

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Suspect taunted Trump before bombing

Associated Press

NEW YORK—A Bangladeshi immigrant arrested in a New York subway bombing blamed President Donald Trump for the botched suicide mission that he said he carried out for Islamic State, authorities said as they brought federal charges against him Tuesday.

Akayed Ullah posted a statement on his Facebook account on his way to the Monday morning attack stating, “Trump you failed to protect your nation,” the criminal complaint said. He also told law enforcement officers at the hospital where he was taken with burn injuries to the body and hands, “I did it for the Islamic State,” according to the complaint.

His rush-hour attack fizzled in a long walkway used by commuters moving between trains

in the city’s busiest subway station at Times Square. Three pedestrians complained of harmed hearing and headaches after the bomb went off.

Ullah, 27, was expected to appear before a magistrate judge, though it was not immediately clear if he was well enough to go to court.

During a search of his Brooklyn apartment, investigators recovered a passport with the words “O America, die in rage” scrawled in it, the complaint says.

He hoped to “terrorize as many people as possible” with a bomb filled with metal screws that he believed would cause maximum damage, the complaint said.

The complaint charged Ullah with providing material support to a terrorist group, use of a weapon of mass destruction and

three bomb-related counts.

It was not immediately clear who would represent Ullah in court. A news conference was planned for later Tuesday.

According to the complaint, Ullah began researching how to build a bomb after he had “viewed pro-ISIS materials online, including a video instructing, in substance, that if supporters of ISIS were unable to travel overseas to join ISIS, they should carry out attacks in their homelands.”

Overseas, Bangladesh counterterrorism officers were questioning Ullah’s wife and other relatives, officials there said Tuesday. Relatives and police said Ullah last visited Bangladesh in September to see his wife and newborn son before leaving them behind to return the United States.

Hours after Monday’s ex-

plosion, Trump cited the background of the bomber in renewing his call for closer scrutiny of foreigners who come to the country and less immigration based on family ties.

Ullah — who told investigators he wanted to retaliate for American action against ISIS extremists — came to the U.S. from Bangladesh in 2011 on a visa available to certain relatives of U.S. citizens.

“Today’s terror suspect entered our country through extended-family chain migration, which is incompatible with national security,” Trump said in a statement that called for various changes to the immigration system. Earlier, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump’s proposed policies “could have prevented this.”

Trio saves fellow Marine injured while saving others

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Marine Sgt. Justin Erler came across a nightmarish scene of twisted metal, broken glass, flipped automobiles and severely injured people on the Okinawa Expressway during the wee hours of Dec. 1.

A passenger vehicle struck a compact car, which flipped onto its roof, said an Okinawa Prefectural Police spokesman. Both were driven by Japanese nationals.

A U.S. military truck then barreled into those cars, and Marine Master Sgt. Hector Trujillo — who had pulled over to help the injured Japanese motorists — lay in the road critically injured after being struck by yet another vehicle.

Erler, a 3rd Reconnaissance

Battalion boat mechanic, jumped into action and performed CPR on Trujillo, with assistance from Cpl. Matthew Dungan and Lance Cpl. Eduardo Rosario — both of the 9th Engineer Support Battalion — until paramedics arrived.

The three Marines have been credited with saving the life of the 44-year-old father of three.

Trujillo, a motor transport chief who was headed to physical training when he came upon the crash, was airlifted to Naval Medical Center San Diego where he is in critical condition. His family said through Marine officials that his condition is improving.

His wife, Maria Trujillo, wrote a message on Facebook noting how her husband could have continued to work, leaving the situation to others.

“He of course didn’t do that,”

she wrote. “He followed his heart and he pulled over to assist and help. His selflessness and quick reaction showed his true heroism.”

Trujillo suffered a fractured skull, broken ribs and a bruised lung and was knocked unconscious, police said.

Witnesses told police that Trujillo, who has served in the Marine Corps for more than 20 years, was in the road rendering aid to the victims as cars whizzed by in the right-hand lane. He reportedly took an ill-fated step over the center line and was struck by a car driven by a 28-year-old Marine staff sergeant.

Like Trujillo, Dungan and Rosario were also heading to PT when they came upon the wreckage. Dungan blocked the lane with his vehicle so other cars couldn’t do more dam-

age. That’s when he saw Erler heading for the injured master sergeant.

“There were some cars out in the middle of the road,” Erler told Stars and Stripes during an interview last week at Camp Hansen. “The first thing I did is I just ran to go assess and see what’s going on. That’s when I found the master sergeant. He was unconscious and he wasn’t breathing.”

Erler began chest compressions right where the master sergeant had fallen near the median. Dungan and Rosario assisted him.

“All of us have kind of been brought up the same way,” Dungan said of his fellow Marines. “If we see somebody [in trouble, helping] is just what we do. We have to help them; we can’t just leave them.”

Okinawa-based Marine indicted in fatal vehicle crash in Japan

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — An Okinawa-based Marine has been indicted on charges related to a Nov. 19 crash that killed a Japanese national and led to alcohol and liberty restrictions affecting all U.S. servicemembers in Japan.

Lance Cpl. Nicolas James-McLean, 21, was indicted Monday on charges of negligent driving causing death and driving under the influence of alcohol, a spokesman from the Naha District Public Prosecutors Office told Stars and Stripes.

The spokesman would not provide further details of the indictment or say when the Marine is scheduled to stand trial.

James-McLean could get up to seven years in prison with hard labor on the charge of negligent driving causing

death and up to three years with hard labor for driving under the influence of alcohol. He also faces substantial fines.

The crash occurred at a Naha intersection about 5:30 a.m., when a U.S. government-owned Isuzu Elf driven by James-McLean collided head-on with the minitruck of Hide-masa Taira, 61, police said. Taira died at a hospital from chest wounds and bleeding.

James-McLean, who was off duty at the time of the incident, reportedly had a blood-alcohol level that was three times Japan's legal limit of 0.03 percent when tested by police after the crash.

All 50 U.S. states have set 0.08 as the legal limit for driving under the influence or driving while impaired.

Witnesses told police that Taira had the right of way and that James-McLean — who suffered only minor injuries in the crash — may have gone

through a red light.

Marine officials are investigating the incident.

News of Taira's death spurred a wave of anti-American sentiment on the small island prefecture already experiencing a potent anti-base protest movement.

In response, U.S. Forces Japan banned the purchase and consumption of alcohol for the approximately 50,000 U.S. troops deployed across Japan, imposed a strict curfew and canceled all liberty on Okinawa.

The ban was relaxed on Nov. 30, allowing U.S. troops to once again purchase alcoholic beverages on base and drink them in their on- or off-base homes.

A midnight-to-5 a.m. curfew for Japan-based servicemembers of all ranks is still in force. Under normal circumstances, USFJ's Japan-wide curfew applies only to lower enlisted servicemembers and runs from 1 to 5 a.m.

Airman gets 18 years for attack in dorm room

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — An airman stationed at Aviano Air Base in Italy who stabbed another airman in her dorm room was sentenced to 18 years in prison at a court-martial Tuesday.

Lt. Col. John Harwood, an Air Force judge, found Airman Cameron A. Owens guilty of attempted murder, aggravated assault, unlawful entry and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline.

Harwood, who found Owens not guilty of a charge of breaking and entering, could have sentenced Owens to life in prison without parole. He decided on a lesser term, along with reduction in rank to E-1, forfeiture of all pay and a dishonorable discharge. Owens will be credited with 245 days of confinement in Italian and American custody.

Owens' conviction stems from an early morning attack on a 21-year-old airman sleeping in her dorm room on April 11. The victim was the lone witness the prosecution called during the sentencing phase of the trial Tuesday morning. Under questioning from Maj. Christine Norton, one of three prosecutors working the case, she said she still feels pain whenever she eats, is left with facial scarring and has trouble sleeping.

"It was the most terrifying thing I've ever experienced," she said. "I was thoroughly convinced these were my last moments."

The woman, who is now stationed at another Air Force base, said she believes she will be haunted by the crime for life.

Norton called for a sentence of 20 years in prison, reduction in rank to E-1, forfeiture of all pay and a dishonorable discharge.

Scaling of chapel leads to discipline

The (Annapolis, Md.) Capital

Naval Academy lore claims a midshipman who can get his cap — called a cover — atop the chapel's obelisk will earn relaxed restrictions, or carry-on.

The midshipman who climbed more than 200 feet to plant his cover at the legendary spot late last week will receive the opposite of that, an academy spokesman said Monday.

Lt. Cmdr. David McKinney said the unnamed mid faces serious consequences for the dangerous stunt in the days leading up to the Army-Navy football game Saturday in Philadelphia.

"We're incredibly disappointed that a midshipman

would break the rules and do something so dangerous to put his life at risk for a stunt like this. He is being held accountable for his actions in breaking a known set of rules," McKinney said.

The dangerous nature of the stunt puts it beyond a light-hearted prank and is not something the academy wants to see repeated, McKinney said. "It's a wonder the kid didn't get hurt," he said. "At that height, you don't just get hurt, you die."

McKinney said the midshipman likely climbed the approximate 225 feet height of the chapel using sophisticated climbing equipment.

Attempting to put a cover on

the chapel to gain carry-on is an academy tradition dating to 1845 (though the current chapel wasn't dedicated until 1908) and has been accomplished a few times.

The Capital reported covers appearing atop the chapel in 2009 and 2015, and a video online shows it being done with a drone in March 2012. Before that, academy officials said it hadn't been done since the 1970s.

Monday, the cover was still visible atop the chapel as well as the climbing line that may have been involved in the effort to scale the building. The academy is still working out how to get the cover down.

Appellate ruling offers details of a sex scandal at Miramar

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — A decision handed down recently in a military appellate court sheds light on a sex scandal that rocked Marine Corps Air Station Miramar last year, detailing a senior enlisted leader's escapades with a superior officer in their offices and inappropriate dalliances with his junior troops.

A tribunal at the United States Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals has refused to vacate the conviction of ex-Master Sgt. Frederico A. "Rico" Williams, a 21-year veteran of the service and one of Miramar's senior enlisted leaders before his Jan. 16, 2016, court-martial conviction and dramatic fall from power.

A Marine jury found him guilty of disobeying a lawful general order, uttering a false official statement, adultery, larceny and obstructing justice. He was sentenced to six months in the brig, busted down to private and evicted from the corps on a bad-conduct discharge, which prevented him from retiring from the service and collecting military pension and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.

In his appeal, Williams, 41, of San Diego, argued that his transgressions were minor and the discharge too severe, but the three judges disagreed and said the punishment fit the litany of crimes he committed.

"This characterization of (his) misconduct demonstrates failure to grasp its true impact, and to understand how inimical it is to military service," wrote Navy Capt. Colleen Glaser-Allen, the chief judge, in her 10-page opinion.

Reached by telephone, Williams said he was disappointed by the ruling but knew he did wrong. He vowed to appeal the decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington.

In the meantime, a separate case is percolating through the

Naval Clemency and Parole Board.

"I definitely have a sour taste in my mouth. I sat in the brig for six months and wasn't allowed to retire from the Marine Corps after a good 21-year career," he said.

Married in 2008, Williams was posted to Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 at Miramar's 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing four years later. He served as both the maintenance management chief and one of the most senior non-commissioned officers inside the Wing, responsible for overseeing supplies flowing to mechanics.

During an investigation into a discrimination complaint against other senior leaders, a witness mentioned a problem in a \$332 travel claim Williams submitted for a trip to Arizona's Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. According to the corps, his claim was based on a forged letter stating that there was no on-base lodging for Williams to use, triggering a probe by Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Agents soon learned about his extramarital affairs and other inappropriate relationships. The women included a superior officer identified only as "1stLt SS," a pair of unnamed sergeants who worked for Williams and a female friend from his high school days who accompanied him to Yuma on the trip.

Williams told the woman to lie and say that she was his cousin, if anyone asked, according to his court-martial documents.

"The appellant repeatedly acted with flagrant disregard of the consequences upon his unit by having regular adulterous intercourse with a superior officer in his office, suggesting a subordinate sergeant hold the camera to film his sexual escapades, having sex with a different subordinate, stealing from the government, and telling a civilian mistress to lie about the nature of their relationship to anyone who asked," the chief

judge wrote.

"Significantly, when word of the adultery and fraternization spread to other active-duty Marines, (Williams) feigned offense at the rumors, continued his behavior and blatantly lied to an NCIS agent just hours after having sexual relations with the superior officer, stating six times, 'I don't deal with military' when referring to his sexual exploits," she wrote.

The superior officer received nonjudicial punishment for conduct unbecoming an officer. She resigned her commission and left the service, according to Marine spokeswoman Capt. Morgan M. Frazer.

Williams told *The San Diego Union-Tribune* that two senior commissioned officers in the command were allowed to quietly retire after they were caught in unlawful romances. He insisted that the lieutenant in his case testified against him only after she reached a plea deal that gave her a much lighter penalty for the same conduct.

"We are confident that the command conducted a thorough investigation into the matter and took appropriate administrative or disciplinary action for all persons involved," Frazer said.

Williams hopes that new judges will reward him for his two deployments each to Iraq and Afghanistan, three meritorious promotions, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and five Navy Achievement Medals for superior service and let him retire at a lower rank. He remained married and said he counted on a military pension to help support four children, he said.

The clerk of court for the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces said that paperwork requesting a review of Williams' case had yet to be submitted.

Hidden gas line sparked blast that hurt troops

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — An armored amphibious vehicle stuck in a rut along a Camp Pendleton road nicked a hidden gas line during a September exercise, engulfing 14 Marines and a sailor in a fireball that grew into a 20-foot pillar of flames, according to an official report released by the Marine Corps on Monday.

While its driver tried to extricate the assault amphibious vehicle — also known as an "amtrack" — from a ditch, a backfiring engine sparked the gas detonation on the morning of Sept. 13 along Range 301 Road near the Bravo 3 "combat town" training site, 1st Marine Division investigators concluded.

"They attempted to get unstuck several times and then I heard a pop sound and then it exploded," wrote an unnamed Marine in an official statement included in the heavily redacted 210-page report.

Four amtrack crewmembers from 1st Platoon, Company A were burned as were nine Marines and a Navy corpsman from C Co., 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, which was conducting pre-deployment war games when another vehicle's tread got tangled in communications wire, forcing them off the road to let smaller trucks pass.

Along with the stream of natural gas, about 170 gallons of diesel fuel also fed the fire.

Six paramedic units, three brush fire engines, a ladder truck, five aero-medical ambulances and a firefighting aircraft rushed to the mishap, but the blaze wasn't extinguished until more than six hours later, after workers closed off the gas line.

A separate investigation conducted by Camp Pendleton-based Marines Corps Installation West has not been released.

The probe released Monday did not assign blame to any Marine or sailor. It also did not address who owned or was responsible for maintaining the gas line.

1 of largest Calif. fires grows

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The fifth-largest wildfire in California history expanded, ripping through dry brush atop a coastal ridge while crews struggled to keep flames from roaring down into neighborhoods amid fears of renewed winds.

Firefighters protected foothill homes northwest of Los Angeles, making progress in residential areas while much of the fire's growth occurred to the north in unoccupied forest land, Santa Barbara County Fire Department spokesman Mike Eliason said Tuesday.

"There were a couple of flare-ups in the hills that put on a light show last night, but they were expected.

For now the teams are fighting the fire on their own terms," he said, adding that shifting winds are always a danger.

Red Flag warnings for fire danger due to Santa Ana winds and a critical lack of moisture were extended into the week instead of expiring Monday afternoon as was initially forecast.

"It doesn't get much drier than this folks," the National Weather Service tweeted, adding that more than 80 observation sites in the region reported Monday relative humidity levels between just 1 and 9 percent.

Tens of thousands of people remain evacuated, including many from the seaside enclaves of Montecito, Summerland and Carpinteria and the inland agricultural town of Fillmore.

Residents near a Carpinteria avocado orchard said the trees could end up saving their homes.

"You have a thick layer of leaves underneath the bottom and they are watered regularly, so it's like a sponge," Jeff Dreyer, who lives nearby, told KEYT-TV. "So the fire gets to the sponge full of water and it slows it down. It takes a long time for it to burn."

Poor air quality kept dozens of schools closed.

As ash rained down and smoke blew through streets, regulators urged people to remain inside if possible and avoid strenuous activity.

Officials handed out masks to those who stayed behind in Montecito, an exclusive community about 75 miles from Los Angeles that's home to stars such as Oprah Winfrey, Jeff Bridges and Drew Barrymore. Actor Rob Lowe was among residents who evacuated over the weekend.

The blaze — known as the Thomas Fire — has destroyed more than 680 homes, officials said.

It was just partially contained after burning more than 360 square miles of dry brush and timber. The fire has been burning for more than a week.

To the north, San Francisco Bay Area firefighters quickly contained blazes Tuesday that destroyed at least two homes in hills east of Oakland — the site of a 1991 firestorm that killed 25 people.

Santa Ana winds have long contributed to some of the region's most disastrous wildfires. They blow from the inland toward the Pacific Ocean, speeding up as they squeeze through mountain passes and canyons.

Trump says accusations of women 'fabricated'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump, pushing back against women accusing him of sexual misconduct, insisted Tuesday he's the target of "false accusations and fabricated stories of women who I don't know and/or have never met."

Trump lashed out on Twitter a day after three women who previously accused him of sexual harassment shared their stories on NBC's "Megyn Kelly Today."

Trump says Democrats "have been unable to show any collusion with Russia" and now are "moving on" to these allegations. He adds: "FAKE NEWS!"

He also attacked Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who on Monday said Trump should resign over the allegations.

Trump said Gillibrand is a "total flunky for Chuck Schumer," the Senate Democratic leader. He said Gillibrand, "who would come to my office 'begging' for campaign contributions not so long ago (and would do anything for them), is now in the ring fighting against Trump."

The New York Democrat responded on Twitter, saying, "You cannot silence me or the millions of women who have gotten off the sidelines to speak out about the unfitness and shame you have brought to the Oval Office."

On Monday, the women — Jessica Leeds, Samantha Holvey and Rachel Crooks — urged Congress to investigate Trump's behavior. A fourth woman also spoke at a news conference with them via phone.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders pledged to provide a list of eyewitnesses whose accounts exonerated the president. She did not provide the list by late Monday.

Big revenue from tax plan claimed; analysts doubtful

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican tax plan will deliver a swift adrenaline shot to the economy that will send hundreds of billions pouring into federal tax coffers, the Trump administration asserts in a new analysis. But nonpartisan analysts make a less rosy projection of new revenue from the tax legislation now before Congress.

House and Senate negotiators are rushing to finalize the tax legislation and deliver the promised measure to President Donald Trump before Christmas. Trump will try on Wednesday to sell the American people on a GOP tax overhaul that is unpopular with many. His pitch: The plan will lift all economic boats, bringing a brighter future for taxpayers and their families, according to spokeswoman Lindsay Walters.

A Treasury Department analysis issued Monday estimated

the tax legislation will generate a large part of \$1.8 trillion in new revenue over 10 years.

Trump and Republican leaders in Congress have promoted the massive tax plan by promising that the tax cuts will boost the economy and create jobs. Their idea is that growth sparked by the legislation will let the tax cuts pay for themselves and not balloon the \$20 trillion deficit.

The administration's estimate of new revenue from the tax plan is a lot higher than nonpartisan congressional analysts have projected. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that growth stimulated by the anticipated tax cuts in the Senate bill will generate some \$408 billion in additional tax revenue over 10 years. For the House bill, the House-Senate committee sees \$483 billion in new revenue.

The Treasury analysis "is nothing more than one page of

fake math," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer.

The analysis includes an assumption that tax cuts and other administration policies would cause the economy to expand at a 2.9 percent annual pace over 10 years. Economic growth at that level would, in theory, be enough to keep the national debt from rising.

But most analyses have concluded that the tax plan would add at least \$1 trillion to budget deficits in the next decade because the analyses foresee significantly less growth resulting from the tax cuts.

The Treasury Department analysis says about half the expected increase in economic growth likely will result from tax benefits for corporations. Trump and the Republicans have insisted that businesses will use the tax savings to invest and create new jobs.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man, 100, hosts 37th annual holiday party

VT BURLINGTON — More than 450 people got to enjoy free holiday food and fun thanks to a 100-year-old Vermont resident's annual holiday party.

Anthony Pomerleau said he pays for the entire party every year in Burlington — with this year's event costing around \$13,000. He told WPTZ-TV that he doesn't mind the cost because he "was brought up the hard way" and wants to help the less fortunate with his money.

Pomerleau said the party has fed at least 40,000 under-privileged children.

Girl stuck, rescued in fast-food playground

MA SPENCER — Firefighters in Massachusetts responded to a fast-food restaurant over the weekend to free a young girl who got stuck in the playground.

The Telegram & Gazette reported that firefighters responded to a McDonald's in Spencer around 8 p.m. Sunday.

Firefighters said they needed a ladder to reach the girl, who was stuck 10 to 12 feet in the air. Police said it took a cutting tool and about 30 minutes to free her.

Her name and age were not released and it is unclear how she became trapped.

Firefighters free bison after rig rolls over

SD FORT PIERRE — Authorities rescued nearly all of the bison that were in a semi-trailer that overturned near Fort Pierre.

Pierre Fire Chief Ian Paul said the rig was northbound

Sunday on Highway 1806 when it rolled onto its side in the ditch. The people in the cab got out unhurt.

However, Paul said, around 40 bison were in the trailer. He said about a dozen got out on their own through a small hole.

Firefighters cut a hole in the trailer to safely remove most of the other bison. One animal died.

Police seek man who left 'hazardous' note

NH GOFFSTOWN — A police department in a New Hampshire town is looking for a man believed to have left a bottle in the lobby with a note saying its contents may be hazardous.

Sgt. Matthew Hozeny, of the Goffstown Police Department, told WMUR-TV the man went over to the counter by the records window, put the bottle down and left.

Hozeny said the plastic Pepsi bottle was about three-quarters full of a brown-colored liquid; the note was attached to it.

Officers briefly examined the bottle, then put the department on lockdown as a precaution. The state police bomb squad removed the bottle and determined it wasn't hazardous. It's not clear what was in the bottle.

Firefighter 'Santa' loses home in blaze

PA WILSON — A Pennsylvania firefighter who dresses up as Santa every year to deliver gifts on a fire-truck was forced to cancel this year after his own home was gutted by fire.

Charles Wacik was scheduled to hand out gifts in Wilson on Sunday before an early morning fire consumed his home. Wacik and his wife were unhurt.

The 74-year-old has been a firefighter for more than 40 years and is scheduled to retire at the end of the year. For the past five years, he has distributed gifts for the Santa Delivers program.

After the fire, organizers canceled the event and asked participants to pick up the presents instead.

Large boom shakes homes near Tampa

FL TAMPA — A massive boom shook homes across Pasco, Hillsborough and Polk counties over the weekend. Residents called government hotlines, and theories swirled online. Could it be military operations? An explosion? A meteor? Supersonic jets?

Half a dozen government agencies all had the same answer Saturday: We don't know, but we didn't do it.

The Tampa Bay Times said there was one possible explanation: Two F-15 fighters were given permission by NORAD to fly at supersonic speed — in excess of 760 mph — over the Gulf of Mexico, said Canadian Air Force Lt. Marco Chouinard, a NORAD spokesman.

Subway construction unearths fossil trove

CA LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles subway system is expanding and so too are the number of prehistoric fossils being recovered as crews dig beneath the city.

Since work on one extension began in 2014, workers have routinely turned up fossilized remains of rabbits, camels, bison and other creatures that roamed the region during the last Ice Age. But Paleontologist Ashley Leger said "the big one" uncovered by her team is the intact skull of a juvenile mammoth.

California's stringent environmental laws require scientists to be on hand at certain construction sites.

Anglers circled by sharks are rescued

HI HILO — Authorities said two people were rescued after spending a night drifting in the ocean, surrounded by sharks.

The Hawaii Tribune-Herald reported the two people were fishing last week off the Big Island's northeast coast when a large, sudden wave hit and washed one of them into the water.

Hawaii Fire Department Battalion Chief Darwin Okinaka said the other person was washed into the water while trying to help.

Okinaka said the two people then spent the night drifting in the ocean.

They were spotted Friday morning about 500 yards offshore when helicopter tour pilots said they saw two people floating on a branch surrounded by three tiger sharks.

Hundreds of wild turkeys menace city

UT MENDON — Turkeys are a cherished symbol at the holidays, but in the northern Utah city of Mendon, they're just a pest.

The Herald Journal said residents reported finding dozens of the birds in their yards, damaging grass and dropping waste.

Mendon Mayor Ed Buist said the turkeys end up causing property damage, but there's not much he can do to protect his residents.

Only the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources can trap the hundreds of wild turkeys or issue hunting permits to thin their numbers.

From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Dolphins snap Patriots' win streak

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Tom Brady was a mere mortal in Miami.

Again.

The five-time Super Bowl champion wins just about everywhere, just about every week. But games at Miami have been a struggle more times than not for the longtime New England star, and Monday night was yet another entry on that list. Brady was intercepted twice, probably should have had at least one other pass picked off, and the Patriots lost to the Dolphins 27-20 — denying New England a chance to clinch the AFC East.

Brady finished 24-for-43 for 233 yards and a touchdown. He's now 7-9 in his career when visiting the Dolphins, with a passer rating of under 90 in 10 of those 16 games.

His rating Monday: 59.5, his lowest in a regular-season game since 2013.

"We've had a lot of good nights this year," Brady said. "And this was a bad night."

It wasn't all on him, not by a long shot.

The Patriots couldn't run the ball whatsoever, finishing with 10 yards on 25 carries — and that came after running for at least 191 yards in each of their last two games. New England had given up an average of 11.9 points in its last eight games; it gave up 27 to the Dolphins. And the Patriots, in the stat that might be most surprising, were a staggering 0-for-11 on their third-down chances.

The last time they were 0-for-anything on third downs? 1991, when Phoenix — that's what the Cardinals were called then — beat the Patriots.

"That was pretty bad," Brady said. "Can't get any worse than that."

The result was an end to the Patriots' 14-game road winning streak, hardly a great springboard into what's a short week before a showdown in Pittsburgh on Sunday that will likely go a long way toward deciding the top seed in the AFC playoffs.

"They did a good job to-

night," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said of the Dolphins, before the rest of his postgame availability became mostly a collage of short, mumbled answers. "They obviously did a better job than we did. We just weren't really good enough in any area, consistent enough in any area to win the game. We all need to do a better job and hopefully we'll be able to do that. This wasn't good enough tonight, across the board."

Belichick was asked if the winning streak ended because the Patriots looked past Miami to Sunday's showdown between division leaders at Pittsburgh.

Belichick dismissed the idea. "Give me a break," he said with a glare.

Brady didn't have his first completion until the second quarter, after missing on his first four throws — one of which was intercepted. The Dolphins went after him all night, never letting him get into rhythm. With no running game and no Rob Gronkowski, serving a one-game suspension over an unnecessary hit he doled out

last week, the Patriots needed Brady to be exceptional.

"I've got to throw the ball better," Brady said. "That's where it starts."

The Patriots being the Patriots, they nearly pulled off a comeback from a 27-10 third-quarter deficit anyway. Brady connected with James White for a 3-yard scoring throw early in the fourth, and the Patriots got to the Miami 1 in the final moments.

But a pair of penalties pushed them back to the 16, and Stephen Gostowski's 33-yard field goal with 53 seconds left got New England within a touchdown.

That left an onside kick to decide matters. The low-percentage play didn't work, and Belichick was asked afterward what happened.

"They recovered it," Belichick said, then shrugging.

On a night where the Patriots had few answers, at least that one was succinct.

"I wish we played better," Brady said. "But we didn't."

Sports briefs

Ball brothers sign with Lithuanian pro team

Associated Press

A basketball club from Lithuania says it has signed LiAngelo and LaMelo Ball to pro contracts, making LaVar Ball's two young sons ineligible for college basketball.

The move comes after LiAngelo left UCLA, where he was suspended after being arrested for shoplifting during the team's season-opening trip to China.

LaVar Ball pulled 16-year-old LaMelo out of Chino Hills High recently. His oldest son, Lonzo, is a rookie with the Lakers.

The Prienai-Birstonas Vytautas club, which plays in the Lithuanian league, said in a statement that the brothers will report to the club "in early January."

Their contracts run through the end of the current season. The club's sports director Vilius Vaitkevicius says of the Balls, "We are committed to their long-term success and development as professional bas-

ketball players."

Return specialist Hester retires: Devin Hester, the all-purpose speedster who holds the NFL record for kick return touchdowns with 20, has announced his retirement from the NFL.

In a post on social media, the 35-year-old Hester said had realized it was time.

"Good news: Commissioner Goodell, you can put the kickoff back at the 30," Hester wrote. "Bad news: Y'all will have to find a new favorite returner."

Hester played for Atlanta, Baltimore and Seattle, but his best years were with the Chicago Bears, which took him in the second round (57th overall) out of Miami in 2006. At the end of his rookie season, he took the opening kickoff of the Super Bowl 92 yards for a touchdown against Indianapolis, though the Colts won the game.

He is the third-leading punt returner in NFL history and was selected to the Pro

Bowl in 2006, 2007, 2010 and 2014.

Yankees deal Headley, Padres: Third baseman Chase Headley and pitcher Bryan Mitchell have been traded by the Yankees to the San Diego Padres, giving New York added payroll flexibility and room for infield prospects.

New York received 28-year-old outfielder Jabari Blash, who made his big league debut in 2016 and has played in 99 big league games over two seasons.

A day after finalizing its acquisition of NL MVP Giancarlo Stanton from Miami, the Yankees dealt with their infield logjam and cut a payroll that had risen to a projected \$180 million for luxury tax purposes. Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner is intent on getting under the \$197 million tax threshold next year, and New York still may attempt to re-sign left-hander CC Sabathia or add another starting pitcher.

Oklahoma heads AP All-America team

Associated Press

No. 2 Oklahoma will bring three All-Americans to the College Football Playoff.

Quarterback Baker Mayfield, offensive tackle Orlando Brown and tight end Mark Andrews of Oklahoma were selected to the Associated Press All-America team, giving the Sooners more players on the first team than any school. The All-America team, which dates to 1925 and was selected this season by a panel of 17 Top 25 voters, was released Monday.

Four of the top five vote-getters for the Heisman Trophy made the first team, including the runaway winner Mayfield. Stanford's Bryce Love, the Heisman runner-up, and San Diego State's Rashaad Penny, the nation's leading rusher and fifth-place finisher for the Heisman, were the first-team running backs. Penn State's Saquon Barkley, who finished fourth in the Heisman voting, made the team as an all-pur-

pose player.

Louisville's Lamar Jackson, last year's Heisman winner and All-America quarterback, was selected to the second team.

All-America points

■ The other three playoff teams each have one player on the first team, all on the defensive side. No. 3 Georgia, which faces Oklahoma in the Rose Bowl semifinal on Jan. 1, is represented by linebacker Roquan Smith. No. 1 Clemson placed defensive end Clelin Ferrell on the first team. Alabama safety Minkah Fitzpatrick is the only player to make first-team All-America for the second straight season. The Tigers face the fourth-ranked Crimson Tide in the Sugar Bowl semifinal on Jan. 1.

■ Notre Dame (offensive linemen Mike McGlinchey and Quenton Nelson), Ohio State (center Billy Price and cornerback Denzel Ward), Iowa (linebacker Josey Jewell and cornerback Josh Jackson) and Texas (safety DeShon Elliott and punter Michael Dickson) each have two players on

the first team.

■ Clemson had the most players selected to all three teams with six. Defensive tackle Christian Wilkins, linebacker Dorian O'Daniel and offensive tackle Mitch Hyatt made the second team. Defensive end Austin Bryant and guard Tyrone Crowder were third-team picks.

■ Wisconsin placed five players on the three teams, led by linebacker T.J. Edwards on the first team. Running back Jonathan Taylor and tight Troy Fumagalli made the second team and offensive linemen David Edwards and Beau Benzschawel made the third team.

■ Oklahoma had four picks overall with linebacker Ogbornia Okoronkwo making the second team.

Moving up

■ Four of the five All-America offensive linemen made either second- or third-team last year. Brown and Price moved up from second to first. McGlinchey and Nelson went from third to first.

■ Mayfield also jumped from third team to first team. He was selected to the second team in 2015.

■ Dickson and Barkley also made the third team last year and moved up to first this season, though Barkley was a third-team running back last year.

Moving down

■ Jackson was not the only 2016 All-American to slide this season. Washington State guard Cody O'Connell went from first team to second team. Utah punter Mitch Wishnowsky went from first to third.

Conference call

First-team All-Americans by conference:
 Big Ten — 7
 Big 12 — 6
 Pac-12 — 3
 SEC — 3
 ACC — 2
 Independent — 2
 American — 1
 Mountain West — 1

Villanova assumes burden of being ranked No. 1

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Villanova coach Jay Wright has seen his team deal with all the things that go along with being the nation's top-ranked school, from the extra attention to handling an upset loss.

It's why Wright figures his Wildcats — who are sitting atop the AP Top 25 for the third straight season — are prepared for what awaits.

"I think we've got the experience now to understand it's a great honor," Wright told The Associated Press, "but a lot of responsibility comes with it."

After a tumultuous week in which unanimous No. 1 Duke and No. 2 Kansas lost, the Wildcats (10-0) earned 41 of 65 first-place votes to hop over Michigan State and reach the top. Next up is Philadelphia neighbor Temple on Wednesday.

Villanova reached No. 1 for the first time in February 2016

and stayed there for three polls before going on to win the national championship. The Wildcats held the No. 1 spot three different times last season, including in the final poll entering the NCAA Tournament.

This year's team started the year at No. 6 with preseason AP All-American Jalen Brunson. The Wildcats won the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament in the Bahamas last month and beat No. 12 Gonzaga in New York last week, with Mikal Bridges (18.1 points) making a big leap to give Villanova a strong 1-2 punch.

This year's Wildcats rank third nationally in KenPom's adjusted offensive efficiency (119.9 points per 100 possessions) and seventh in adjusted defensive efficiency (90.6). They are the only team in the top 10 of both categories.

Spartans next: Villanova and Michigan State were the favorites to take over at the top after

the Blue Devils' weekend loss at Boston College.

The Spartans (9-1) earned 19 first-place votes to climb from third to second, while the other five first-place votes went to Arizona State — which leapt 11 spots to No. 5 after Sunday's win at Kansas.

Sun Devils rising: Arizona State will carry its highest ranking since reaching third during the 1980-81 season when it hosts Vanderbilt on Sunday.

Top matchup: With many teams in exam breaks, the AP Top 25 schedule is fairly light for the week ahead. The top game comes Sunday, when No. 7 North Carolina visits No. 20 Tennessee.

Both teams climbed four spots in this week's poll. The Volunteers played the Tar Heels tough last year in Chapel Hill, with UNC having to rally from 15 down and block a late shot to secure a 73-71 win.

Hoosier State fights: The Crossroads Classic is set for Saturday. The Indianapolis doubleheader includes No. 17 Purdue meeting Butler and No. 18 Notre Dame facing Indiana.

Climbing back: Arizona has gone from No. 2 in the country to unranked and now back in the poll again. All in a month.

The Wildcats fell out after a lackluster performance in the Bahamas, but four straight wins brought them back into this week's poll at No. 23. Arizona plays at New Mexico on Saturday.

Watch list: Creighton is the top team among the "Others Receiving Votes" and hosts Maryland-Eastern Shore in its only game this week. But the next team on the list — Oklahoma — has the best chance to help its case of getting into next week's poll. The Sooners visit No. 3 Wichita State on Saturday.

NBA roundup

Capela powers Rockets past Pelicans

Associated Press

HOUSTON — In a season where the Houston Rockets have become one of the league's best teams, scoring a career-high in points like Clint Capela did on Monday night doesn't get congratulations. It draws comments on how he needs to play like he did over the New Orleans Pelicans more often.

Capela scored 28 points and James Harden scored 12 straight points for Houston in the fourth quarter as the Rockets rallied for the 130-123 victory over the Pelicans to extend their winning streak to 10 games.

"We're going to need nights like that from Clint to be consistent and be a beast like he did, blocking shots, dunking the basketball," Harden said.

"And to close the game out he did a really, really good job. So progress, he's got to get better, but tonight was a good step for him."

Bulls 108, Celtics 85: Nikola Mirotic scored 24 points, Bobby Portis added a career-high 23 and host Chicago rolled to its third straight win.

The last-place Bulls built an 18-point lead in the second quarter against the Eastern Conference leaders. When Boston cut it to 12 in the fourth, Chicago pulled away for the runaway victory.

The Celtics played without star guard Kyrie Irving, who was sidelined by bruised left quadriceps.

Warriors 111, Trail Blazers 104: Kevin Durant had 28 points, nine rebounds, five assists and three blocked shots,

leading short-handed host Golden State to the victory.

Golden State played without two-time MVP Stephen Curry, who is nursing a sprained right ankle and missed his third straight game. Draymond Green sat out with a sore right shoulder while starting center Zaza Pachulia was sidelined for his second game in a row because of soreness in his left shoulder.

Clippers 96, Raptors 91: Montrezl Harrell scored 17 points, and the host Clippers snapped the Raptors' six-game winning streak.

DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 17 rebounds for the Clippers. Their backups outscored Toronto's reserves 50-17, led by Harrell and Lou Williams, who also had 17 points.

Hornets 116, Thunder 103:

Dwight Howard scored 23 points, leading Charlotte to the road win.

Kemba Walker had 19 points for the Hornets, who had lost seven of eight. Marvin Williams scored 18, and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist finished with 17 points.

Russell Westbrook had 30 points and seven assists and Paul George scored 20 points for the Thunder after missing the previous two games with a right calf contusion.

Heat 107, Grizzlies 82: Goran Dragic scored 19 points, leading the balanced Heat to the victory.

Visiting Miami shot 56.1 percent from the field and had seven players score in double figures in its second straight win. Josh Richardson had 17 points.

NHL roundup

Halak makes 31 saves as Islanders frustrate Capitals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hours after getting a vote of confidence from his coach, Jaroslav Halak came through with one of his best games of the season.

Halak made 31 saves, and the New York Islanders beat the Washington Capitals 3-1 on Monday night to snap a three-game winless streak.

It was the second time this season that Halak held an opponent to a single goal and the third time New York has allowed one goal as a team. Halak's strong performance came after coach Doug Weight sternly defended his goaltenders following the team's skate Monday morning. New York was 1-3-1 over its last five games.

"I felt good out there," Halak said. "Obviously it would be nicer to get a shutout, but I think a win is a win. Two points at home and it was really a good

game by pretty much everybody on the ice. Everybody had a role and they played it."

Brock Nelson, Andrew Ladd and John Tavares scored goals for the Islanders, who built a 3-0 lead early in the second period and ended Washington's four-game winning streak. The Islanders killed off both Washington power plays and snapped a seven-game stretch that saw them surrender one or more power-play goals.

The Islanders (17-10-3) extended their home record to 9-1-2, while Washington (18-12-1) fell to 6-7-1 on the road.

Ducks 3, Hurricanes 2: Logan Shaw had a goal and an assist, and Jakob Silfverberg returned from a five-game injury absence to score the tie-breaking goal late in the second period of host Anaheim's victory over Carolina.

Derek Grant also scored and John Gibson made 28 saves for

the Ducks, who won for just the third time in 11 games. The injury-plagued team was boosted by the simultaneous returns of Silfverberg and captain Ryan Getzlaf, who had missed 19 games after getting hit in the face with a puck.

Jets 5, Canucks 1: Mathieu Perreault scored two goals and added an assist to help host Winnipeg halt a three-game losing streak by beating Vancouver.

The win was the Jets' seventh straight victory at home and they have points in their last 11 games (10-0-1) at Bell MTS Place.

The Canucks have lost three straight in regulation for the first time this season.

Avalanche 2, Penguins 1: Jonathan Bernier stopped 39 shots and Mark Barberio scored in the third period, helping visiting Colorado top Pittsburgh.

Blake Comeau added an empty-netter against his for-

mer team as Colorado won its second straight after a string of six losses in seven games. It was Comeau's seventh of the season.

Stars 2, Rangers 1 (SO): Jason Spezza scored in the shootout, and visiting Dallas snapped a three-game losing streak by defeating New York.

Kari Lehtonen made 24 saves for Dallas in the opener of its four-game East Coast road trip against the Metropolitan Division. Julius Honka scored in the second period.

Panthers 2, Red Wings 1 (OT): Mike Matheson scored his first goal of the season, and visiting Florida beat Detroit to win in overtime for the first time this season.

Matheson drove the rebound of a Nick Bjugstad shot into the net behind Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard at the 2:02 mark of overtime for the winner.