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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US military spending up; Russia's down

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — The U.S. boosted military spending last year for the first time since 2010 while Russia's defense budget declined for the second year, according to a new report that found global military investment at a post-Cold War high.

Military spending increased overall to \$1.8 trillion worldwide in 2018, a 2.6% increase that put expenditures at their highest level since 1988, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reported Monday.

The U.S. was by far the biggest spender, with a 4.6% annual increase that added up to \$649 billion — an amount nearly equal to the next eight largest defense budgets combined.

"The increase in U.S. spending was driven by the imple-

mentation from 2017 of new arms procurement programs under the Trump administration," said Aude Fleurant, director of SIPRI's military expenditure program.

China's recent military advances and Russia's assertiveness have prompted the U.S. to shift military focus away from the counterterrorism missions and insurgencies that have dominated the Pentagon's attention in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, U.S. military strategy and investments are centered on "great power competition" and countering more sophisticated rivals.

In 2018, China was the second-biggest spender at \$250 billion, a 5% annual boost that marked Beijing's 24th consecutive year of increased military expenditures. China's expenditures now are nearly 10 times higher than in 1994, SIPRI said.

In 2018, the U.S. and China accounted for roughly half of global military spending.

Meanwhile, Moscow's defense budget continued a recent downward trend after a decade focused on modernizing Russia's aging post-Cold War military. At \$61.4 billion, Russian military spending was the sixth-highest in the world in 2018, but overall spending decreased by 3.5% compared with 2017, SIPRI reported.

Still, concerns about a more militarily aggressive Russia have prompted several European countries to ramp up their spending. Poland spent \$11.6 billion in 2018, an 8.9% increase. Ukraine's spending rose by 21% to \$4.8 billion while Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania also posted gains between 18% and 24%, SIPRI reported.

"The increases in Central and Eastern Europe are largely

due to growing perceptions of a threat from Russia," said Pieter Wezeman, a SIPRI senior researcher.

Other big spenders were India, which increased spending by 3.1% to \$66.5 billion, and its rival Pakistan, which spent 11% more to reach \$11.4 billion in 2018.

South Korea spent \$43.1 billion in 2018, a 5.1% increase over 2017 and the highest annual boost since 2005, SIPRI reported.

Turkey's \$19 billion was a 24% increase, the largest gain among the world's top 15 military spenders, SIPRI said.

Meanwhile, the largest decrease in military expenditures came from Saudi Arabia, which dropped \$4.6 billion. Still, Saudi Arabia spends more than any other country on defense as a share of economic output — 8.8% of gross domestic product.

Amid tensions, 2 US destroyers transit Taiwan Strait

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

Two Navy destroyers cruised through the Taiwan Strait on Sunday and Monday, the latest in a series of transits that challenge China's claims of sovereignty over the strategic waterway.

The USS Stethem and USS William P. Lawrence "conducted a routine Taiwan Strait transit on April 28-29 (local time), in accordance with international law," 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Keiley said in an email Monday.

The transit shows the United States' commitment to maintaining free and open naviga-

tion in the Indo-Pacific region, he said.

"The U.S. Navy will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows," he added.

The U.S. has sent vessels through the 112-mile-wide strait, which separates Taiwan and China, almost once a month since October.

In March, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Bertholf transited the strait alongside the destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur, a Navy destroyer.

The Stethem and cargo ship USNS Cesar Chavez passed through in February. The USS McCampbell and fleet replenishment oiler USNS Walter S.

Diehl sailed there in January.

The USS Stockdale and replenishment oiler USNS Pecos made the pass last November, preceded by the Curtis Wilbur and USS Antietam in October.

Prior to October, there had been only one Taiwan Strait transit by U.S. naval vessels — the USS Mustin and USS Benfold last July — reported in more than a year.

China regards Taiwan as a renegade province that must, at some point, be reunified with the mainland. The U.S. normalized diplomatic ties with Beijing in 1979 and has agreed that China has sovereignty over Taiwan under the "One China" policy.

But the U.S. has continued informal support for the island under the United States Taiwan Relations Act and sells arms and provides military training to the country.

In late March, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that two Chinese air force J-11 jets "violated the long-held tacit agreement by crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait."

China's Global Times later stated in an article that Beijing's flight operations in the strait "could become routine, and the 'middle line' could become history" if the U.S. and Taiwan "upgrade their provocative actions" against China.

Navy color-codes prisoners' uniforms to avoid confusion

BY CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II
Stars and Stripes

The Navy on Wednesday is adopting a distinct uniform for servicemembers confined in its correctional facilities in a move aimed at cutting costs and enhancing security, according to Navy Personnel Command, which oversees the service's detention centers worldwide.

The new prisoner uniform — a blouse and trousers — comes in two colors: dark brown for prisoners awaiting trial and tan uniforms for post-trial prisoners.

Until now, Navy prisoners in detention ashore wore their utility uniforms, which created a potential for confusion.

"Having prisoners wear their service uniform creates security and public safety challenges, such as difficulty in distinguishing staff from prisoners," Jonathan Godwin, senior corrections program specialist with the Corrections and Programs Office at Navy Personnel Command, said in a statement.

The new uniforms cost \$45 each, compared with more than \$150 for a ser-

vice-specific military utility uniform, according to the Navy.

All detainees at Navy facilities will be issued the new uniforms, according to the statement. Prisoners will be responsible for the uniforms' upkeep and must return the uniform upon their release.

The newly issued uniforms will be free of rank, ribbons and insignia, displaying only a white name tape on the right side of the chest.

Additional uniform items that will be included in the cost will be a belt, buckle and hats. Prisoners will continue wearing service-issued undergarments, socks and boots, according to the statement.

Those heading to the brig will no longer require four sets of utility uniforms and jackets as prescribed in a clothing and packing list; however, prisoners will still be required to wear their service dress uniform during court appearances.

The Navy has detention facilities around the world, including in Italy, Spain, Cuba, Japan and in the U.S.

USMC at top of rise in GI heat illnesses

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Young Marines and soldiers based in the southeastern U.S. are most at risk for heat-related illnesses, military medical officials found after tracking a steady increase in diagnoses among the services over the past five years.

In 2018, there were 578 diagnoses of heatstroke and 2,214 diagnoses of heat exhaustion among active-duty servicemembers, according to the Defense Health Agency's April surveillance report.

Annual rates for both illnesses have risen significantly since 2014, said the report, which tracked the incidence of such illnesses across hundreds of locations worldwide. Study authors called on military officials to do more to raise awareness of the injury risk.

"Commanders, small unit leaders, training cadre, and supporting medical personnel — particularly at recruit training centers and installations with large combat troop populations — must ensure that the military members whom they supervise and support are

informed regarding the risks," the report said.

Heatstrokes were most common in the Marine Corps, which had a diagnosis rate 21% higher than the Army. In turn, the Army rate was more than sevenfold the Navy's and more than ninefold that of the Air Force, the report said.

Rates also varied by gender. Among women, the incidence rate was 26.5% lower than among men. And while there were only 37 cases of heatstroke reported among recruit trainees, their incidence rate was more than three times that of other enlisted members and officers.

The study "documents that heat illnesses are a significant and persistent threat to both the health of U.S. military members and the effectiveness of military operations," the report stated.

Heatstroke can cause lasting damage and can involve severe hypothermia, central nervous system dysfunction such as seizures, and organ damage.

More than 90% of the cases occurred in the U.S.

US servicemember dies in noncombat incident in Syria

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

An American servicemember supporting Operation Inherent Resolve died Monday in a noncombat incident in northern Syria.

No further information about the victim or the incident was provided in the military's statement. Inherent Resolve is the U.S.-led coalition battling Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

The American's identity was withheld pending notification of next of kin, which is standard procedure.

Since late 2014, U.S. and coalition forces helped liberate more than 42,000 square miles of territory that ISIS had claimed for its self-styled caliphate. Some 2,000 U.S.

troops remain in Syria and more than 5,000 in Iraq to help prevent ISIS' resurgence.

President Donald Trump in December had called for a rapid withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria. But the White House later said it would keep a smaller force of about 200 troops in the country to help Syrian partners, largely Kurds, restore stability to retaken areas.

Last month, the U.S.-backed Syrian forces declared victory over ISIS after clearing the militants from their last enclave near the Iraq-Syria border.

Monday's death is the fourth noncombat fatality in the Central Command area of operations in a little more than a week.

Spc. Michael T. Osorio, 20, died April 23 in Taji, a district north of Baghdad where U.S. and allied troops are training Iraqi

forces.

Spc. Ryan Dennis Orin Riley, 22, serving with the Fort Campbell, Ky.-based 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, died April 20 in Nineveh province in northern Iraq.

On April 19, Staff Sgt. Albert J. Miller, 24, died at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Miller was assigned to the 736th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron out of Dover Air Force Base, Del., and was supporting the military's Afghanistan mission.

Nine Americans have died while serving in support of Inherent Resolve this year, which includes four combat deaths from a suicide bombing in northern Syria in January. In that incident, two servicemembers, a Defense Department civilian and a contractor were killed.

2 Marines injured in crash on Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps is investigating after two Marines were injured Friday when their utility vehicle crashed along an Okinawa highway.

The incident occurred at approximately 4:40 p.m. in the Yamashiro, Ishikawa, area of the Okinawa Expressway, the Okinawa Times newspaper reported.

The 7-ton camouflage truck was northbound when it struck the wall on the roadway's left side, then crossed both lanes of traffic to the right, crashed through the median, crossed the two opposing lanes, crashed through a guardrail and rolled down a 30-foot embankment.

There were no brake or skid marks found on the roadway, according to the newspaper.

The truck — the type often used to ferry troops or carry supplies — came to rest on its roof, according to the newspaper. No civilians were hurt, and no civilian vehicles were damaged in the incident.

The Marines inside the truck — a 20-year-old driver and a 26-year-old passenger, both assigned to the III Marine Expeditionary Group at Camp Hansen — were treated at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa for minor head and neck injuries, the Okinawa Times and Marine Corps officials said.

"We are currently investigating the cause of the incident," III Marine Expeditionary Force spokesman 1st Lt. David Mancilla told Stars and Stripes in an email.

Japanese police declined to comment Monday.

Alcohol does not appear to have been a factor in the crash, the Okinawa Times reported, citing police sources.

Police hope to interview the Marines once they recover.

ISIS leader al-Baghdadi appears in video for 1st time in 5 years

Associated Press

BEIRUT — The shadowy leader of Islamic State appeared for the first time in five years in a video released by the extremist group's propaganda arm Monday, acknowledging defeat in the group's last stronghold in Syria but vowing a "long battle" ahead.

The SITE Intelligence group said Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in the video also discussed the Easter Day bombings in Sri Lanka which killed more than 250 people and for which the group claimed responsibility.

The video released by Al-Furqan shows al-Baghdadi with a bushy grey and red beard, wearing a black robe with a beige vest and seated on the floor with what appears to be a machine gun propped up next to him. He is speaking with three men seated opposite

him whose faces were covered and blotted out.

It is his first video appearance since he delivered a sermon at the al-Nuri mosque in the Iraqi city of Mosul in 2014. In that video, he appeared as a black-robed figure with a trimmed black beard to deliver a sermon from the pulpit of the mosque in which he urged Muslims around the world to swear allegiance to the caliphate and obey him as its leader.

Al-Baghdadi acknowledged that ISIS lost the war in the eastern Syrian village of Baghouz, which was captured last month by the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

"In fact, the battle of Islam and its people against the Crusaders and their followers is a long battle," he said.

He said the battle of Baghouz demonstrated the "barbarism and brutality" of the West and

the "courage, steadfastness and resilience of the nation of Islam."

It is unclear when or where the video was filmed. Al-Baghdadi spoke slowly and haltingly in the video.

With a \$25 million U.S. bounty on his head, al-Baghdadi is the world's most wanted man, responsible for steering his chillingly violent organization into mass slaughter of opponents, and directing and inspiring terrorist attacks across continents and in the heart of Europe.

Despite numerous claims about his death in the past few years, al-Baghdadi's whereabouts remain a mystery. He appeared in public only once, in 2014. Since then, many of his top aides have been killed, mostly in U.S.-led coalition airstrikes.

Top Gitmo prison officer fired

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The top military officer in charge of the detention facilities at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in Cuba was relieved of command this past weekend by the commander of U.S. Southern Command, who cited a "loss of confidence in his ability," officials said Monday.

Navy Rear Adm. John Ring was removed Saturday from his job as the commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay during a meeting with Adm. Craig Faller, the commander of U.S. Southern Command, according to a SOUTHCOM statement. Since April 2018, Ring had led the joint task force of some 1,700 personnel responsible for detaining 40 law of war detainees captured on battlefields in Afghanistan and Iraq

nearly two decades ago.

Officials with SOUTHCOM and at Guantanamo Bay on Monday declined to provide a reason for Ring's sudden removal. He had been slated to relinquish command in June as part of a regular rotation of leadership.

Faller's decision came at the conclusion of a monthlong investigation that was completed in mid-April, said Jose Ruiz, a SOUTHCOM spokesman. He declined to provide additional information about that probe, including the reason it was launched.

Ring will soon be assigned temporary duties elsewhere within SOUTHCOM.

Army Brig. Gen. John Hussey, who had been serving as Ring's deputy, was named the acting commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, according to the statement.

"This change in leadership will not interrupt the safe, humane, legal care and custody provided to the detainee population" at Guantanamo Bay, reads the SOUTHCOM statement.

Ring has long touted the need for new facilities at the detention center on the small American base on Cuba's southeastern coast. Last year, he said his primary goals at Guantanamo Bay included improving housing and other facilities for troops and persuading Congress to allocate funds to build a new detention facility for Guantanamo's high-value detainees. He described the classified Camp 7 facility as deteriorating.

Ring has also said he wanted more funding to provide better care for the aging population of enemy combatants, some of whom are in their 70s.

Gunman chased by Army vet

Los Angeles Times

Oscar Stewart was focused on the comforting rhythm of the Torah reading when pops of gunfire cut through the sanctuary.

Stewart watched fellow congregants of Chabad of Poway in California jump to their feet and run toward the exits as if in slow motion, away from the violence unfolding in the lobby on Saturday morning, the last day of Passover.

The Army veteran, 51, began to follow them. And then, in a split-second decision, he turned around.

Stewart doesn't know why. In retrospect, the Orthodox Jew thinks it might have been the "hand of God."

Whatever it was that moved through him in that moment, it propelled Stewart into the lobby. He saw the young man

— who authorities say was John T. Earnest, 19 — in a military-style vest wielding a semi-automatic rifle.

"Get down!" Stewart yelled in the loudest tenor he could muster.

The gunman fired two more rounds in response.

"I'm going to kill you!" Stewart boomed. This seemed to rattle Earnest, who began to flee.

Stewart, who had been a sergeant in the Army, kept close to the shooter as he chased him into the parking lot.

The shooter got into a Honda sedan. Stewart, seeing the man reach for his weapon, punched the side of the car. The man started the ignition and let go of the rifle.

That's when Jonathan Morales, an off-duty Border Patrol agent, shot four bullets into the car. As the shooter sped away,

Stewart and Morales took down the license plate number.

Stewart sprinted into the synagogue. Rabbi Yishoel Goldstein was standing in the lobby with a prayer shawl wrapped around his bleeding hands. Then Stewart noticed a woman lying face-down on the floor. He flipped her over and recognized her as Lori Kaye.

She had been shot near the heart.

Stewart, who works as an electrician, could barely sleep Saturday night. He thought of how the day would change his life forever, for better or worse.

He was deployed to Iraq for a year in 2003, but never thought he would hear gunfire again — especially in the United States. He said he could no longer be naive about how gun violence might touch his life, now that it had.

'Avengers: Endgame' obliterates record

Associated Press

The universe belongs to Marvel. "Avengers: Endgame" shattered the record for biggest opening weekend with an estimated \$350 million in ticket sales domestically and \$1.2 billion globally, reaching a new pinnacle in the blockbuster era.

The "Avengers" finale far exceeded even its own gargantuan expectations, according to studio estimates Sunday. The movie had been forecast to open between \$260 million and \$300 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters, but moviegoers turned out in such droves that "Endgame" blew past the previous record of \$257.7 million, set last year by "Avengers: Infinity War" when it narrowly surpassed "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (\$248 million, or about \$266 million in inflation-adjusted dollars.)

"Endgame" was just as enormous overseas. Worldwide, it obliterated the previous record of \$640.5 million, also set by "Infinity War." "Endgame" set a new weekend record in China, too, where it made \$330.5 million.

Joe and Anthony Russo's film ties together the "Avengers" storyline as well as the previous 21 releases of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, begun with 2008's "Iron Man."

Disney now holds all but one of the top 12 box-office openings of all time. (Universal's "Jurassic World" is the lone exception.)

The guessing game will now shift to just how much higher "Endgame" can go. Given its start, it's likely to rival the top three worldwide grossers: "The Force Awakens" (\$2.068 billion in 2015), "Titanic" (\$2.187 billion in 1997) and "Avatar" (\$2.788 in 2009).

South Sudan pays \$3.7M to lobby US

Associated Press

JUBA, South Sudan — South Sudan's government is paying a U.S.-based lobby firm \$3.7 million to improve its relationship with the Trump administration and to block a path to justice for victims of the country's five-year civil war.

The two-year contract, seen by The Associated Press, was signed earlier this month by South Sudan's government and Gainful Solutions, a lobbying firm run by former U.S. Ambassador Michael Ranneberger.

The contract says the company was hired to, among other things, attempt to "delay and ultimately block establishment of the hybrid court." The long-delayed court is a key part of South Sudan's fragile peace deal signed in September and is meant to hold accountable those responsible for war crimes in a conflict that killed nearly 400,000 people.

The contract was signed just weeks before the peace deal's

next major deadline, with opposition leader Riek Machar expected to return to South Sudan by May 12 to again become President Salva Kiir's deputy in a unity government. That arrangement has been shaken more than once by outbursts of gunfire, and the opposition now seeks a six-month extension over security concerns.

Worried observers have said the peace deal, already marked by delays and fighting, could fall apart. The government has repeatedly said it does not have enough funds to implement the deal's \$285 million initial phase.

South Sudan's opposition criticized the U.S. lobbying contract. "It only shows the desperation the government is in, trying to evade accountability and justice ... misplaced priorities," Henry Odwar, opposition deputy chairman, told the AP.

South Sudan's deputy chief of mission in the United States, Gordon Buay, said there is no

intention to abolish the hybrid court, but the priority needs to be on reconciliation rather than punitive justice.

The lobbying contract says the goal is to open a "channel of communication" between Kiir and President Donald Trump in the hopes of "persuading" Trump's administration to expand economic and political relations and support American private-sector investment in oil, natural resources, energy, gas and mining.

The lobbying firm also will push the Trump administration to open a "military relationship" with South Sudan to enhance the fight against extremism and promote regional stability.

The contract indicates that South Sudan's government "doesn't want the peace deal to be implemented" and the lobbyists are also to blame, said Klem Ryan, former coordinator of the U.N. panel of experts monitoring sanctions on South Sudan.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Troopers probe road rage involving bus

AK FAIRBANKS — Officials said two men forced a school bus taking Alaska elementary students home to stop in the middle of the road during an apparent road rage encounter last week.

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported Alaska state troopers are investigating after the car abruptly stopped in front of the bus in the North Pole area and the men got out to yell at the bus driver on April 23.

Ticasuk Brown Elementary School interim Principal Alicia Lewis said in an email to parents that the bus slowly started moving forward, but the car followed it to the next stop. Lewis said the bus driver held students on the bus until parents arrived.

Police rescue 'GOAT'; it's not Tom Brady

NY NEW YORK — "There's a new GOAT in town, and it's not (@TomBrady ...)"

That's what the New York Police Department tweeted after rescuing a crying pygmy goat that had mysteriously wandered into a Queens backyard last week.

Officers named it Josh and delivered it to a city animal shelter for a meal of hay.

Josh will soon go to the Skylands animal sanctuary in New Jersey, where Jon Stewart and his wife, Tracey, sent a bull headed to a slaughterhouse that escaped on a Queens street three years ago.

In a video police released Friday, an officer is seen cradling the goat in her arms, saying, "It's OK. ... He's so cute."

And no, it's not Brady, whose nickname, GOAT, stands for the "greatest of all time."

Kangaroo on the run from ranch captured

TX WIMBERLEY — A kangaroo named Harry that had been on the loose after escaping from a Central Texas ranch for exotic animals was captured and returned home Saturday.

The kangaroo had been on the lam for several days after escaping from the ranch near Wimberley.

Harry had been spotted eating flowers and grass by residents of Hays County while he had been on the loose. Authorities said the kangaroo's owners were able to capture him by using a tranquilizer dart.

Man charged over booby-trapped porch

KY LONDON — Authorities said they arrested a Kentucky man who booby-trapped his front porch with a knife-filled sheet of plywood designed to swing downward.

According to the Lexington Herald-Leader, the Laurel County Sheriff's Department arrested Raymond Jackson, 56, and charged him with possession of a destructive or booby-trap device.

The sheriff's department said deputies responded to Jackson's home outside London on Wednesday after a report of a man allegedly drunk and waving a large knife at neighbors, cursing at them and creating a disturbance. When they arrived, deputies found the booby trap.

Groups told to change security vehicle paint

MN ST. CLOUD — Four organizations in St. Cloud that have security vehicles with illegal paint schemes

are being given two months to come into compliance.

The St. Cloud Times reported that the city issued the cease-and-desist orders to the groups about 10 days ago. The notices came after the city received a complaint that the Islamic Center of St. Cloud's security vehicle looked similar to a police car.

The city found that three other organizations also weren't compliant, including St. Cloud State University.

Minnesota law states that all vehicles used by security guards can have any color other than those specified for law enforcement vehicles.

Power plant towers demolished in seconds

MA SOMERSET — In a matter of seconds, two 500-foot cooling towers from Massachusetts' last coal-fired power plant were reduced to rubble.

The controlled demolition went off as scheduled at 8 a.m. Saturday at the former Brayton Point Station in Somerset. Live video showed the giant towers along Mount Hope Bay implode and a large cloud of dust rise into the air.

The plant closed in 2017 as environmental groups pushed for cleaner sources of energy generation.

34 horses are seized; neglect charges filed

OR SALEM — Sheriff's deputies seized 34 horses from a residence outside Lebanon, and the owners are facing criminal animal neglect charges.

The Statesman Journal reported the Linn County Sheriff's Office took the horses from the residence of Carol and Edward Davidson last week.

Animal control personnel had been working with them since December following complaints that the horses were standing in mud.

In January, sheriff's deputy Corey Putney drove by the residence and saw a dead horse whose corpse wasn't disposed of properly and horses that were beginning to look unwell.

Video shows student kicked; teacher fired

KS SHAWNEE — The Shawnee Mission School District said it fired an elementary school teacher after a video showed her kicking a 5-year-old girl in the back.

KCTV reported that the incident occurred Feb. 21 at Blue-jacket-Flint Elementary School in Shawnee.

The girl's mother said her daughter had a large red mark on her arm after school that day and said the teacher hit her.

A video obtained by the station shows the child refusing to leave the library with the other students and hiding in a bookshelf.

The teacher is seen dragging the girl out of the bookshelf and kicking her in the back.

Home just purchased for \$25M to be razed

FL NAPLES — A real estate agent said an oceanfront Florida home that recently sold for \$25.5 million is headed for demolition.

The three-bedroom, 70-year-old Naples beach house sits on nearly 2 acres overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. It was purchased last month after the previous owners died.

It last sold in 1987 for \$1.275 million.

The identity of the new owners has not been disclosed.

From wire reports

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Reporting
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Celtics cruise past Bucks

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Al Horford stood his ground as Giannis Antetokounmpo charged his way.

Antetokounmpo, the Milwaukee Bucks' MVP candidate, desperately wanted to provide a spark and cut into a second-half lead against Horford's Boston Celtics in the opener of a second-round playoff series on Sunday. He drove hard into the lane, quickly switched directions and tried to lay the ball up over Horford, who met him at the rim and blocked the shot.

Antetokounmpo corralled the ball and went up a second time only to be met by Horford again, who this time spiked the ball to the court.

The Celtics clamped down on Antetokounmpo all game and cruised past the Bucks, 112-90.

"Our focus was to make sure that we just made it tough on him every time, just making sure he earned everything he got," Horford said. "I felt like we did a pretty good job of that."

Kyrie Irving had 26 points and 11 assists, tying his playoff career high, and Horford added 20 points and 11 rebounds to pace Boston, which controlled the game for long stretches while playing stingy defense against Antetokounmpo.

Jaylen Brown chipped in with 19 points and Gordon Hayward had 13 off the bench for the Celtics.

Antetokounmpo scored 22 points but shot just 7 for 21. He didn't make his first field goal until the first minute of the second quarter.

"It was one of the toughest losses we've ever had, all season, especially at home," Antetokounmpo said.

Durant, Warriors edge Rockets

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kevin Durant scored 35 points in outdueling James Harden and the Golden State Warriors held off the Houston Rockets 104-100 on Sunday in the opener of what is shaping up to be a sensational best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal.

Houston's Chris Paul was ejected with 4.4 seconds left for a second technical. He had rebounded a missed three-pointer by Harden that could have tied the game with 9 seconds left and was arguing for a foul.

Draymond Green added 14 points, nine assists and nine rebounds for the two-time defending champion Warriors, who are meeting the Rockets in the postseason for the fourth time in five years and with Houston having never been victorious.

Harden scored 35 points and Eric Gordon 27 after both struggled early finding their shooting strokes for the cold-shooting Rockets. They shot 14-for-47 from long range and were without reserve guard Austin Rivers because of an illness.

Harden's three-point play with 40 seconds left pulled Houston within 100-98. Stephen Curry knocked down a three on the other end over Nene moments later and finished with 18 points, seven rebounds and four assists.

Durant, who had combined for 95 points the previous two games against the Clippers, shot 11-for-25 and made 12 of 15 free throws in his fifth straight 30-point playoff performance — matching his career-best streak accomplished from June 1-12, 2017.

Technical fouls on Paul and Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni 2.1 seconds apart in the final minute of the third allowed the Warriors to take an 83-76 lead into the final 12 minutes after Durant converted the free throws.

Game 2 is Tuesday night back at Oracle Arena.

Klay Thompson scored 13 points on a sprained right ankle.

These West powerhouses fought through a seven-game series in last year's Western Conference finals, when Golden State rallied from a 3-2 deficit to win Game 7 on Houston's home floor.

Paul is on a mission after he sat out the final two games because of an injured right hamstring he hurt in Game 5. He had 17 points Sunday.

The Rockets missed their final 27 three-pointers in the deciding 2018 game and came out cold again.

When Houston missed a three on its initial shot of the game, Golden State fan Jones Castro yelled "0-for-28!" He added an "0-for-29!" moments later and the Rockets missed their first eight from deep overall before Harden connected at the 4:35 mark of the first.

Houston was 1-for-14 from deep in the first and fell behind 28-19. Gordon missed his first six threes.

Green picked up his third technical of the postseason 3:13 before halftime and would receive an automatic suspension if he reaches seven.

Racing roundup

Elliott picks up victory at Talladega

Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Chase Elliott felt right at home, embraced by fans at a track a few hours from home and one where his father celebrated victory a couple of decades before.

This time it was Chase's turn.

Elliott won the Cup Series race Sunday at Talladega Superspeedway, giving Chevrolet its first victory of the season. He finished well in the clear from a race-ending crash that flipped Kyle Larson a half-dozen times.

Elliott took the lead shortly after a restart with four laps to go and worked with three other Chevy drivers to hold off the rest of the field. He won for the first time since October and went to victory lane about 150 miles from his hometown in Georgia.

His Hall of Fame father Bill Elliott won twice at Talladega in the 1980s.

"Dad's history, obviously very cool," Chase Elliott said. "To me the biggest piece of today was just how much of a home race it felt like after the race. I was blown away by the people and how fired up everybody was. That was an unbelievable experience. We are close to home, so that's cool, and they made me feel that way.

"I couldn't ask for much more there."

His father was back in Georgia driving in a vintage cars race. (He won, too),

Hendrick Motorsports teammate Alex Bowman finished second, followed by rookie Ryan Preece, Joey Logano and another rookie, Daniel Hemric.

Elliott is the sixth driver to win through 10 Cup races this season and locked up a playoff spot.

Bottas, Hamilton finish 1-2

BAKU, Azerbaijan — Valtteri Bottas held off Lewis Hamilton before cruising to victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Sunday to continue Mercedes' dominance of the title race.

That was the fourth straight one-two finish for Mercedes, the best start to a season by a two-car team in Formula One history. Sebastian Vettel and Ferrari were never even close to victory.

Bottas took over the championship lead by a single point from Hamilton, who took second place behind the Finn.

Hurricanes edge Islanders

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Outplayed for much of the first two periods while losing players to injuries, the Carolina Hurricanes scored two quick goals early in the third period and held on for another big road victory.

Warren Foegele and Nino Niederreiter scored 48 seconds apart to rally the Hurricanes to a 2-1 victory over the New York Islanders on Sunday and a 2-0 series lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

“We knew we had to make sure to come out hungry going to the third period,” Niederreiter said.

Petr Mrazek stopped nine of 10 shots he faced before leaving with an injury 6½ minutes into the second period. Curtis McElhinney came on and finished with 17 saves to help Carolina win for the sixth time in its last seven playoff games.

“He’s been huge,” Foegele said about McElhinney. “It’s not easy coming off the bench there and haven’t faced a shot for 30 minutes or so and come up big with some stellar saves.”

The Hurricanes opened

the first round with losses at Washington, before evening the series at home. They then lost Game 5 on the road before tying it at home again and then winning a marathon Game 7 on the Capitals’ ice in two overtimes to advance.

Now, after winning two in New York, they’re heading home with the series lead and a chance at a sweep if they can win the next two.

“It’s huge taking two on the road here,” Foegele said. “We just got to focus, regroup and worry about the next game. Last series we were down 2-0 and we knew we had to come back, so they’re definitely going to be thinking that right now.”

Mathew Barzal scored and Robin Lehner made with 16 saves for the Islanders. New York, which had home-ice advantage in a seven-game series for the 15th time, has opened with two losses for the first time.

“We were much better than the night before (in Game 1),” Islanders captain Anders Lee said. “Now we got to go into their building and do what they

did to us.”

Game 3 is Wednesday night in Raleigh, N.C.

The Hurricanes also lost defenseman Trevor Riemsdyk to a shoulder injury in the opening minute of the game, and forward Saku Maenalanen to an upper body injury in the third.

Trailing 1-0 after two periods, the Hurricanes took the lead early in the third. Foegele tied, taking a pass from Lucas Wallmark and beating Lehner inside the right post from the right faceoff dot 17 seconds in. It was his fifth goal of the postseason.

Niederreiter, who began his career with the Islanders and had an assist on Jordan Staal’s winner in OT in Game 1, put the Hurricanes ahead when he redirected a shot by Teuvo Teravainen for his first of the playoffs at 1:05.

McElhinney stopped a shot by Anthony Beauvillier 5:15 into the third, and then stuffed a try by Barzal with just under 11 minutes left.

Giants’ pick wounded in shooting

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Washburn University’s joy over one of its own going to the pros quickly shifted to grief this weekend after a shooting killed a current Washburn football player and wounded the former member of the team who was drafted by the New York Giants just hours earlier.

Police in Topeka, Kan., where the university is located, said officers found defensive back Dwane Simmons, 23, dead when they investigated gunshots shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday. Cornerback Corey Ballentine was wounded, but his injuries were not believed to be life-threatening. Ballentine, also 23, grew up in Topeka and was picked by the Giants on Saturday in the sixth round of the NFL Draft.

A preliminary investigation determined that the shooting occurred during a social gathering outside a residence, Topeka police spokeswoman Gretchen Koenen said in an email Sunday evening. She said dozens of people were at the gathering and police were working to gather evidence and witness statements.

“We want to emphasize that we need those who were present to let us know what they saw,” Koenen said.

Navarro Simmons says the family learned from detectives that his son and Ballentine were about to leave the party when a vehicle pulled up. He says the people inside asked a question and then started shooting.

No arrests have been made, and police say they had no new information to release early Monday.

Washburn president Jerry Farley said, “This was a terrible way to end a day which should have been a day of celebration and a day to look forward to Dwane’s upcoming year at Washburn and the beginning of Corey’s professional career.”

Avalanche top Sharks, tie series

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Trailing in the second period and in danger of going down 2-0 in the series, Colorado Avalanche coach Jared Bednar put his three top scorers back on a line together and got the results he sought.

Gabriel Landeskog scored the first goal and Mikko Rantanen’s hustle helped create the tie-breaking tally from Tyson Barrie, sending the Avalanche to a 4-3 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Sunday that tied the second-round series at a game apiece.

“In the first period, we didn’t get much going so maybe he wanted to switch a little bit and see if it brings a spark,” Rantanen said. “We got an early goal from Landy and there was no changing back.”

Landeskog, Rantanen and Nathan MacKinnon were reunited early in the second period and helped provide goals on the first and fourth shifts, turning the tide of the series in Colorado’s direction after a 5-2 loss in the opener.

Former Shark Matt Nieto scored in the third period and MacKinnon added an empty-netter to

give Colorado its third victory in its past 24 games in San Jose. Philipp Grubauer made 31 saves.

“It’s big for our confidence,” said Barrie, who had a goal and two assists. “This is a tough building to win in. We haven’t had a whole lot of success here. We wanted to come in and at least get a split. We did that.”

Game 3 is Tuesday night in Denver.

Brent Burns scored twice and Evander Kane also scored for the Sharks, who had won four straight games. Martin Jones made 28 saves.

The Avalanche turned the game around thanks to their top line that has been so dangerous all year. Landeskog got to the front the net to deflect a point shot from Barrie past Jones for the equalizer midway through the second.

The ice was tilted Colorado’s way after that and the trio helped deliver again a couple of shifts later. Rantanen raced past Marc-Edouard Vlasic to negate an icing and create a scoring chance for Colorado. Jones made a good stop on Landeskog from in close but the puck went out to Barrie at the top of the faceoff circle and he beat Jones with a shot to the top corner to give Colorado a 2-1 lead.

Pujols passes Bonds on career RBIs list

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Albert Pujols opened the weekend by passing Lou Gehrig on the career RBIs list and ended it by moving past Barry Bonds.

Pujols' go-ahead, two-run double in the first inning Sunday started the Los Angeles Angels to a 7-3 win over the Kansas City Royals.

He pulled a fastball from Homer Bailey (2-3) just past third baseman Kelvin Gutierrez. Pujols has 1,997 RBIs and trails only Hank Aaron (2,297) and Alex Rodriguez (2,086) in RBIs, which became an official statistic in 1920.

Pujols did not speak with reporters after the game.

"He's had an unbelievable career," Angels manager Brad Ausmus said. "He continues to add onto it."

Matt Harvey (1-2) got his first win with the Angels, allowing one run and two hits in seven innings.

"I thought he picked up where he left off in his last inning of his last outing,"

Ausmus said. "He was aggressive. He attacked the hitters. His stuff was good. He threw some really good changeups and curveballs."

Harvey lowered his ERA from 8.03 to 6.54 as the Angels won a road series for the first time this season.

"The big thing was putting together a decent start from the last outing. I was trying to keep that going. The thought crept into my head early this morning," Harvey said. "I used that as energy to stay focused and keep my attention. I wasn't striking out the world, but the guys were making plays behind me. I knew, especially with the wind blowing in, that I could attack the zone."

The key pitches for Harvey were improved changeups and curveballs. Pitching coach Doug White has cautioned Harvey not to overuse his slider.

"For him to stay on me about the changeup and the curveball and going through the drills we do in between starts has been huge," Harvey said.

Kansas City's Alex Gordon, who faced Harvey in the 2015 World Series against the New York Mets, said the 30-year-old right-hander "kind of looked like the Matt Harvey of old."

Bailey gave up six hits to his first 13 batters and retired his final 10. He allowed four runs in six innings as the Royals dropped to an AL-worst 9-19.

"I thought Homer didn't have his best stuff today, but really grinded it out, really competed and really battled through it to get us six good innings," Kansas City manager Ned Yost said.

Tommy LaStella's RBI groundout in the first and Andrelton Simmons' RBI single in the third boosted the lead to 4-0.

Kansas City scored in the fourth without a hit when Alex Gordon reached on a wild pitch as he struck out, advanced on a walk, took third on a flyout and came home on Jorge Soler's sacrifice fly.

Hunter Dozier's RBI single off Ty Buttrely in the eighth cut the Royals' deficit to 4-2. Justin Bour hit a three-run home run in the ninth against Ben Lively.

MLB roundup

Yankees lose two more players, but finish sweep

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The New York Yankees keep on getting hurt — and winning.

DJ LeMahieu and Gio Urshela became the latest Yankees to get hurt as New York completed a three-game sweep of the San Francisco Giants with an 11-5 win Sunday that included another long home run by Gary Sanchez.

LeMahieu was removed in the bottom of the third because of right knee inflammation.

Urshela left after he was hit on his left hand by an 88.5 mph cutter from Nick Vincent in the fifth. Urshela had two hits Sunday and is batting .351 with six RBIs in 57 at-bats.

The Yankees said X-rays on both players were negative. LeMahieu was scheduled to undergo an MRI on Monday.

"It's the story of the season, besides winning a bunch of games lately," LeMahieu said. "It's frustrating."

Astros 4, Indians 1: Robinson Chirinos hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in a four-run seventh inning to give host Houston a win.

Cubs 6, Diamondbacks 5 (15): Ben Zobrist lined a two-run double in the 15th inning, and Chicago outlasted Arizona in the second-longest game in Chase Field history.

Rays 5, Red Sox 2: Chris Sale remained winless in six starts this season, giving up Daniel Robertson's two-run homer in the first inning and Yandy Diaz's two-run triple in the second, as Tampa Bay beat host Boston.

Dodgers 7, Pirates 6: Max Muncy singled home the tying run in the fifth inning and the go-ahead run off Richard Rodriguez (0-2) in the seventh as host Los Angeles rallied from a 5-1 deficit and completed a three-game sweep.

Twins 4, Orioles 1: Max Kepler led off against Dylan Bundy (0-4) with his fourth home run

of the series, Byron Buxton also homered and host Minnesota swept its six-game season series against Baltimore.

Blue Jays 5, Athletics 4: Brandon Drury hit a tying three-run homer off Blake Treinen (1-2) in the 11th inning, Justin Smoak following with a game-winning single and host Toronto finished a six-game season sweep of Oakland.

Mets 5, Brewers 2: Reigning NL MVP Christian Yelich left in the fifth with low back discomfort, and Mets star Robinson Cano exited in the first after being hit by a pitch on his left hand at New York.

Nationals 7, Padres 6: Matt Adams homered off Matt Wisler (1-1) leading off the 11th, his third career walk-off homer, as host Washington overcame a 6-0 deficit.

Braves 8, Rockies 7: Josh Donaldson overcame a 7-5 deficit with a three-run homer in the eighth off Seunghwan Oh (1-1), host Atlanta's fourth

home run of the game.

Phillies 5, Marlins 1: Zach Eflin (3-3) threw a seven-hitter, the first complete game for the host Phillies pitcher since September 2017.

White Sox 4, Tigers 1: Reynaldo Lopez (2-3) struck out a career-high 14 and allowed two hits and an unearned run over six innings as host Chicago completed a rain-shortened two-game sweep.

Cardinals 5, Reds 2: Jack Flaherty (3-1) gave up four hits in seven scoreless innings, and Yadier Molina drove in three runs as host St. Louis won for the seventh time in eight games. John Gant retired Derek Dietrich with a man on for his second save.

Rangers 14, Mariners 1: Elvis Andrus, Hunter Pence, Logan Forsythe and Shin-Soo Choo homered to back Lance Lynn (3-2), who allowed one run over seven innings for visiting Texas.