman Steven Bansbach said "all agriculture items must be declared."

Syrian troops look to isolate ISIS in Damascus battle

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces moved to cut off Islamic State militants in southern Damascus from nearby rebel-held suburbs in an attempt to force the extremists to surrender or to evacuate the district, state media reported.

The area in southern Damascus is the last part of the capital not controlled by President Bashar Assad's forces. Other insurgents in the area, including an al-Qaida-linked group, have said they would relocate to rebel-held regions in northern Syria.

State-run al-Ikhbariya TV said the government hopes to isolate ISIS in the Hajar al-Aswad neighborhood. The TV station showed thick, gray smoke billowing from the neighborhood as government forces pounded it with artillery and airstrikes. Damascus residents said the sound of explosions echoed across the capital.

The TV agency said ISIS snipers targeted journalists covering the fighting but did not say whether anyone was hurt.

Hundreds of ISIS militants are holed up in Hajar al-Aswad and Yarmouk, a Palestinian refugee camp that resembles a built-up residential neighborhood. Rebels from other factions hold the

nearby suburbs of Yalda, Babila and Beit Sahem.

ISIS agreed to give up its last pocket of Damascus on Friday but has yet to begin surrendering to government forces and relocating to ISIS-held areas elsewhere in the country.

ISIS said in a statement that the government had launched 400 airstrikes on Hajar al-Aswad and Yarmouk, destroying large parts of the neighborhoods. It claimed to have killed more than three dozen government forces, but there was no independent confirmation, and the extremist group often exaggerates such figures.

The U.N. said that since the fighting began last week, most of the 6,000 civilians in Yarmouk camp have been forcibly displaced to the neighboring suburb of Yalda.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 11 people have been killed in the offensive since the fighting began last Thursday.

Government forces have escalated their campaign to retake all remaining enclaves in the capital and surrounding areas. The ISIS-held areas in southern Damascus are the last holdouts after rebels evacuated the eastern Ghouta suburbs following a fierce government offensive and a suspected poison gas attack in the town of Douma.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Family: Surgeons left needle in baby's heart

FL ST. PETERSBURG — A family said surgeons at a Florida children's hospital left a needle in their baby's heart.

A doctor made the discovery about Amara Le's baby during a follow-up appointment. Le and her fiancé rushed baby Katelynn back to Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg but the surgeons said there was no needle. Ten days later, the couple said a different hospital found the needle in Katelynn's aorta.

All Children's told the Tampa Bay Times that needles have been left in two children since 2016.

All Children's settled out of court with the family for \$50,000.

'CHiPs' star Estrada donates police dog

ID ST. ANTHONY — Actor Erik Estrada donated a drug dog to an east Idaho police agency where he's a reserve police officer.

The Rexburg Standard Journal reported that the star from the 1970s motorcycle police TV series "CHiPs" donated a 3-year-old German Shepherd-Malinois narcotics dog named Mako to the St. Anthony Police Department.

Mako will work with Sgt. Greg Belew in searching for narcotics at local schools and assist nearby agencies as well as the Idaho State Police when requested.

St. Anthony Police Chief Allen Neff said the agency hasn't had a police dog because they cost up to \$15,000.

Estrada became a reserve officer with the agency in 2016.

Bomb-sniffing dog healing from infection

WA EVERETT — A Washington State Patrol bomb-sniffing dog is recovering after inhaling something that caused an internal infection that required an operation.

KING-TV reported that Sonyi will possibly be ready to return to work in early May.

Trooper Scott Legler said Sonyi in January inhaled something that made him sick while working at the ferry docks in Snohomish County.

Legler said that caused an internal abscess, an infection and fluid in 5-year-old Sonyi's lungs that needed to be drained.

Emergency crews save ducks in storm drain

IL SHILOH — A group of ducklings that fell into a storm drain in southwestern Illinois are safe because emergency responders did not duck their duties.

The rescue happened outside Shiloh Middle School.

According to media reports, police arrived at the scene after someone at a nearby track meet saw several ducklings fall into a storm drain.

Police officers along with firefighters from departments in Shiloh and O'Fallon removed the grate and rescue the 11 ducklings.

Nearly 50 stolen road signs found in home

GA FORSYTH — Deputies said \$4,000 worth of stolen street signs were recovered from a home in Georgia.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office told news outlets in a statement that deputies executed a search warrant at the residence last week where they

found 10 county road signs, 14 stop signs and 23 sign posts.

Sheriff's Lt. Lawson Bittick said Frankie D. Breeding, 39, was arrested and charged with theft by receiving stolen property.

Bittick said more than 70 signs with a total value of roughly \$11,000 have been stolen over the past two months.

Winds leave town buried in tumbleweeds

CA VICTORVILLE — High winds that raked Southern California left one community buried in tumbleweeds.

Residents of Victorville in the high desert northeast of Los Angeles had to call the city for help when tumbleweeds piled up last week.

Victorville spokeswoman Sue Jones told the Daily Press that as many as 150 homes were affected in a neighborhood that faces open desert.

Some homes had tumbleweeds piled as high as the second story.

The city and San Bernardino County Fire Department sent crews to rake up the weeds and load them into trash trucks.

Woman uses billboard in search for kidney

MA LYNN — A Massachusetts woman who needs a new kidney has put up a billboard in search of a donor.

"Young mother needs a kidney blood type O," reads the billboard put up by Miranda LeBrasseur.

The 42-year-old Lynn woman has been diabetic since she was 17 and suffers from a genetic kidney disease. The Daily Item reported that she put up the billboard after a January fundraiser because she is on a five-to-six-year wait list for a new kidney.

2 women charged with assault in exorcism

SC COLUMBIA — Two sisters were accused of kidnapping a woman and assaulting her during an exorcism attempt.

Columbia police spokeswoman Jennifer Timmons said in a news release last week that Brittany Jones, 29, was charged with kidnapping and first-degree assault.

Her sister, Tiara Jones, 26, is wanted on the same charges.

Police said the sisters are accused of holding their 56-year-old neighbor against her well last month and of assaulting her with a cross because they thought she was possessed.

Restaurant restores historic neon sign

MO JOPLIN — One of the largest neon signs in Missouri has been restored after more than two decades.

The historic Wilder's Steakhouse sign in Joplin was taken down in February for restoration and returned in early April, the Joplin Globe reported.

Owners Mike and Marsha Pawlus received a federal grant last year through the Route 66 National Corridor Preservation Program for the restoration. Congress established the program in 2001 to preserve and protect Route 66's history.

The sign was first installed around 1950. The Pawluses bought the restaurant in 1996.

The restoration cost about \$43,000, with the grant covering about \$24,000, according to Marsha Pawlus. The owners paid the remainder through community donations and fundraisers.

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Cavaliers get past Pacers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — LeBron James has been the first-round king for 12 years.

On Sunday night, he needed Kyle Korver's three-point shooting to put him in position to extend his reign.

The two combined for all of Cleveland's points in a late 10-2 run, helping the Cavaliers to a 104-100 victory over the Indiana Pacers to even the series at 2. James drew boos from the crowd after flipping the ball up the court to run out the clock.

"You don't ever want to go down 3-1 against anybody, no matter if it's the first round or if you're fortunate enough to get all the way to the finals," James said. "It's just too difficult."

James finished with 32 points, 13 rebounds, seven assists and another crowning achievement — his 100th career playoff game with 30 or more points. Yet this has been no typical series for James, who started the playoffs with an NBA-record 21 consecutive wins in the first round.

He's already seen the Pacers go wire-to-wire in Game 1, miss a potential tying three-pointer in the last 35 seconds of Game 2, rally from a 17-point deficit to win Game 3 and erase a 16-point, first-half deficit to take the lead early in the fourth.

This one looked and felt a lot like the three previous games — tough and physi-

cal down to a confusing sequence in the final seconds when Lance Stephenson was whistled for wrestling Jeff Green to the court while hoping for a jump ball.

Indiana still led 93-91 with 4:28 to go on Sunday.

Then James and Korver reverted to their old ways.

Korver's three with 3:48 left made it 94-93, James followed with a layup, Korver knocked down another three and James added another layup to give the Cavs a 101-95 lead with 1:52 left.

Indiana never recovered.

Korver wound up with 18 points and four threes to give him 200 in his postseason career.

"His four threes were huge," James said. "We needed every last one of them, obviously."

The Pacers, meanwhile, lamented a missed opportunity.

Despite having seven players score in double figures, making more baskets, grabbing more offensive rebounds and matching Cleveland's 12 threes, Indiana missed six of its last eight shots.

"We just didn't play the game the right way," Pacers coach Nate McMillan said. "You get into these games, these emotional games, and you're so pumped up — sometimes you try do some things yourself. Usually, those things don't work."

Antetokounmpo, Bucks edge Celts

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — After losing a 20-point lead to the Boston Celtics, the Milwaukee Bucks were determined not to lose another playoff game.

Leave it to All-Star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo to come up with a big play in the final seconds on Sunday.

Antetokounmpo scored 27 points, including tipping in the go-ahead basket with 5 seconds left, and the Bucks held on for a 104-102 win to tie their first-round playoff series at two games apiece.

Boston's Marcus Morris missed a 14-footer at the buzzer with Khris Middleton's hand in his face to seal a nail-biting win for the Bucks.

Seconds earlier, the 6-foot-11 Antetokounmpo jumped and reached up with his left arm around Boston's Jayson Tatum to put back Malcolm Brogdon's missed layup for the game-winner.

"It's a heck of a play," coach Joe Prunty said.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Boston.

Antetokounmpo added seven rebounds and five assists, while Middleton scored 23 points. The Bucks' two best players were clutch in the closing seconds of a tense victory, another sign of maturity for the one of the league's up-and-coming teams.

"One of the most important things that we can carry from this game moving forward is that we stayed disciplined and we trusted one another," Antetokounmpo said.

It could just as easily have fallen apart for Milwaukee after losing a 20-point lead with 7:37 left in the third quarter.

Jaylen Brown had 34 points for the Celtics, while Tatum added 21. Tatum's 18-footer with 52 seconds left gave the Celtics a brief 100-99 lead.

He just couldn't hold off Antetokounmpo on the other end for the decisive tip-in.

The disappointing end for the Celtics overshadowed their spirited rally from a 65-45 deficit. Play got chippy and the Celtics limited the Bucks' transition game.

They came up one basket short at the end.

Antetokounmpo "made a great tip-in and he was battling for the ball. That's what great players do," coach Brad Stevens said.

Both teams traded clutch buckets down the stretch.

After Tatum's long jumper, Brogdon hit a transition three from the corner for a 102-100 lead with 33 seconds left. Al Horford followed with two foul shots to tie the game at 102 with 29 seconds remaining.

They couldn't send the game into overtime. Morris bent over in frustration near the Boston bench after his fadeaway hit the rim.

Ginobili, Aldridge help Spurs beat Warriors, avoid sweep

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Ettore Messina was screaming at the Spurs, and Manu Ginobili loved it.

Before Gregg Popovich, Ginobili played in Italy for Messina, and on Sunday he delivered a throwback performance for his old coach to save the Spurs' season.

Experiencing a flashback to his days playing for Messina in the Euroleague in his early 20s, the 40-year-old Ginobili scored 10 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter to help San Antonio beat the Golden State Warriors 103-90. The Spurs avoided a series sweep as Popovich missed his second straight game following the death of his wife, Erin, on Wednesday.

In his 16th season in the NBA and perhaps the final home game of his career, Ginobili rebounded from a scoreless effort in Game 3 to help Messina capture his first playoff victory as a coach, albeit an unofficial one.

"For moments when he talks to the rest of the team, or when he gets upset and he yells at us, a lot of flashbacks," Ginobili said, chuckling.

Ginobili played for Messina while both were with Virtus Bologna in 2000-02.

Kevin Durant had 34 points and 13 rebounds for the Warriors, who can wrap up the series in Game 5 at home Tuesday.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Spurs, but they were willed to the finish by Ginobili, who has said he will decide in the offseason if he will return for a 17th season.

Ginobili was 3-for-4 in the final quarter, including making both of his three-point attempts, and did not have a turnover in 6½ minutes.

"I am so happy for him," Messina said. "I'm so happy. I think he deserves everything that is happening to him in his life and his career."

Wall takes over as Wiz knot series

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When Washington Wizards guard Bradley Beal fouled out with about five minutes left in a tied Game 4 against the Toronto Raptors, he couldn't believe the call.

He raced to the other end of the court. When he returned to his team's sideline, he threw a red towel before being held back by teammates.

"I was beyond emotional. Beyond mad. Frustrated. Pretty much any synonym you can add," Beal said. "I told my team that we were going to win, regardless. Especially if we've got John still in the game, I love our chances."

That would be John Wall, and Beal was exactly right. Wall took over down the stretch after his backcourt mate was done for the day, scoring or assisting on 10 of Washington's last 14 points as the No. 8 seed Wizards came back to beat the No. 1 Raptors 106-98 Sunday night and even their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series at 2-all.

"When Brad went out," Wall said, "I knew I had to do whatever it took."

Wall finished with 27 points and 14 assists and, at the other end of the court, guarded All-Star DeMar DeRozan, making sure the Wizards would not be pushed to the brink of elimination ahead of Game 5 at Toronto.

"He's a big shot maker. A playmaker. It was what you want and what you expect," Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "We needed him to step up. He stepped up big."

With Beal cheerleading, jumping and waving his arms, Wall just kept producing, showing no signs of fatigue despite playing all 24 minutes in the second half. This is a guy who missed about two months of the regular season because of surgery on his left knee.

While the closing seconds ticked away, Wall held up two fingers on each hand: Yes, it's 2-2 now, and the best-of-seven series has become best-of-three.

Guentzel's 4 goals power Pens

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jake Guentzel dropped to his right knee and slid on the ice in celebration, not only for his second career postseason hat trick, but for the goal that assured Pittsburgh was moving on in the playoffs.

He has established his playoff pedigree as a sensational scorer in just two seasons and helped keep a third straight championship in sight for the Penguins.

Guentzel scored four straight goals to help send the two-time defending Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins into the next round with an 8-5 win over the Philadelphia Flyers in Game 6 on Sunday.

The Penguins play the winner of the Washington-Columbus series in the Eastern Conference playoffs. Washington leads that series 3-2.

Guentzel scored six goals in the series and added another hat trick to pair with the one he had as a rookie in a first-round series last season against the Blue Jackets.

"He has the ability to play his best when the stakes are the highest. We have a team that does that," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "They embrace adversity. They embrace the struggle. Our team doesn't get rattled. They embrace the challenge."

Guentzel had the third four-goal playoff game in team history, joining Mario Lemieux in 1989

and Kevin Stevens in 1991.

"This is what you want to play in," Guentzel said. "You grow up dreaming about this and this is definitely fun. When the bounces start going your way, you just try and run with it."

Sean Couturier had the 24th playoff hat trick for the Flyers, who haven't won a Stanley Cup since 1975. Couturier said he played with a torn right MCL suffered in a collision with a teammate at practice last week.

"I couldn't move that well, so I just tried to be well-positioned, have good sticks," he said.

Guentzel, not Sidney Crosby, Phil Kessel or the injured Evgeni Malkin, won the game for the Penguins with goals off costly Flyers turnovers, leading them to their ninth straight playoff series win.

He tied the game at 4 with 54 seconds left in the second period off a Flyers turnover. He scored 30 seconds into the third for the lead off another giveaway, and sealed one more lopsided win over the Flyers with two goals 10 seconds apart late in the period.

It was 2-2 after one period, 4-4 after two, and nothing was decided in the fiercest game of the series between the longstanding rivals until Guentzel took control.

The Flyers, who survived a 10-game losing streak just to make the playoffs, lost all three games at home and not even a solid start could help them get out of the first round for the first time since 2012.

Rinne gets shutout to eliminate Avs

Associated Press

DENVER — Colorado had speed and youth. Nashville brought experience and know-how.

It was plain to see which won out — this time.

Mattias Ekholm ignited the offense early with the first goal by a Nashville defenseman in the series, Pekka Rinne stopped 22 shots and the top-seeded Predators advanced to the second round with a 5-0 victory over the Avalanche in Game 6 on Sunday night.

Austin Watson, Filip Forsberg, Nick Bonino and Viktor Arvidsson also scored to help the Predators move on to face Winnipeg. They were 3-1-1 against the Jets in the regular season.

"I'm very impressed the way [the Avalanche] played. They played very modern hockey, with a lot of speed," said Rinne,

who notched his fourth career postseason shutout as the Predators won the series 4-2. "Great game. Great team effort. We didn't give them any life."

Nashville removed any sort of drama with two goals in the opening period and two more in the second to hush the capacity crowd. That's the sort of game plan the Predators envisioned.

"I think that was our best game from start to finish," Watson said. "That's good for us going forward, to be able to take the last game of this series and carry that into how we want to play in the next one."

Andrew Hammond ran out of magic in net, allowing five goals. The third-string goaltender nicknamed "Hamburglar" had 44 saves during a Game 5 win in Nashville to extend the series. But he couldn't turn back a formidable Nashville offense that won a second straight playoff contest in Denver. Be-

fore this, the Avalanche hadn't lost two straight at the Pepsi Center since early December.

"It's disappointing to us and I'm sure it's disappointing to fans," Avalanche captain Gabriel Landeskog said. "It means a lot to us that they did give us a standing ovation at the end."

Watson tormented Colorado with four goals and seven points in the series. In all, 11 of Nashville's forwards had at least a point over six games.

It was quite a bounce-back season for Colorado, which boasts one of the youngest teams. The Avalanche went from a 48-point team in 2016-17 to 95 points this season, earning the last playoff spot on the final day of the regular season.

The Avs are the first NHL team to post that sort of turnaround from one full season to the next since Pittsburgh also jumped 47 points in 2005-06 (58) to 2006-07 (105).

Belt sets at-bat record with 21 pitches

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Rookie right-hander Jaime Barria of the Los Angeles Angels kept throwing strikes and Brandon Belt of the San Francisco Giants kept fouling them off and fouling them off and fouling them off and fouling them off.

Neither Barria nor Belt was about to give in. Mike Trout and the other Angels outfielders began looking at each other in amazement as the second at-bat of the game dragged on. The crowd buzzed as Belt peppered the second deck behind home plate and even the seats down the right-field line with souvenirs.

Belt hit 11 straight balls into the crowd on a full count, hanging in for an epic 21-pitch at-bat before lining out to right fielder Kole Calhoun.

Belt later homered to lead Johnny Cueto and the Giants over the Los Angeles Angels 4-2 on Sunday.

"I wasn't going to give it up and the pitcher wasn't either," Belt said. "It made for a good battle. If it helped get me a little bit locked in for later in the game, it was worth it."

It was the longest at-bat in the majors since records began in 1988. The previous high of 20 pitches in a plate appearance since 1988 was when Houston's Ricky Gutierrez struck out against Cleveland's Bartolo Colon on June 26, 1998, according to Retrosheet.

In all, the left-handed Belt fouled off 16 pitches, ending an at-bat the Giants said lasted 12 minutes, 45 seconds.

It took nine pitches for Belt to work the count full, as he fouled off five pitches in the process. He swung and missed just once and was greeted with high-fives when he returned to the dugout.

"I think after like the 16th pitch the crowd started getting into it," said Trout, whose two-run homer in the eighth was his big league-leading ninth and his third in as many games. "I couldn't imagine being up there for 21 pitches. It's unbelievable."

Belt saw 40 pitches in five at-bats.

"I tried some changeups and then finally the fastball in got him out," Barria said through a translator. "I tried a curveball at one point and somehow he got contact and kept fouling it off. It was obviously tough."

Said Belt: "You've got to give it to him. He kept on throwing strikes. He didn't really hang anything except maybe a couple of pitches, but it was enough to throw me off and not get the barrel on the ball, so it was a tough at-bat."

Angels pitching coach Charles Nagy checked on Barria (1-1) after the long at-bat. Barria had thrown nine pitches to Joe Panik, who hit a leadoff single, before throwing 21 to Belt.

Remarkably, Barria threw 49 pitches and loaded the bases in the first inning but didn't allow a run.

Belt singled and scored in the third and launched a leadoff homer to right against Blake Parker in the fifth. Belt saw a total of 38 pitches in his first three at-bats, then hit the first pitch his last two times up.

Barria was chased after loading the bases with no outs in the third. He allowed two runs and six hits, struck out one and walked one. He got only six outs on 77 pitches.

Cueto (2-0) allowed only two hits in six shutout innings. He took a no-hitter into the sixth and struck out seven.

MLB roundup

Cubs win 'bizarre game' against Rockies

Associated Press

DENVER — Nolan Arenado broke for home the moment Brandon Morrow's bases-loaded pitch bounced to the backstop. Arenado wound up causing an unusual ending that left the Colorado Rockies with a painful loss.

Arenado was initially called safe and then was ruled out on a video review that ended a 9-7 win for the Chicago Cubs on Sunday. The game included diving catches in the outfield, sign stealing, a fan getting tackled on the infield and Cubs star Kris Bryant getting hit on the head by a pitch.

"It was a bizarre game," Chicago manager Joe Maddon said. "I don't think I've been out on the field that often without getting kicked off, ever. Fortunately, nobody got hurt."

Athletics 4, Red Sox 1: Khris Davis hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer off David Price with

two outs in the eighth inning and host Oakland dealt the Red Sox consecutive losses for the first time under new manager Alex Cora.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 1: Gleyber Torres went 0-for-4 with a strikeout, double-play grounder, popup and flyout in his big league debut, and the youthful host Yankees beat Toronto when New York used a starting lineup that didn't include a player 30 or older for the first time since Sept. 29, 1989.

Dodgers 4, Nationals 3: Cody Bellinger followed Yasmani Grandal's two-run double with a tying RBI double in the sixth, and Corey Seager drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning of host Los Angeles' sixth win in seven games.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 2: Patrick Corbin (4-0) struck out 11 in six innings, and host Arizona (15-6) became the first team since San Francisco in 2003 to win its first seven series.

Indians 7, Orioles 3: Jose Ramirez homered twice and drove in three runs, and Corey Kluber (3-1) won his third straight start, allowing three runs and six hits in seven-plus innings.

Royals 8, Tigers 5: Mike Moustakas hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the seventh off Buck Farmer after Drew VerHagen (0-1) walked two batters. The Royals won for only the second time in 12 games, and Moustakas extended his hitting streak to 14.

Rays 8, Twins 6: Carlos Gomez, in a 2-for-38 slide, hit a two-run homer off Addison Reed (0-1) in the ninth.

Phillies 3, Pirates 2: Aaron Altherr hit a winning single in the 11th after Andrew Knapp's opposite-field triple off the left-field wall against Rich Rodriguez (0-1). Host Philadelphia swept a four-game series against Pittsburgh for the first time since May 12-15, 1994.

Astros 7, White Sox 1: Jose Altuve hit a go-ahead single in a five-run seventh inning, and visiting Houston stretched its winning streak to six.

Brewers 4, Marlins 2: Christian Yelich hit his first home run since coming off the disabled list, and host Milwaukee completed a four-game sweep that extended its winning streak to six and dropped Miami to 5-16.

Cardinals 9, Reds 2: Kolten Wong and Paul DeJong homered to back Miles Mikolas (3-0), who yielded two runs — one earned — and five hits over seven innings. Host St. Louis has won eight of nine overall and 11 in a row over the Reds.

Rangers 7, Mariners 4: Nomar Mazara and Joey Gallo homered as host Texas opened a 4-0 lead in the fourth against Erasmo Ramirez (0-1), who allowed five runs and five hits over 4²/₃ innings in his season debut.