

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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N. Korea could hit with little warning

Associated Press

TOKYO — The scenario has become pretty familiar by now. Sometime in the early morning, a missile roars off its launcher in North Korea and flies off — to a splash zone in the Pacific Ocean. But

ANALYSIS what if Pyongyang wasn't just testing its hardware or drilling its troops? How long would it take to hit its real-world, primary targets?

Two experts talk about what would happen if North Korea fired at targets near and far: David Wright, senior scientist and co-director of the Global Security Program of the Union of Concerned Scientists, and analyst Markus Schiller, of ST Analytics, an independent space technology and rocketry consulting firm based in Germany. The takeaway: It would get very messy, very fast.

LESS THAN 6 MINUTES

Target: Seoul, South Korea

Well before North Korea had a nuclear program, it realized it could hold the 10 million people of greater Seoul, the capital of South Korea, hostage with the threat of a massive, conventional artillery strike from its dug-in gun batteries concentrated just north of the Demilitarized Zone.

If it were to launch such a strike first, the first wave of shells could land with essentially no warning. Estimates vary as to how much damage such an attack could actually wreak, but it would be considerable.

10-11 MINUTES

Target: Tokyo

Japan also has Patriot missiles it deploys, among other

places, on the grounds of its Defense Ministry in Tokyo.

It helped develop with the U.S. the ship-based Aegis system, which is designed to intercept medium-range missiles and potentially intermediate-range ones. The Patriots are designed to intercept an incoming missile just before it hits, if the Aegis' SM-3 missiles fail to intercept them farther out and higher up, at mid-course.

Schiller has one strong caution at this point: It remains unknown whether Pyongyang actually has a working nuclear warhead. But serious questions have been raised over whether this multilayer strategy, even when augmented by the THAAD system, would be a reliable missile shield.

30-34 MINUTES

Target: San Francisco

To be classified as an intercontinental ballistic missile, the missile must have a minimum range of 3,400 miles. North Korea does not at this time have such a missile, as far as the experts can tell. The missile it launched Sunday came close, flying for 30 minutes on a highly "lofted" trajectory that if flattened out would suggest a range of about 2,800 miles.

That's good enough to get it to Guam, the key U.S. military hub in the Pacific, in about 15 minutes. Beyond that, its capabilities are in doubt.

30-39 MINUTES

Target: Washington

The U.S. relies in large part on its Ground-based Missile Defense system to intercept incoming ICBMs. But critics point out the GMD had six out of its nine test intercepts fail between 2002 and 2016.

Wholly appropriate?

McMaster says Trump's conversation with Russians was routine sharing of information

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pushing back against allegations of damaging intelligence disclosures, President Donald Trump's national security adviser insisted Tuesday that Trump's revelations to Russian officials about activities by Islamic State were "wholly appropriate" and amounted to a routine sharing of information.

H.R. McMaster added that none of the U.S. officials present for the president's Oval Office meeting with the Russian foreign minister last week "felt in any way that that conversation was inappropriate." He used the words "wholly appropriate" nine separate times.

Trump himself claimed the authority to share "facts pertaining to terrorism" and airline safety with Russia, saying in a pair of tweets he has "an absolute right" as president to do so. Trump's tweets did not say whether he revealed classified information about ISIS, as published reports have said and as a U.S. official told The Associated Press.

McMaster said in a White House briefing: "In the context of that discussion, what the president discussed with the foreign minister was wholly appropriate to that conversation and is consistent with the routine sharing of information between the president and any leaders with whom he is engaged."

The White House has not expressly denied that classified information was disclosed in the Oval Office meeting between Trump and Russian diplomats last week.

The Kremlin dismissed the reports as "complete nonsense."

The news reverberated

around the world as countries started second-guessing their own intelligence-sharing agreements with the U.S.

A senior European intelligence official told the AP his country might stop sharing information with the United States if it confirms that Trump shared classified details with Russian officials. Such sharing "could be a risk for our sources," said the official, who spoke only on condition that neither he nor his country be identified because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

On Capitol Hill, Democrats and Republicans alike expressed concern about the president's disclosures. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., called the reports "deeply disturbing" and said they could affect the willingness of U.S. allies and partners to share intelligence with the U.S.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., called the intelligence uproar a distraction from GOP priorities such as tax reform and replacing the health care law. "I think we could do with a little less drama from the White House on a lot of things so that we can focus on our agenda," he told Bloomberg Business.

Doug Andres, a spokesman for House Speaker Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said the speaker was looking for "a full explanation of the facts from the administration."

Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., called for Congress to have immediate access to a transcript of Trump's meeting with the Russians, saying that if Trump refuses, Americans will doubt that their president is capable of safeguarding critical secrets.

Reagan departs for Asia patrols

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan departed its Yokosuka homeport Tuesday for a scheduled patrol of the Asia-Pacific region amid concerns about North Korea and questions about how the White House will address China's claims to the South China Sea.

The roughly 5,000 sailors assigned to the ship and its embarked air wing departed a day later than planned due to an unspecified maintenance issue that required repair.

An aircraft carrier's scheduled deployment, which typically includes accompanying destroyers or cruisers and an unannounced submarine presence, typically lasts six to eight months.

Although Navy officials haven't announced port visits or operations, typical deployments take the Ronald Reagan to allied and partner countries in the Western Pacific and Indian oceans.

Security analysts will watch for any movements toward the Korean Peninsula, where the

San Diego-based USS Carl Vinson has kept watch amid a series of North Korean missile launches and speculation that the communist state could soon conduct a nuclear test.

Countries in the region will also watch what actions the Reagan carrier strike group takes near disputed territories in the East and South China seas, some of which have been taken over and militarized by China despite an international ruling that invalidated some of those claims.

What the Reagan strike group does on this deployment will send an important message about the United States' intentions in the region, said Carl Thayer, a regional security consultant and professor emeritus at the University of New South Wales in Australia.

"Countries in the region are still wanting reassurance that something is replacing the Obama 'rebalance,'" Thayer said.

The Obama administration considered the Asia-Pacific, where more than \$1.2 trillion in U.S. trade transits annually, to be its most important long-

term foreign policy priority.

The White House and national security adviser Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster have stated in recent months that they are conducting a global strategic review. The review will eventually produce a National Security Strategy, a report that defines U.S. interests and goals.

Thus far, President Donald Trump has prioritized a response to North Korea, using the Carl Vinson strike group as muscle to back up calls for the North to end its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile development. Trump has not ruled out military intervention, though administration officials have stated that diplomatic and economic pressure may be the ultimate course of action.

If Reagan deploys toward the Korean Peninsula at some point, it will bring with it a formidable ballistic-missile defense escort.

The carrier strike group includes the guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh; the guided-missile destroyers USS Barry, USS John S. McCain, USS McCampbell and USS Mustin from Destroyer Squadron 15; and aircraft from Carrier Air Wing 5.

PACOM chief visits troops at Yokota

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Standing in front of one of America's largest unmanned aircraft, Pacific Command chief Adm. Harry Harris Jr. told troops at the U.S. Forces Japan headquarters that the Asia-Pacific region is a priority for Washington.

"We're sending our best and newest assets to Japan, whether we're talking C-130s, F-35s at [Marine Corps Air Base] Iwakuni, or the ships in Yokosuka [Naval Base]," Harris told hundreds of servicemembers gathered Monday at Yokota in western Tokyo, a U.S. Forces Japan statement said.

"All these capabilities are coming to the Western Pacific, principally Japan, and that speaks highly of the work we do with our Japanese allies," Harris added.

Harris is in Japan on a three-day visit that includes meetings with Japanese Defense Minister Tomomi Inada and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to discuss the alliance, the international response to North Korean provocations and trilateral cooperation between the U.S., Japan and South Korea.

The RQ-4 Global Hawk that served as a backdrop to Harris' speech is one of five operating out of Yokota on a five-month deployment. Experts have said the surveillance drones could be useful tools for keeping tabs on North Korea, which tested another missile Sunday.

At Yokota, Harris — whose Japan trip follows visits by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Vice President Mike Pence — also thanked servicemembers for helping to defend Japan and maintain regional peace and security, the statement said.

Manning to be active-duty after prison release

USA Today

WASHINGTON — Pvt. Chelsea Manning, the transgender soldier and convicted national security secret leaker, will remain an active-duty, unpaid soldier, eligible for health care and other benefits, following her scheduled release Wednesday from military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., according to the Army.

Manning entered prison as a man named Bradley. Manning changed her name, identified as a woman and received hormone treatment while incarcerated. Her sentence was commuted in the final days of the Obama administration, a move that infuriated some in the military and

President Donald Trump.

While Manning's court-martial conviction remains under appeal, she will remain a private in the Army, said Dave Foster, an Army spokesman. As an active-duty soldier, Manning will continue to receive health care and have access to commissaries and military exchanges, but she will not be paid.

"Pvt. Manning is statutorily entitled to medical care while on excess leave in an active-duty status, pending final appellate review," Foster said.

The Army refused to disclose the other terms of Manning's release, six years before her eligibility for parole, citing privacy concerns. She had been sentenced to 35 years for releasing

hundreds of thousands of secret documents to WikiLeaks. Manning appeared at court-martial in the uniform of an enlisted man.

Like all soldiers, Manning will be assigned to an Army post but it is unclear where and to whom she will report.

The ACLU released a statement on Manning's behalf on May 9. "For the first time, I can see a future for myself as Chelsea," Manning said. "I can imagine surviving and living as the person who I am and can finally be in the outside world."

Her lawyer, Chase Strangio, added in the ACLU statement that Manning had been abused at Leavenworth but did not specify the type of abuse.

Syria denies US claims of mass killings

Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Syrian government on Tuesday “categorically” denied U.S. accusations of mass killings at a prison near Damascus, including the alleged execution of political opponents and burning of the victims in a crematorium at the site.

The Foreign Ministry said the allegations are a “new Hollywood plot” to justify U.S. intervention in Syria. It described the allegations as “lies” and “fabrications,” noting what it called a U.S. track record of using false claims as a pretext for military aggression.

The State Department said Monday that it believes about 50 detainees are being hanged each day at the Saydnaya military prison, a 45-minute drive north of Damascus.

Many of the bodies are then burned in the crematorium “to cover up the extent of mass murders taking place,” said Stuart

Jones, the top U.S. diplomat for the Middle East.

The allegation of mass killings came as President Donald Trump weighs options in Syria, where the U.S. launched cruise missiles on a government air base last month after accusing Assad’s military of killing scores of civilians with a sarin-like nerve agent.

The latest accusations have cast a shadow over Syria peace talks in Geneva, where Syrian government and opposition representatives sat down separately with the U.N. envoy as talks got underway on Tuesday.

Western monitors and watchdog groups say they have accumulated evidence of mass killings in Syrian government prisons, though there have not been any substantiated allegations so far of the use of a crematorium.

Syrian opposition spokesman Salem Meslet said the U.S. allegations that the

Syrian government had built a crematorium to cover up its mass killings were “credible” and not surprising.

The State Department released commercial satellite photographs showing what it described as a building in the prison complex that was modified to support the crematorium. The photographs, taken over the course of several years, beginning in 2013, do not prove the building is a crematorium, but show construction consistent with such use.

The revelations echoed a February report by Amnesty International that said Syria’s military police hanged as many as 13,000 people in four years before carting out bodies by the truckload for burial in mass graves.

Syrian activists meanwhile said government forces were escalating attacks on opposition-held areas protected under a recently brokered cease-fire agreement.

Iraq, confident of Mosul victory, seeks aid to rebuild

Associated Press

HAMAM AL-ALIL, Iraq — During a visit south of Mosul on Monday, a senior U.S. official praised territorial gains against Islamic State in Iraq, but local officials cautioned more aid is needed to rebuild on the heels of victories against the extremists.

The Mosul fight is approaching its “final stages,” Brett McGurk, special presidential envoy for the global coalition against ISIS, told The Associated Press during a meeting with Iraqi military and civilian officials at a water treatment plant near the town of Hamam al-Alil.

“The world is now seeing that (Iraqi) soldiers are completely destroying Daesh,” McGurk said, using the Arabic acronym for ISIS.

He described the fight to retake Mosul, which was launched nearly seven months ago, as one of the most difficult urban battles since World War II.

Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool, a Baghdad military spokesman, said Iraqi forces have surrounded ISIS militants and “it is only a matter of time and a very short time” until the battle is won. He said the extremists are in control of only about 10.5 percent of the territory in the western half of the city.

Rasool said the battles in Mosul’s Old City, the last militant holdout, have slowed because the area is densely populated, with narrow alleys.

But the men who had gathered to receive

McGurk and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Douglas Silliman were dressed in suits, not fatigues and they had come asking for aid, not weapons and training.

With the fight against ISIS in Iraq about to enter its fourth year, more than half of the territory the extremists once held is now under government control, but with those advances has come greater demand for reconstruction money.

The U.S. military presence in Iraq has steadily grown in the build-up to and throughout the Mosul operation, but U.S. funds for humanitarian relief and stabilization remain a fraction of defense spending in the fight.

“We are looking for more support as the west side of the city will be liberated soon,” Maj. Gen. Muhammed al-Shimary, with Nineveh Operations Command, told McGurk after thanking him for U.S. assistance in the fight so far.

McGurk said the water treatment plant that now provides water to more than 100,000 people in Nineveh is “symbolic of this entire effort that we’ve embarked upon to defeat Daesh.”

“Here in Nineveh we have hundreds of projects like this funded by our coalition,” he said, adding that a similar list of reconstruction projects was being drawn up for the ISIS-held Syrian city of Raqqa as U.S.-led coalition forces surround it ahead of a long-anticipated operation to retake it.

But overall, U.S. fiscal contributions to

Iraqi reconstruction are unlikely to meet the country’s needs.

Iraq continues to struggle with an economic crisis, and the central government has called on the international community to provide the bulk of the funds.

Last year under the Obama administration, McGurk emphasized the need for a balance between “speed and sustainability” in the fight against ISIS.

However, President Donald Trump has pledged to accelerate the military fight against ISIS. While the White House is yet to release an official overhaul of the ISIS fight, since taking office Trump has handed greater decision making power regarding troop levels in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan to the Pentagon.

Additionally, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has emphasized the limited role the U.S. will play in reconstruction in Iraq and Syria.

“As a coalition we are not in the business of nation-building or reconstruction,” Tillerson said during a meeting of foreign ministers in Washington in March. Instead, he said the U.S. would equip “war torn communities to take the lead in rebuilding their institutions and returning to stability.”

McGurk declined to say when he expected the operation to conclude, but said victory was “really just a matter of time; anyone left in there will have to surrender or they’ll die.”

Judges note Trump remarks on travel ban

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Federal judges on Monday peppered a lawyer for President Donald Trump with questions about whether the administration's travel ban discriminates against Muslims and zeroed in on the president's campaign statements, the second time in a week the rhetoric has faced judicial scrutiny.

Acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall, defending the travel ban, told the three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the executive order should be reinstated because it falls well within the president's authority.

"No one has ever attempted to set aside a law that is neutral on its face and neutral in its operation on the basis of largely campaign trail comments made by a private citizen running for office," he said.

Further, Wall said the president had backed off the comments he made during the campaign, clarifying that "what

he was talking about was Islamic terrorist groups and the countries that sponsor or shelter them."

Neal Katyal, who represented Hawaii, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, expressed disbelief at that argument and said Trump had repeatedly spoken of a Muslim ban during the presidential campaign and after.

"This is a repeated pattern of the president," Katyal said.

The 9th Circuit panel was hearing arguments over Hawaii's lawsuit challenging the travel ban, which would suspend the nation's refugee program and temporarily bar new visas for citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The judges will decide whether to uphold a Hawaii judge's decision in March that blocked the ban.

Last week, judges on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments over whether to affirm a Maryland judge's decision putting the ban on ice. They also questioned whether

they could consider Trump's campaign statements, with one judge asking if there was anything other than "willful blindness" that would prevent them from doing so.

Dozens of advocates for refugees and immigrants rallied outside the federal courthouse in Seattle, some carrying "No Ban, No Wall" signs.

Wall's insistence that the travel ban should be upheld because it is "neutral," without reference to Islam, drew pointed questions from Judge Richard Paez. An executive order issued by President Franklin Roosevelt that led to the internment of 110,000 Japanese-Americans during World War II similarly was couched as a necessity for national security and made no reference to residents of Japanese heritage, Paez noted.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld that executive order in a challenge brought by California resident Fred Korematsu. The ruling is now widely considered regrettable.

"Would the Korematsu executive order pass muster under your test today?" Paez grilled Wall.

"No, Judge Paez," he answered.

"Why not? 'Facially legitimate' — that's all you say," Paez said. "You emphasize 'facially legitimate.'"

"I want to be very clear about this," Wall said solemnly. "This case is not Korematsu, and if it were I wouldn't be standing here and the United States would not be defending it."

Wall went on to argue that unlike the Korematsu case, Trump's executive order probably wouldn't be questioned but for the statements he made as a candidate.

Paez also questioned Katyal about Trump's statements, calling them "profound." But the judge wondered whether Trump is forever forbidden from adopting an executive order along the lines of his travel ban.

Soldier in Hawaii dies after tractor-trailer overturns

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A 36-year-old soldier assigned to the 25th Infantry Division was killed early Sunday when the tractor-trailer in which he was riding overturned on the big island of Hawaii.

The victim's name is being withheld until next of kin are notified, said Master Sgt. Pete Mayes, a spokesman for the division.

A 20-year-old soldier driving the tractor-trailer was taken to North Hawaii Community Hospital. His name and the severity of his injuries have not been released.

The men, who were towing heavy machinery, were headed west on Daniel Inouye Highway in Pu'uana'hulu, North Kona, according to a statement from the Hawaii Police Department.

The driver "lost control of the vehicle" and then attempted to make a left turn onto Route 190, police said. The tractor-trailer then struck a guardrail on the southbound lane and overturned into a culvert. The victim was taken to Kona Community Hospital and pronounced dead five hours later, police said. An autopsy has been ordered.

The department's Traffic Enforcement Unit has initiated a negligent homicide investigation.

The intersection where the crash took place is about 16 miles west of Pohakuloa Training Area, a 131,000-acre joint-service training range operated by Army Garrison-Hawaii. It hosts about 13,000 trainees a year.

The 25th ID is based out of Schofield Barracks on Oahu.

Police: Man kills mom, carries head into store

Associated Press

ESTACADA, Ore. — A man killed his mother on Mother's Day at a rural Oregon home, then showed up at a grocery store in a nearby town carrying a severed human head, authorities alleged Monday.

The suspect then began stabbing a checkout clerk before being subdued. Officers determined the head the man was carrying belonged to his mother, the Sandy Police Department said.

An autopsy was underway Monday on the body of Tina Marie Webb, 59, the same day that her son, Joshua Lee Webb, 36, was booked on charges of murder and attempted murder in the case.

The gruesome chain of events unfolded in two rural towns about 30 miles south of Portland and sent shock waves through

Estacada.

Joshua Webb had vision problems and received Social Security payments, his father, David Webb, said. He lived at home so his parents could care for him, his father said.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said Webb killed his mother at their rural home, but it did not provide more details.

Webb then showed up at a Thriftway in downtown Estacada, about 12 miles to the north. When he entered the grocery store, he was covered in blood, had a large "kitchen-type" knife and was carrying a severed human head, authorities said.

He began stabbing a store employee but he was quickly overwhelmed by other employees, who held him until police arrived, authorities said.

Michael Wagner, 66, the checkout clerk, was hospitalized and was expected to survive.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man delivers pizza to stalled Amtrak train

DE NEWPORT — A veteran pizza delivery man in Delaware got an order from an unusual address: a stalled Amtrak train from New York on its way to Washington.

A passenger posted a video of the delivery man walking up to the train Sunday as it sat on the tracks.

Dominic Philingera, owner of Dom's Pizza in Newport, Del., told The Associated Press that his driver cut through a backyard, stepped down a steep embankment and over a water-filled ditch to take the pie to the hungry passengers. Philingera said the driver has delivered pizza in 18 states, but "this was a first for him."

Amtrak said on Twitter that a mechanical issue was to blame for the delay.

Disney movies inspire man to build replica

AZ CASA GRANDE—An Arizona man has become the neighborhood pirate with his replica of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" Black Pearl.

The Casa Grande Dispatch reported that although Steven Hill's three-story ship did not escape from Davy Jones' locker, a giant squid can be seen attacking the ship.

Hill said his love for the Disney franchise inspired him to construct the ship a year ago. Hill used the Ponderosa pines in his backyard to support the ship's treehouse design.

Beer vendor no longer yells out like Brando

PA PHILADELPHIA — A beer vendor at Philadelphia Phillies games no longer sounds like Marlon

Brando in "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Tom McGee told KYW-TV that he's stopped yelling "Stella!" at the top of his lungs because stadium vendor Aramark is now having him sell Yuengling Lager.

He used to yell "Stella!" because he was hawking Stella Artois, a Belgian beer that's been replaced by the vendor. McGee's been a vendor at Citizens Bank Park for nine years.

McGee said he had some fun yelling "Not Stella" but, these days he simply shouts "Yuengling Lager" with the accent on the second word.

Police: Teen arrested 2 times in one day

RI PROVIDENCE — Police in Rhode Island said they released a teenager to a relative after arresting him only to arrest him again hours later on different charges.

Providence police Capt. Michael Correia told The Providence Journal the 17-year-old was arrested the morning of May 12 and charged with trying to steal tires off a car. Two adults were also charged. The teen was then issued a summons and released to a relative.

Hours later, police were investigating a stolen car being advertised for sale on social media. They arranged to meet with the seller and say the same teenager showed up driving the stolen car.

Family: Kicked off by JetBlue over cake

NY NEW YORK — A New Jersey family said their plans to celebrate a birthday in Nevada were crushed when JetBlue Airways kicked them off the plane for storing a birthday cake in an overhead bin.

Cameron Burke told the Daily News they were flying out of Kennedy Airport on May 3 when he was asked to remove the cake, which he did. He said another attendant berated him, telling them to leave the plane after he questioned whether the attendant had been drinking.

JetBlue said they stowed their cake and other items in a bin reserved for safety and emergency equipment and refused multiple requests to remove them.

Historic car's stolen parts are recovered

ME PORTLAND — A museum director said a 1913 Rolls-Royce once owned by the daughter of the 19th-century poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was vandalized ahead of an appearance in Maine, but all the pieces stolen from the car were recovered within hours.

Kevin Bedford, of the Owls Head Transportation Museum, said the car, valued at \$1 million, was stored inside a trailer in Portland when someone broke in and took several items.

Steve Bromage, of the Maine Historical Society, said all the stolen items were recovered and the car participated as planned in the society's Magical History Tour on Saturday.

Historical Society officials said a suspect has been arrested.

Cops: Mother hit son who didn't buy a card

SC SPARTANBURG — A South Carolina woman is charged with hitting her son on the head, and a police report said the abuse began because the mother was upset that the child gave a Mother's Day card to his grandmother and not to her.

A report from the Spartanburg Police Department said Shontrell Murphy is charged with cruelty to children for hitting her young son Thursday.

The report said the boy's sister told police that Shontrell Murphy hit the boy "really hard a few times" because of the card.

Woman charged with youth baseball theft

FL PALM CITY— Authorities said a Florida woman is facing charges that she stole nearly \$14,000 from a youth baseball league.

The Martin County Sheriff's Office said Kandy Christine Penenori, 35, of Palm City is accused of spending the money on purchases at numerous retail stores.

Penenori was the bookkeeper for the youth baseball league for more than one year and had access to its debit and bank numbers.

Woman claims attack by camel at attraction

MS BILOXI — A Florida woman claims a camel at the last home of Confederate president Jefferson Davis attacked her at the Mississippi tourist attraction in 2015.

She's suing the United Sons of Confederate Veterans Inc., identified as the operator of Beauvoir plantation in Biloxi.

The Sun Herald reported Sylvia June Abbott said Sir Camelot injured her mentally and physically. Attorney Charles M. Thomas said Abbott and her husband were walking to a cemetery behind Beauvoir when the camel stampeded her and bit her, leaving her with a fractured wrist and vertebrae.

From wire reports

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Celtics seeking validation against Cavs

Associated Press

BOSTON — Ever since the Boston Celtics broke up their Big Three in 2013, they've sat idly this time of year while LeBron James, Stephen Curry and Kawhi Leonard have battled for NBA championships.

With Isaiah Thomas leading the charge, the Celtics have rejoined the fray. Now it's time to see if they belong.

Boston beat the Washington Wizards 115-105 in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals Monday night. That earned the Celtics their toughest test yet, maybe the hardest in basketball: a series against James and the well-rested Cleveland Cavaliers.

This is Boston's first trip to the conference finals since 2012, the last year of an era fueled by Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen. The top-seeded Celtics are seeking an 18th NBA championship, and first since beating the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2008 NBA Finals.

The defending champion Cavaliers won three of the four meetings between the teams in the regular season, including a dominant victory in early April with the Cavs back at full

strength after some early season injuries.

These Celtics aren't short on belief, though, and their confidence has been intensified by a postseason filled with adversity. They rallied around Thomas following his sister's sudden death in the first round, coming back from an 0-2 deficit against the Chicago Bulls. Then Kelly Olynyk and the bench came up huge in Game 7 against the pesky Wizards.

But the Celtics have yet to beat the Cavs this season with Cleveland at full strength. Boston's lone victory in the series came on March 1, with Kevin Love still out after minor left knee surgery. Cleveland won the other games by a combined 35 points, including a 114-91 romp on April 5.

"We know it's going to be tough, but at this point, anything can happen, and we really believe it," Thomas said. "They didn't give us a chance in this series. They didn't give us a chance when we were down 0-2 in Chicago. We got the No. 1 seed, and they didn't give us a chance. They don't ever give us a chance, and we just keep going. We don't care about what others say."

Thomas is averaging 25.4

points per game in the postseason, and his teammates have picked him up when he's needed it, too. They offered support as he played in the first round despite his sister's death in a car accident, and they powered through when Washington evened the second-round series at 2 by effectively containing Thomas' usual scoring punch.

Boston's mettle has been tested. Thomas had to visit the dentist after injuring at least three teeth in Game 1 against Washington, and the Celtics are only advancing after their defenders contained John Wall in Game 7.

Even more effort will be needed to compete against James and the Cavs. It starts with Jae Crowder, who is expected to be the primary defender on James, along with reserve Jaylen Brown. Avery Bradley will be tasked with slowing down Kyrie Irving, with Al Horford on Love and Thomas guarding sharpshooter J.R. Smith.

"I think they're better than any of the four times we played them, including the last one when they smashed us," Boston coach Brad Stevens said. "So we're going to have to play really well. ... But we have a spe-

cial opportunity to get a chance to compete against them."

Boston may be opening a new era of basketball relevance, but the last chapter from the Big Three's story isn't quite complete. The Celtics have the best odds at the No. 1 overall pick in Tuesday's NBA draft lottery, part of a bountiful return from when they traded Pierce and Garnett to the Brooklyn Nets in '13.

However this postseason ends for Boston, it looks like just the beginning for the group. But make no mistake — the Celtics want to win now.

Avery Bradley is one of two current Celtics, along with Horford (with Atlanta), to have played in a conference finals. Bradley was a member of the 2011-12 Celtics team that lost 4-3 to the James-led Miami Heat, which went on to claim the NBA title.

"Been here before, so we have to be smart," he said. "They're going to bring it and try to pick us apart and take advantage of certain matchups. ... We have a lot of guys that have playoff experience. That was a lot of guys' first year in the playoffs. We have to go out and fight."

Olynyk plays key role for Celtics in Game 7

Associated Press

BOSTON — Isaiah Thomas said he didn't feel any pressure entering the first Game 7 of his career.

His play backed up his confidence and with the help of Kelly Olynyk and the Boston Celtics bench, Thomas earned the biggest win of his career.

Thomas scored 29 points and had 12 assists, Olynyk scored a career-playoff high 26 points and the Celtics used a big fourth quarter to outlast the Washington Wizards 115-105 in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals Monday night.

"I knew it would be a big time game tonight. I knew it wouldn't be easy at all," Thomas said. "And we came out on top."

Led by Olynyk the Celtics got a huge lift from their bench, outscoring their Wizards' counterparts 48-5. Boston also connected on 11 three-pointers, including 8-for-13 in

the second half.

"We needed it," Olynyk said. "That's a tough team that we played seven tough games against and they can score. We needed to help out the starters, help out Isaiah."

Boston advances to the Eastern Conference finals, where it will host the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 1 on Wednesday. It's the Celtics first appearance in the conference finals since 2012.

"What a special opportunity to get a chance to compete against them," Boston coach Brad Stevens said.

For Thomas it serves as the ultimate validation for a team that many felt was unworthy of the conference's top seed. It also marked the latest big performance by Thomas, in a playoff run that began in the haze of his younger sister's death in a car accident.

"That says a lot about the team we are and we believe in each other," Thomas said.

"The game wasn't always what we wanted it to be and it wasn't a perfect game. But we kept going and stayed the course."

Bradley Beal led the Wizards — which was playing its first Game 7 since 1979 — with 38 points, including 24 in the second half.

"I don't care how well I played," Beal said afterward. "I don't care if I played bad. The end result ... The only thing that matters is getting a win."

Otto Porter added 20 points. John Wall and Markieff Morris each finished with 18. But Washington also had 15 turnovers, leading to 17 Celtics' points.

"It's tough. We came out here Game 7 and gave everything we had. Just came up short," Wall said. "Our goal was to get to Eastern Conference finals and we came up one game short. So it's a not a satisfied season to me."

Penguins blank Senators, even series

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Mike Sullivan calls the energetic back-and-forth on the Pittsburgh Penguins bench “a man’s argument.”

If his players have something to say, Sullivan wants them to get it out. Enter Phil Kessel, the mercurial forward with the blistering shot and occasionally blistering tongue.

Frustrated by an inability to get anything by Ottawa’s Craig Anderson, cameras caught Kessel pounding his fists and ordering his teammates to look for him.

Consider the message delivered. Kessel took a feed from Evgeni Malkin and zipped a wrist shot by Anderson 13:05 into the third period as the Penguins evened the Eastern Conference finals with a 1-0 victory in Game 2 on Monday night. Game 3 is Wednesday in Ottawa.

“To be honest I think I yelled more than once tonight, so I don’t remember that time,” Kessel said with a laugh.

That’s just Kessel being Kes-

sel. If anything, his outburst was simply the physical manifestation of Sullivan’s order to stop looking for the perfect shot and just start peppering Anderson looking for a sliver of space. The moment came with just less than 7 minutes remaining when Malkin gained the zone and found Kessel in the slot.

Kessel’s first shot smacked off Jean Gabriel Pagueau and came right back to him. It happened so quickly Anderson didn’t have enough time to reset, his left pad flailing as Pittsburgh’s game-long domination finally resulted in something tangible: a lead and a tie series.

“I caught an edge, simple as that,” said Anderson, who finished with 28 saves. “A defenseman or forward catches an edge, he falls down, nothing happens. I catch an edge, it’s in the net.”

That was enough for Marc-Andre Fleury, who stopped 23 shots for his second shutout of the playoffs and 10th of his postseason career. Fleury’s 62nd playoff win moved him ahead of Henrik Lundqvist for

the most by an active goaltender, heady territory for a guy who lost his starting job to Matt Murray during the course of the season. Now Fleury is the main reason the Penguins are three wins from a return trip to the Cup Final.

This victory, however, wasn’t the byproduct of 60 minutes of brilliance. Fleury spent long stretches with nothing to do as the Penguins hemmed Ottawa in its own end. The Senators went nearly 19 minutes between the second and third period without recording a single shot, a testament to Pittsburgh’s ability to play keepaway in the other end of the ice.

“We were pleased with the way we dictated the terms out there,” Sullivan said.

A marked departure from Game 1, as Pittsburgh struggled to generate any sort of extended pressure in a 2-1 overtime loss. The Stanley Cup champions responded by heavily tilting the ice at times, remarkable considering they spent most of the night down two men after forward Bryan Rust and defenseman Justin

Schultz left in the first period with injuries.

Rust was on the losing end of a clean check by Ottawa’s Dion Phaneuf 4:58 into the game. Schultz, who has become Pittsburgh’s most important blue liner with Kris Letang and Trevor Daley out, slid awkwardly into the end boards after getting bumped off the puck by Senators forward Mike Hoffman about midway through the first.

Sullivan offered no updates on either player.

Somehow, the Penguins found a way to make it work. The five remaining defensemen all played at least 20 minutes, including 24:49 from 37-year-old Ron Hainsey, who is in the playoffs for the first time in his career.

“After a while the rotation is kind of set and away you go,” Hainsey said. “You don’t have time to really mentally think about any mistakes good or bad, because you’re going right back out there. You don’t have any other choice.”

Suspension problems shorten Alonso’s first day at Indy

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Fernando Alonso got his first real introduction to IndyCar racing Monday.

The track conditions changed dramatically from his trip to Indianapolis in early May. A rear suspension problem caused the team to scale back its late-day plans, and he found out just how much there is to learn over the next 10 days.

It’s a big challenge — even for a Formula One star. Alonso completed 20 laps in his first full Indianapolis 500 practice, finishing 19th on the opening day speed chart with a fast lap of 223.025 mph.

“Today, I was happier, I felt better in the car,” he said. “So yeah, definitely a much better day, a much better feeling.

I was able to drive the car or start driving the car today. Still a long way for me to work and to learn, but definitely, I feel like I took some good steps today.”

For Alonso, it’s just the start of a two-week cram session.

While some teams will use early week practices to make major adjustments and simulate racing conditions, Andretti Autosport wanted to get Alonso some work in traffic during the usually chaotic final 60 minutes of practice — better known in racing circles as Happy Hour.

The suspension issues scrubbed those plans, forcing Alonso to recalibrate when practice resumed Tuesday afternoon.

But he still has lots of opportunities to get this month back on track.

There are four more full

days of practice before qualifying begins Saturday. The nine-car pole shootout will be held Sunday and then there will be two more practice sessions before the May 28 race. The early forecast doesn’t look as if it will wash away any of that on-track time.

With Andretti’s team attempting to put six cars on the traditional 33-car starting grid, they can spend most of that time gathering data from the other five drivers as Alonso gets acclimated to driving counterclockwise between concrete walls at speeds routinely topping 220 mph.

Some of the series’ veterans have been competing for two decades or more, putting the first-time IndyCar driver at a distinct disadvantage.

There are other potential ob-

stacles, too.

Monday’s warmer temperatures and stronger winds created completely different conditions on the 2.5-mile oval than Alonso had his first time around the historic Brickyard. At one point, the track temperatures between turns two and four differed by 9 degrees.

And after describing the track as “narrow” following his first Indy test, Alonso started to get a sense of how much more nerve-wracking it can be when 31 other drivers are turning laps with him.

The steep learning curve — and his Sunday flight following the Spanish Grand Prix — may explain why Alonso was more than 3 mph off the pace set by teammate Marco Andretti, who posted the fastest lap of the day at 226.338 mph.

Trout hits HR in fourth straight game

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — After a brief absence with a hamstring issue, Mike Trout undoubtedly has his legs under him.

Trout homered for the fourth consecutive game, helping the Los Angeles Angels top the Chicago White Sox 5-3 on Monday night.

The Angels scored each of their runs via the long ball. Kole Calhoun hit a three-run homer to right in the fifth inning, and Trout followed with a drive to left. Martin Maldonado homered in the seventh inning.

Trout missed five games with the hamstring issue, then went hitless in his return. His homer streak started the next day.

Even Trout's teammates, who have been watching him do his thing for years, continued to be amazed by the two-time AL

MVP.

"Unbelievable. What, first game didn't get a hit, and now he's back to Mike Trout," Calhoun said. "The guy, every day, he's going to amaze you with something."

It was the first set of back-to-back homers this season for Los Angeles. Trout became the first Angel to hit a home run in four consecutive days since Mark Trumbo in May 2012.

"I think he's comfortable in the box," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "It took him a couple of at-bats to get in a flow. Mike's swinging it."

Angels right-hander Jesse Chavez (3-5) pitched seven-plus innings and Bud Norris got four outs for his eighth save. The White Sox put runners on first and second with two out in the ninth, but Kevan Smith struck out looking to end the game.

Jose Abreu hit a two-run homer for Chicago, and Tyler Saladino had an RBI triple. Mike Pelfrey (0-4) allowed four runs and three hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Leury Garcia hit a leadoff single in the fourth for Chicago's first baserunner. After Melky Cabrera lined out, Abreu hit a drive to right-center for his sixth homer.

Saladino's big hit made it 3-0 in the fifth, but the Angels responded in the bottom half. It was Calhoun's fifth homer of the season and No. 12 for Trout.

"It's unbelievable," Chavez said of Trout. "I mess with the guys all the time, 'You guys have been spoiled.' I'm relishing every moment of it, watching him go in every day and do his work and the way he prepares and the way he goes about his business. It's bar none, hands down, the best I've seen."

Tired Astros come alive in sixth at Miami

Associated Press

MIAMI — Short on sleep, the Houston Astros finally stirred in the sixth inning Monday night when Yuli Gurriel hit a grand slam to help beat the Miami Marlins 7-2.

The Astros arrived at their hotel at 5 a.m. after a doubleheader in New York against the Yankees and were listless and hitless against Dan Straily until the fifth inning.

Josh Reddick doubled in the sixth off Junichi Tazawa (1-1) and after a walk and a hit batter loaded the bases, Gurriel connected with two outs for a 4-1 lead.

It was the Astros' second grand slam in two games. Alex Bregman hit one in Sunday night's win at Yankee Stadium.

Jose Altuve homered in the ninth and drove in three runs.

Diamondbacks 7, Mets 3: Yasmany Tomas, Jeff Mathis and Daniel Descalso homered in a six-run eighth inning as host Arizona handed struggling New York its fifth straight loss.

Jake Lamb also went deep for the Diamondbacks, the latest team to take advantage of a beleaguered Mets bullpen.

Indians 8, Rays 7: Indians starter Carlos Carrasco left early with an injury but five relievers kept the lead and helped

host Cleveland hold off Tampa Bay.

Carrasco was pulled because of tightness in his left pectoral muscle after giving up an RBI single to Brad Miller. The right-hander allowed five runs in 32/3 innings and left with Cleveland ahead 7-4.

Boone Logan (1-0) retired both batters he faced. Andrew Miller permitted his first run of the season in the eighth and Cody Allen gave up a solo homer to Peter Bourjos in the ninth before earning his 10th save.

Giants 8, Dodgers 4: Eduardo Nunez was credited with a two-run infield single when Los Angeles pitcher Brandon McCarthy lost track of a baserunner as host San Francisco beat the Dodgers for its season-high fourth straight win.

The hit by Nunez was the key play in a four-run fourth inning that broke the game open and helped Matt Cain (3-1) earn his second win of the season against the Dodgers.

San Francisco opened the inning with three straight hits off McCarthy (3-1), with an RBI double by Brandon Crawford putting the Giants up 2-1. That's when things really got interesting.

With runners on second and

third, Nunez hit a broken-bat grounder up the middle that shortstop Corey Seager fielded just beyond the infield dirt. Buster Posey easily scored from third and Brandon Crawford scored from second after Seager hurried the ball to McCarthy on the mound and McCarthy didn't realize Crawford was running.

Braves 10, Blue Jays 6: Freddie Freeman hit his 13th homer and Nick Markakis had three RBIs as Atlanta snapped host Toronto's five-game winning streak.

Matt Kemp had four hits and scored three times for the Braves, who have won three of four.

Freeman matched Washington's Ryan Zimmerman and Milwaukee's Eric Thames atop the National League home run leaderboard with a three-run shot off Leonel Campos in a four-run sixth.

Freeman has connected against all 10 teams Atlanta has faced this season.

Mariners 6, Athletics 5: Nelson Cruz and Kyle Seager each hit a two-run homer and Yovani Gallardo pitched effectively into the seventh inning as host Seattle made the most of four hits to hold off Oakland.

Oakland scored twice in the

ninth, when closer Edwin Diaz walked four of the five batters he faced to force in a run. Tony Zych relieved and the second run scored on Khristian Davis' groundout. After an intentional walk to Yonder Alonso loaded the bases again, Zych struck out Adam Rosales looking on a 3-2 pitch for his first major league save.

Cruz's home run, his ninth, put Seattle up 4-0 in the second as the Mariners capitalized on five walks by Sean Manaea (1-3), activated earlier in the day off the disabled list.

Padres 6, Brewers 5 (10): Hunter Renfroe hit a two-run homer with no outs in the 10th inning to give host San Diego a win over Milwaukee.

Renfroe's homer to left, his seventh, came off Oliver Drake (2-1) with Erick Aybar aboard on a leadoff single.

The Brewers took a 5-4 lead in the top of the inning on Eric Sogard's homer with one out against Jose Torres (2-2).

The Brewers tied it at 4-4 in the eighth. Hernan Perez's leadoff fly ball to shallow right off Brad Hand went for a triple when second baseman Cory Spangenberg and right fielder Renfroe both went for it and missed. Perez scored the tying run on Domingo Santana's RBI single to right with one out.