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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Hawaii shaken by missile alert blunder

Staff and wire reports

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The second recent blunder in Hawaii's planning for a possible North Korean nuclear attack left islanders shaken Saturday after an emergency alert warning of an imminent strike sounded on hundreds of thousands of cellphones.

For nearly 40 minutes, people waited. Then came the second mobile alert: Someone hit the wrong button; there was no missile.

Some people abandoned cars on the highway and others gathered in the interiors of their homes to wait for what seemed like the inevitable, a blast that would cause widespread death and destruction.

The message sent statewide just after 8 a.m. Saturday read, "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL."

The alerts caused about 30 minutes of panic and confusion for those who received alerts on

their cellphones. Not all mobile phones got the urgent warning, however, and 10 minutes into the alert, the streets of Waikiki Beach appeared calm, with tourists strolling and children playing.

Adding to the confusion was the fact that a statewide civil defense siren for a missile attack did not sound. Hawaii reinstituted the Cold War-era siren two months ago as tensions ratcheted up with North Korea, which has been testing ballistic missiles and at times threatened to launch one at Hawaii or Guam.

The siren is now tested once per month.

U.S. Pacific Command spokesman Cmdr. David Benham sent out an email blast to journalists soon after the alert, saying PACOM had detected no ballistic missile threat to Hawaii and that the message had been sent in error.

The White House said President Donald Trump, at his private club in Florida, was briefed on the false alert. White House spokeswoman Lindsay Wal-

ters said it "was purely a state exercise."

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's administrator, Vern Miyagi, said he took responsibility for the mistake. He said officials would study the error to make sure it doesn't happen again.

The state adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Joe Logan, said a written report would be prepared. State lawmakers announced they would hold a hearing next Friday. And Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai said on social media the panel would launch an investigation.

The backlash from lawmakers was swift. Hawaii House Speaker Scott Saiki said the system Hawaii residents have been told to rely on failed miserably.

"Clearly, government agencies are not prepared and lack the capacity to deal with emergency situations," he said in a statement.

Hawaii U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz tweeted that the false alarm was "totally inexcusable."

"There needs to be tough and

quick accountability and a fixed process," he wrote.

"This false alert is detrimental to the integrity and trust of the emergency management system," said state Sen. Donna Mercado Kim.

About 10 minutes after the initial alert, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency tweeted there was no threat, but that didn't reach people who aren't on the social media platform. A mobile alert informing people of the false alarm didn't reach cellphones until about 40 minutes later.

Many people said they are resigned to the fact that there is little they can do if a missile was to be launched toward the remote island chain, especially with only about 15 minutes of warning time for a strike from North Korea.

Joseph Kira was home with his kids when the alert came. His wife was at the gym.

"My wife was going ballistic," he said. "At that point, you just pray and find God, I guess."

Weather delays departure of USS Michael Murphy

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The scheduled departure Friday of the USS Michael Murphy from Pearl Harbor was delayed due to bad weather conditions at sea.

The Hawaii-based destroyer had been slated to sail from its homeport to join the Carl Vinson strike group in the Western Pacific. The group, which includes the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain and the guided-missile de-

stroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer — departed its homeport of San Diego last week.

A new underway date for the Michael Murphy has not been determined, the Navy said.

Meanwhile, the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee returned home Friday to Pearl Harbor after completing an independent deployment to the Western Pacific and waters near South America, the Navy said. While at sea, the Chafee conducted theater security cooperation and maritime presence operations with other Pacific nations.

With a crew of almost 350, the Chafee is designed to operate either independently or as part of a strike group. A maintenance crew and pilots from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37 served as air support for the ship during the deployment.

Its crew recovered nearly a ton of illicit narcotics while patrolling 4th Fleet waters, the Navy said. The Chafee also was integrated into Carrier Strike Group 5 in support of the USS Ronald Reagan's patrol of the 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

The Chafee was ported for 10

days in December in Singapore for maintenance in an arrangement that allowed the ship to get needed fixes outside Hawaii and Japan, the Navy said.

The ship is part of U.S. Naval Surface Forces and the 3rd Fleet, which leads Pacific naval forces. It was named after the late Sen. John Lester Hubbard Chafee, a Marine veteran who fought in the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II and served as Navy secretary from 1969 to 1972.

Its last deployment to the Western Pacific and South America was in 2015.

‘Significant’ work seen at N. Korean nuclear site

BY AARON KIDD
Stars and Stripes

“Significant” tunneling work has been detected at North Korea’s Punggye-ri nuclear test site, according to a Washington-based think tank that monitors the communist state’s activities.

A report issued Thursday by 38 North says the activity — spotted in satellite images taken last month — underscores Pyongyang’s efforts to maintain the site despite news that tunnel collapses killed several hundred people there after its sixth and most powerful nuclear test Sept. 3.

While work remains dormant at the “North Portal,” which is the site of the past five underground blasts, the satellite images show that excavation work at the “West Portal” has been “stepped up,” said 38 North, which is run by Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies.

“Throughout December 2017, mining carts and personnel were consistently present around the West Portal and there was significant expansion of the spoil pile,” the report said. “On December 28, there were also a large number of personnel observed in seven different formations whose purpose is unknown in the Southern Support Area.”

38 North said it is rare to see people in that support area, and the purpose of their activities is unknown.

Water was seen draining from the north portal’s entrance, the report said, adding that no other significant activity was observed at Punggye-ri’s other facilities.

38 North’s report came the same week that North Korea agreed to send athletes and officials to next month’s Winter Olympics in the South and to discuss easing military hostilities.

Wasp arrives at new homeport

BY TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Wasp has arrived at its new homeport in Japan, bolstering the 7th Fleet’s amphibious and stealth-attack capabilities in the Pacific.

The amphibious assault ship — which some have dubbed a miniature aircraft carrier because of upgrades that allow it to host the next-generation F-35B Lightning II stealth fighter — and its crew of approximately 1,100 pulled into Sasebo Naval Base on Sunday after a five-month journey from Norfolk, Va.

It will replace the USS Bonhomme Richard as the flagship of Task Force 76. The bulk of the ships in the 7th Fleet’s amphibious force are based in Sasebo.

“The arrival of USS Wasp represents an increase in military capability and a commitment to our partners and allies for security and stabil-

ity in the region,” Capt. Colby Howard, the ship’s commander, said in a Navy statement. “Paired with the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter, we remain ready to execute the full range of military operations from crisis response to disaster relief.”

F-35Bs, which are capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings, will embark on the Wasp when it departs for its next regional patrol, the statement added. The stealthy jets are flown by Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, which arrived last year at nearby Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. The Wasp can embark more than 1,600 Marines. The 844-foot flattop ship employs 31 aircraft, as well as Marine amphibious craft out of its well deck.

Not long after its August departure from Norfolk, the Wasp was diverted to the Caribbean to assist with relief efforts in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Dominica after Hurricane Irma. It then was tapped to provide aid to Puerto Rico after the island was struck by Hurricane Maria.

Japan protests after submarine, Chinese frigate sail near Senkakus

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan has complained to China after a pair of vessels sailed last week near disputed islands in the East China Sea.

Vice Foreign Minister Shin-uke Sugiyama lodged protests Thursday and Friday to China’s ambassador to Japan, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement said. The incursions happened Wednesday and Thursday in Japan’s contiguous zone around Okinawa and the Senkaku Islands by a Chinese frigate and a submarine presumed to be from China, Japanese officials said.

Sugiyama expressed “great concern” over the provocations and strongly urged China not to hinder efforts to improve the countries’ relationship. He also called sending a submarine to the area a “unilateral escalation in new form” and urged China not to do it again.

The Senkakus — an uninhabited chain surrounded by resource-rich waters between

Okinawa and Taiwan — are claimed by Japan, Taiwan and China, which refers to them as Diaoyu.

The U.S. has long declined to take a position on the islands’ sovereignty; however, Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump both have declared that the Senkakus will be protected under the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

“Senkaku is Japan’s territory and territorial waters internationally and historically, and Japan’s claim about the contiguous zone is absolutely correct,” Defense Minister Itsumori Onodera told reporters Friday morning.

The Japanese military first observed a submarine of unknown origin entering the contiguous zone just outside its territorial waters northeast of Miyako Island on Wednesday evening, a Ministry of Defense statement said.

The submarine’s presence was confirmed by a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force escort ship and a P-3C aircraft, the statement said. The sub exited the contiguous zone and

headed toward the Senkakus on Thursday morning. It then re-entered the contiguous zone around Taisho Island, which is part of the Senkakus, before leaving that afternoon.

A Chinese navy frigate was spotted Thursday morning entering the contiguous zone northeast of Taisho island, the statement said. It left Thursday afternoon.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe responded to the incidents Thursday by giving instructions to prepare for all possible contingencies and to coordinate closely with the U.S., according to a statement released by his Cabinet.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters Thursday that Japan will “definitely defend our territory, territorial waters and airspace.” A Defense Ministry spokesman declined to discuss the measures being taken.

Chinese officials defended the move Thursday, saying that the Senkakus are China’s territory and that the incident was instigated by two Japanese navy vessels.

President remains his own worst enemy

The Washington Post

As the New Year heads to its third week, President Donald Trump remains on a personal, political losing streak. None of his opponents — not the Democrats, not the Never Trumpers, not any of the others — can damage him as badly as he hurts himself.

It was only a few days ago when he opened up an immigration negotiating session with bipartisan members of Congress to the cameras. He was described in some accounts as a president doing the real business of the country. That proved to be a one-off moment.

Before and after, the conversation around the presidency involved topics that were alternately disquieting and shocking, from questions about his mental fitness and stability to serve as president (which he helped to elevate with tweets) to the racist and vulgar comment he made about African and other nations in a private meeting.

Together they reinforce a portrait of a president who doesn't appear to understand or appreciate the importance of the immigrant experience, often lacks clarity of his views or the details of issues he is negotiating, and who projects an image that regularly flies in the face of standards long applied to those who occupy the Oval Office.

Amid the firestorm set off by Post re-

porter Josh Dawsey's account of the meeting, Trump acknowledged he used some "tough" language during the meeting at the White House but said he never called them "shithole countries."

His claim was undercut by others. Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., one of the attendees, directly contradicted the president's statement, saying the president used words that were "hate-filled, vile and racist." Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who has been courted by the president, issued a statement of his own that implicitly backed up Durbin. Graham said he had conveyed his feelings about what was said at the meeting directly to the president at the time. Graham notably did not side with Trump's version of events.

Trump has been at this place before on the issue of race. In 2011, as he was toying with running for president, he trafficked in the false allegation that President Barack Obama was not born in the U.S.

Through the course of the 2016 campaign, he attacked Mexican immigrants. He attacked a federal judge of Mexican heritage who was born in the U.S. who happened to be overseeing a lawsuit against Trump University. He got into a fight with a Gold Star family, who happened to be Muslim and whose son was killed in Iraq, after they used the platform of the Democratic National Committee to criticize his campaign proposal for a ban on Muslim immigration.

As president, he twice offered kind words for the white supremacists who marched in Charlottesville, Va., saying that among them were some "very fine people." Later he called NFL players who knelt during the national anthem, in protest of policing practices "sons of bitches" and said the team owners should fire them.

Now he has used a horrible vulgarity to denigrate nations whose immigrants to the U.S. have made valuable contributions to the country. He compounded his dismissal by asking why the U.S. cannot take more immigrants from places like Norway, which happens to be predominantly white.

He has continued his attacks on the First Amendment and freedom of the press. He has questioned the libel laws of the country, which protect the press in covering public figures.

For some Trump advisers and for many Republican elected officials, there is an almost automatic reaction to turn away when things like this occur, either to pretend what happened did not happen or to dismiss them as a president blowing off steam.

The consequences are far greater. As these kinds of comments pile one on top of another, they define the Trump presidency — and in the eyes of much of the world the current state of the U.S. and the Republican Party itself — as much as the policies he and party leaders are pursuing.

Feds begin accepting applications for DACA renewals after court decision

Los Angeles Times

Federal immigration authorities have resumed accepting requests for renewals in DACA, the Obama administration program that shielded hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from being deported.

The government's announcement came four days after a federal judge in San Francisco temporarily blocked the Trump administration's decision to phase out the program.

In a statement posted on its website, Citizenship and Immigration Services said, "Due to a federal court order, USCIS has resumed accepting requests to renew a grant of deferred action under DACA."

DACA stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

The program allowed some young immigrants in the country illegally to obtain two-year permits to stay legally to work and to attend school.

Saturday's announcement means that people who had been granted "deferred action" may request renewals. The government is now accepting requests from people who had never been granted DACA status.

The preliminary injunction temporarily blocking the halting of DACA was issued Tuesday by U.S. District Judge William Alsup in response to lawsuits by the state of California, the University of California and attorneys general from Maine, Maryland and Minnesota. In a Twitter post the day after the ruling, Presi-

dent Donald Trump said "it just shows how broken and unfair our court system is."

Critics said President Barack Obama abused executive power by creating DACA. Last September, Trump ordered that the program end by March, and Congress has been working since then to come up with a legislative remedy to protect the DACA beneficiaries, who were brought illegally to the U.S. as children or entered the U.S. legally but overstayed visas.

About 700,000 people obtained protection from deportation through DACA. Advocates for immigrants estimate that each day, more than 120 DACA recipients have been losing their protected status because of Trump's order.

Expletive used by president projected on Trump hotel

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The expletive President Donald Trump used last week in a discussion about immigration in the Oval Office and other slogans were projected Saturday night onto an outer wall of the Trump Hotel in downtown Washington.

Video footage posted on Twitter shows the word "SHIT-HOLE" and poop emojis projected on the wall of the hotel. An arrow, also apparently projected on the building, points to the arched doorway.

The pictures appear on the Twitter feed of Robin Bell, who previously has projected wording critical of the president onto the hotel.

Iran says 'no hope' of survivors in tanker crash

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A burning Iranian tanker listing for days off the coast of China after a collision with another vessel sank Sunday, with an Iranian official saying there was “no hope” of survival for the 29 missing sailors aboard.

Iranian state television reported that the Sanchi had sunk Sunday, days after its collision in the East China Sea. An anchorwoman on state television offered condolences on behalf of the nation for the loss.

State TV quoted Mahmoud Rastad, the chief of Iran's maritime agency, as saying, “There is no hope of finding survivors among the (missing) 29 members of the crew.”

President Hassan Rouhani expressed his condolences and called on relevant government agencies to investigate the tragedy and to take any necessary legal measures, according to state TV.

Chinese officials could not be reached immediately for comment Sunday night, though the state-run broadcaster CGTN reported that the Sanchi had sunk. CGTN also said the ship's voice data recorder, which functions like “black boxes” on aircraft, had been recovered.

US sticking to ICBM test flights despite tensions with N. Korea

Bloomberg

The U.S. Air Force is going ahead with two long-planned flight tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles next month despite efforts to dampen tensions over North Korea's nuclear ambitions and encourage fragile talks with South Korea.

Test launches of American missiles — without the nuclear warheads they can deliver — would be unlikely to cause much of a stir under regular circumstances. But they could prove sensitive coming the same month as the Winter Olympics, which are to be hosted by South Korea beginning Feb. 9. North Korea has agreed to send its athletes, and the U.S. has postponed joint military exercises with South Korea that normally would begin next month.

“There are two launches currently scheduled for February that have been scheduled for three to five years” to test the reliability and accuracy of the Minuteman III missiles, according to Capt. Anastasia Schmidt, a spokeswoman for the Air Force Global Strike Command, which manages ICBMs and long-range bombers.

Schmidt said the potential range of dates for tests “are typically not released this far in advance.” She referred more specific questions to Air Force Space Command, but a spokesman there didn't provide a comment.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who has vowed to develop nuclear-armed ICBMs that can hit the U.S. mainland, began the new year boasting that he has a “nuclear button” on his desk. President Donald Trump countered on Twitter that his nuclear button was “much bigger and more powerful.”

Trump has since encouraged the limited talks between the two Koreas, calling them a “big

start” and saying it would be “great for humanity” if something beyond cooperation in the winter games resulted.

“U.S. ICBM tests would be an irritant and a propaganda opportunity for North Korea but by themselves, they should not derail talks or the prospects for reducing tensions,” said Joseph Cirincione, president of San Francisco-based Ploughshares Fund, which seeks to reduce nuclear weapon stockpiles. “The North Koreans care much more about the conventional military exercises on their border than ICBM tests.”

Last year, the U.S. conducted four reliability tests of the Minuteman III. In the most recent one, on Aug. 2, a missile carrying a telemetry package used for operational testing traveled about 4,200 miles, from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, the Air Force Space Command said in a statement.

As many as four test-launches are scheduled each fiscal year “to determine and verify accuracy and reliability of the ICBM weapon system,” the Strike Command said in a statement.

The Air Force confirmed Thursday that it has deployed three B-2 stealth bombers to Guam. Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie Jr., staff director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters at the Pentagon that “you would be wrong to view the bomber deployment within the single lens of what it means to the Korean Peninsula. It affects allies across the Pacific.”

Still, the Pentagon's moves send a signal that even amid efforts to dial back tensions, the U.S. remains “ready to fight tonight” if necessary, Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said Thursday, invoking a slogan of American forces in South Korea.

Pope: It's a sin to let fear spur hostility toward migrants

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has defined hostility and rejection of refugees and migrants as sin, encouraging people to overcome their “fully comprehensible” fears that these new arrivals might “disturb the established order” of local communities.

At his invitation, several thousand migrants, refugees and immigrants from 49 countries joined Francis at Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday, a day the Catholic Church dedicated to the issues and contributions of those who leave their homelands in hope of better lives.

New arrivals must “know and respect

the laws, the culture and the traditions of the countries that take them in,” he said. Local communities must “open themselves without prejudices to their rich diversity, to understand the hopes and potential of the newly arrived, as well as their fears and vulnerabilities.”

“It is not easy to enter into another culture, to put oneself in the shoes of people so different from us, to understand their thoughts and their experiences,” Francis said.

“As a result, we often refuse to encounter the other and raise barriers to defend ourselves. Local communities are sometimes afraid that the newly arrived will disturb the established order, will ‘steal’ something

they have long labored to build up.”

Similarly, he said, newcomers also are afraid “of confrontation, judgment, discrimination, failure.”

“These fears are legitimate, based on doubts that are fully comprehensible from a human point of view,” Francis continued in his homily.

“Having doubts and fears is not a sin,” the pope said. “The sin is to allow these fears to determine our responses, to limit our choices, to compromise respect and generosity, to feed hostility and rejection.”

Francis elaborated, “The sin is to refuse to encounter the other, the different, the neighbor,” instead of seeing it as a “privileged opportunity” to encounter God.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Car kills escaped cow; bull chases onlookers

NY YAPHANK — Authorities and witnesses said a cow that escaped a farm was fatally hit by a vehicle Friday night in a rural section of eastern Long Island.

For a short time, a companion bull chased away onlookers before being corralled by authorities.

Newsday reported the accident happened Friday night in Yaphank, about 65 miles east of New York City.

Leslie Clay, who lives near where the accident happened, said she saw a bull chasing the occupants of the car that struck the cow. She let the fleeing man and his daughter into her home to call 911.

Police: Nude man forces way into home

AL PRATTVILLE — Authorities said a nude man forced his way into an Alabama home and tried to sexually assault a woman.

Prattville Police Chief Mark Thompson told The Montgomery Advertiser that Eric Lamont Barnes, 47, was charged with attempted sexual assault and burglary Jan. 8.

Thompson said residents of the home told police that Barnes tried to sexually assault an elderly woman living there. Authorities said Barnes fled after a physical encounter with the victim and witnesses inside the home.

Man using space heater in vehicle dies in fire

OK TULSA — A homeless man died after a space heater he was running inside a truck to keep it warm caused a fire.

Tulsa firefighters said the blaze erupted at an auto repair shop.

Authorities said the unidentified man was sleeping inside the vehicle while using the heater to keep the truck warm. The heater was attached to an extension cord that ran to another building.

Firefighters said the owner of the lot told them he was letting the homeless man sleep on the property.

Deputies rescue dog belonging to colleague

FL FORTLAUDERDALE — When three Florida deputies spotted a dog about to drown, they had no idea they were about to save one of their own.

Deputies with the Broward Sheriff's Office responded to a call about a German shepherd in distress in a canal near Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 8.

The deputies tried to coax the dog out of the water but were unsuccessful. Eventually, Deputy Josh Stambaugh jumped in the water and pulled out the dog. While trying to locate the dog's owner, they learned that it belongs to a fellow deputy who works at the airport. The dog, Shasta, is now safely home and in good health.

Baltimore again tops Orkin list for bed bugs

MD BALTIMORE — The pest control company Orkin has named Baltimore the No. 1 city for bed bugs for the second year in a row, The Baltimore Sun reported.

Orkin released its "Top 50 Bed Bug Cities" list Jan. 8. Washington came in second, followed by Chicago, Los Angeles and Columbus, Ohio.

The company based its rank-

ings on where it performed the most bed bug treatments from December 2016 to November 2017 in residential and commercial locations.

Thieves steal blanket, return empty package

ID COEUR D'ALENE — Thieves stole a package from the front door of a northern Idaho home containing a blanket knitted by a woman for her granddaughter, and later they returned the empty package, the family said.

The package was delivered to the Coeur d'Alene home while the Clements family was away, the Coeur d'Alene Press reported.

When the family returned home, the package was gone, Nate Clements said.

Later that day, the family left the home again. Clements said when they returned, the open package decorated with hand-drawn hearts was waiting for them but the blanket was missing.

Police: Woman topless in attempt to rob driver

LA HARAHAAN — A Louisiana couple is accused of attempting to rob an Uber driver that the woman distracted by being topless.

Harahan Police Chief Tim Walker told news outlets Anthony Kennedy, 24, and Rayna Fillios, 22, were arrested Saturday.

The victim told officers he gave his telephone number to Fillios when she hailed a ride. Fillios called and asked him to come over.

He said Fillios was topless when she opened the front door. Authorities said Fillios grabbed his arms, pulled him into her chest, kissed him and bit his tongue to distract him.

When Fillios let go, police

said, Kennedy brandished a knife and told the victim to hand over his money. The victim refused and Kennedy punched him.

The couple were charged with several offenses including armed robbery.

Police say woman arrested in \$100 theft

RI WARWICK — Rhode Island police said they arrested a 76-year-old woman caught on camera swiping a \$100 bill dropped by a fellow customer at a clothing store, then shushing a boy who witnessed the act.

Warwick police said they charged local resident Dorothy Andrade with misdemeanor larceny in connection with the Nov. 4 incident at a Burlington Coat Factory. She was issued a summons to appear in court.

Authorities said they identified Andrade after posting surveillance video of the incident on Facebook.

'Survival beer' comes with knife, blanket

DE MILTON — Delaware brewery Dogfish Head will offer a 750 mL bottle of "survival beer" that comes with a Swiss Army knife and wrapped in a solar blanket.

The News Journal in Wilmington reported that the beer is called "It's The End of the Wort As We Know It." The brew will be limited to 200 bottles that will cost \$45 each.

The brewery said the Belgian-style fruit ale is "chock full of essential amino acids, micronutrients and vitamins."

It is 9 percent alcohol. It goes on sale Jan. 27 at 11 a.m. at the brewery in Milton.

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Patriots cruise into AFC championship

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots have handled every bit of adversity that has been thrown at them this season — from a string of injuries to the recent off-field firestorm created by reports of purported discord within the core of the franchise.

Now, they'll have a chance to play for yet another AFC championship.

The Patriots' 35-14 victory over the Titans in Saturday's divisional round was yet another reminder of the defending Super Bowl champion's unique ability to not only compartmentalize, but play some of their best football in the face of it.

Tom Brady chuckled when he was asked after the game about his name being mentioned in a swirl of media reports last week about alleged bickering between himself, coach Bill Belichick and team owner Rob-

ert Kraft.

"Noooo," he responded sarcastically, when a reporter asked about Brady's name being mentioned in a negative light.

But Brady said it "just goes with the territory."

"I just try to be consistent, show up and do the best I can do every week for the team and regardless of whether I'm the worst quarterback in the league or the best quarterback in the league or somewhere in-between," he said.

It was Brady's 10th career postseason game with at least three TD tosses, moving him past Joe Montana for the most in NFL history. It also brought out some of the best football in his teammates.

James White caught a touchdown pass and ran for another, and Danny Amendola had 11 catches for 112 yards — his first career 100-yard receiving game.

"All the hard work we put in

is for these moments," White said. "We have to make the most of these opportunities."

Marcus Mariota tossed an early touchdown pass to give the Titans an early 7-0 lead. But Tennessee faltered down the stretch as the Patriots defense swarmed the third-year quarterback and sacked him a Patriots playoff-record eight times.

Titans coach Mike Mularkey revealed after the game that Mariota suffered a strained quadriceps muscle in the first quarter. But Mariota said it was no excuse.

"Everybody plays with something," he said.

He said he walked off the field feeling "embarrassed" a week after leading his team back from 18 points down against Kansas City. But he said watching the efficiency of Brady and the Patriots was a learning experience he will take with him moving forward.

"You don't play to come and

lose in the divisional play-off. You play to win the whole thing," Mariota said. "Obviously, this is the blueprint. New England's been in the playoffs consistently. We can learn a lot from them."

Familiar position: Brady will be making his 12th AFC championship game appearance in his 18 NFL seasons. He now has 221 career wins as a starting quarterback (regular season and playoffs), extending his NFL record. Peyton Manning is next with 200 career victories.

Rare company: Gronkowski finished with six catches for 81 yards and a touchdown. It was his 10th career postseason TD. He's tied with five others for third all-time. But it's the most for a tight end. Only two players in NFL history have more receiving touchdowns in the playoffs: Jerry Rice with 22 and John Stallworth with 12.

Eagles silence doubters, eliminate Falcons

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Nick Foles was steady, Jake Elliott had a big leg and the defense made one final stop.

The underdog Philadelphia Eagles are heading to the NFC championship game following a 15-10 victory over the Atlanta Falcons on Saturday. They'll host the Saints-Vikings winner next Sunday.

Despite going 13-3 to earn the No. 1 seed, the Eagles entered the game as 3-point underdogs against the sixth-seeded Falcons (11-7). They used it as motivation and now it's onto the next one as they continue pursuit of the franchise's first Super Bowl title.

"If we believe the outsiders, we will be all messed up," Pro Bowl defensive tackle Fletcher Cox said. "We went out and proved we can be the real winning team."

Matt Ryan's final pass sailed through Julio Jones' arms in the corner of the end zone as Jalen Mills had tight coverage on fourth down from the 2 to secure Philadelphia's win. It was another disappointing finish for the Falcons, who blew a 25-point lead against the Patriots in last year's Super Bowl.

"The reason I play this game is to win a championship," Ryan said. "That's why we

put all of the hard work we put in. When you don't get that result, it's difficult."

Foles outplayed Ryan, bouncing back from a pair of subpar games with an efficient performance. He completed 77 percent of his passes (23-for-30) for 246 yards, no touchdowns and no turnovers.

"The biggest thing in our locker room is that we believe in one another and that showed," Foles said. "We kept working, kept grinding, had faith in one another. In any sport there's going to be criticism. You're aware of it because you're human but we blocked it out."

Here's some things we learned following Philadelphia's first playoff win in nine years:

Overcoming turnovers: The Eagles committed the only two turnovers and won anyway. Jay Ajayi fumbled on the second play from scrimmage inside Falcons territory and a short punt bounced off an Eagles player setting up Atlanta's 18-yard touchdown drive.

Inconsistent offense: These weren't the Falcons who lit up the scoreboard on their way to winning the NFC championship last year. Under first-year offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian, the Falcons weren't quite as sharp throughout the season and their inconsistency showed up at the wrong

time. They were shut out in the second half and held to just 118 yards in the final two quarters.

"I think that's something we have to look at and evaluate this offseason," Ryan said. "There were too many times we were a little bit inconsistent."

Jay train: Ajayi shook off the fumble and ran well until he inexplicably went to the bench for a long stretch. Ajayi had 50 yards rushing on eight carries through Philadelphia's first drive of the second quarter, but didn't get the ball again until the second half. He finished with 54 yards on 15 carries and also dropped a third down pass. He did have 44 yards receiving on three catches.

"I feel like I played poorly," Ajayi said. "The fumble, can't do that in a big game. I feel like I could have executed a lot better. A lot of the teammates picked up the slack. The defense played lights out."

Jake's leg: Elliott, who joined the Eagles after Caleb Sturgis was injured in Week 1, bounced back after missing his fourth extra point of the season by connecting on all three of his field goals. His 53-yarder at the end of the first half was his sixth in seven tries from beyond 50. That includes a game-winning 61-yarder against the Giants in Week 3.

NBA roundup

Warriors hold off Raptors

Associated Press

TORONTO — Stephen Curry returned from a two-game absence to score 24 points, Klay Thompson had 26 and the Golden State Warriors blew nearly all of a 27-point lead before beating the Toronto Raptors 127-125 on Saturday night.

DeMar DeRozan scored 42 points for the Raptors, but the Warriors had just enough to beat Toronto for the eighth straight time.

"We expected that and we took that punch," Kevin Durant said of Toronto's comeback. "I'm glad we got the 'W,' especially on the second night of a back-to-back."

Durant scored 25 points and Draymond Green had 14 for the Warriors, who have won 12 straight on the road. Golden State's 19 road wins are the most in the NBA.

OG Anunoby had 17 points and Serge Ibaka 14 for the

Raptors, who rallied from a 19-point deficit through three quarters to make it a one-point game in the fourth.

Curry sat out Wednesday's home loss to the Clippers and Friday's win at Milwaukee because of a sore right ankle, the same injury that kept him out of 11 games in December.

"It's sore but it felt good enough to play," Curry said. "It's probably exactly where I was the last time I came back. I don't feel limited out there but you just feel it."

Spurs 112, Nuggets 80: Kawhi Leonard scored 19 points in his return from a three-game absence, Davis Bertans had 18 and San Antonio never trailed in a victory over Denver.

San Antonio won its 14th straight at the AT&T Center, improving the league's best home record to 19-2.

Thunder 101, Hornets 91: Russell Westbrook had 25

points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Oklahoma City beat host Charlotte to snap a three-game losing streak.

Bulls 107, Pistons 105: Zach LaVine scored 14 points in his first game in 11 months, rookie Lauri Markkanen added 19 points and Chicago beat visiting Detroit.

Wizards 119, Nets 113 (OT): John Wall scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half and overtime and added 16 assists as host Washington beat Brooklyn after giving back a 23-point lead.

Clippers 126, Kings 105: Lou Williams scored 26 points and injury-depleted Los Angeles beat visiting Sacramento to get to .500 at the season's halfway mark.

Lakers 107, Mavericks 101 (OT): Julius Randle's rebound and late putback sealed an overtime victory for Los Angeles against host Dallas.

Broadcaster Keith Jackson dies at age 89

Associated Press

Keith Jackson laid down the soundtrack to Saturday for a generation of college football fans with phrases such as his signature "Whoa, Nelly!"

From the World Series to the Olympics, NFL to NBA, he did it all over five decades as a sportscaster, but most appropriately his final assignment before retiring 12 years ago was one of the greatest college football games ever.

Jackson died Friday. He was 89.

A statement by ESPN, which consolidated with ABC Sports, Jackson's longtime employer, announced his death Saturday. No cause was given. He was a longtime resident of Sherman Oaks, Calif., and died near his home there.

A native of west Georgia, near the Alabama border, his smooth baritone voice and use of phrases like "big uglies" for linemen gave his game calls a familiar feel.

"He was one of our giants," longtime broadcaster Brent Musburger told The Associated Press. "He could do anything and loved doing it."

Jackson might be best known for his "Whoa, Nelly!" exclamation, but he didn't overuse it. Borrowed from his great-grandfather, a farmer, the phrase also part of a commercial Jackson did for Miller Lite in the mid-'90s. But it was no catchphrase.

"He never made anything up," Musburger said. "That's how Keith talked."

Jackson is a member of the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame, and called more Rose Bowl games, 15, than any other announcer.

"When you heard his voice, you knew it was a big game," said Bob Iger, chairman and chief executive of The Walt Disney Co., which owns ESPN.

After serving four years in the Marine Corps, Jackson broadcast his first college football game in 1952 as an undergraduate at Washington State. He worked in radio and TV before joining ABC Sports in 1966.

NHL roundup

Danault takes puck to head in victory

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Brad Marchand scored in the fourth round of a shootout, and the Boston Bruins beat Montreal 4-3 on Saturday night after the Canadiens lost Phillip Danault to a head injury on a frightening play in the second period.

Marchand also scored in regulation, helping the Bruins improve to 9-0-3 in their past 12 games.

Danault was taken off the ice on a stretcher after he was hit in the head by a slap shot from Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara. The 24-year-old center was moving and speaking to medical staff before he departed to an ovation from the Bell Centre crowd.

Considering how hard Chara can shoot, many feared it might have been much worse.

Canadiens coach Claude Julien said after the game that Danault would remain in a hospital and would be re-evaluated Sunday.

Ducks 4, Kings 2: Ondrej Kase had two goals and an assist, John Gibson made 23 saves and visiting Anaheim held on in the third period for its first victory of the season in the Freeway Faceoff.

Sharks 6, Coyotes 5, OT: Joonas Donskoi tied it with 15.4 seconds left in the third period and Marc-Edward Vlasic scored in overtime.

Penguins 4, Red Wings 1: Evgeni Malkin had two goals and two assists, and host Pittsburgh earned its third straight victory.

Flyers 5, Devils 3: Sean Couturier had two goals and an assist, helping visiting Philadelphia to its fourth straight win.

Wild 4, Jets 1: Matt Dumba scored two goals in the third period, and host Minnesota got its first win against Winnipeg in four tries this season.

Oilers 3, Golden Knights 2 (OT): Darnell Nurse scored 55 seconds into overtime to lift visiting Edmonton past Vegas.

Islanders 7, Rangers 2: At New York, Mathew Barzal had two goals and three assists, Anthony Beauvillier added two goals and an assist, and the Islanders earned their ninth win in the past 10 meetings of the crosstown rivals.

Avalanche 4, Stars 1: Alexander Kerfoot scored in the first period and assisted on Nathan MacKinnon's winner, and visiting Colorado beat Dallas for its sixth straight win.

Wolverines upset No. 4 Michigan State

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Moritz Wagner flicked his right wrist, made a three-pointer and pressed his right index fingers against his lips.

And, there wasn't anything Michigan State players or fans could do about it.

Wagner scored a career-high 27 points, lifting Michigan to an 82-72 victory over the fourth-ranked Spartans on Saturday.

Making his performance even more impressive, he played through a lingering injury.

"We didn't know if Moe would play," coach John Beilein said. "He tweaked the ankle. We have a trainer, Alex Wong, who needs a shout-out for this one."

Wagner was 8-for-13, making 3 of 4 three-pointers, and shot over and drove past every player who attempted to defend him.

"He's a pick-and-pop guy and it's tough to

guard him," Michigan State's Miles Bridges said. "We could tell he really wanted that game."

Wagner, who was jeered by the fans before it was clear Michigan was going to win, celebrated the victory by shouting with joy and bouncing around the court.

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo compared Wagner to former Spartans guard Scott Skiles, who taunted the Wolverines while scoring against them in the mid-1980s.

"He talked it," Izzo said. "He walked it. He played it."

The Wolverines (15-4, 4-2 Big Ten) have won eight of nine games this season and two straight against their rivals.

The Spartans (16-3, 4-2) are struggling, losing two of three games with an overtime win over Rutgers in between the setbacks.

"We have to do some soul-searching," Izzo acknowledged.

Zavier Simpson made a go-ahead layup

with 14:28 left, the 13th lead change in an intense game with 11 ties. He helped the Wolverines pull away in the final minutes with enough free throws to keep a cushion. Simpson finished with 16 points, taking advantage of a game plan that called for him and his teammates to drive toward the basket against a shot-blocking team.

"Our guards could not get over the screens," Izzo said.

Bridges had 19 points, six rebounds, five assists and two steals. Bridges gave up the ball four times as one of many turnover-prone Spartans. Michigan scored 26 points off Michigan State's 18 turnovers.

"It's going to be tough for me to live this down," said Bridges, who will not play the Wolverines again unless they meet in the Big Ten or NCAA Tournaments — if the sophomore star enters the NBA Draft as expected.

Roundup

No. 8 Texas Tech knocks off 2nd-ranked WVU

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Keenan Evans scored 20 points, Brandone Francis had a career-high 17 and No. 8 Texas Tech won the first Top 10 matchup on its home court, beating second-ranked West Virginia 72-71 on Saturday.

Evans hit a lean-in jumper to give the Red Raiders (15-2, 4-1 Big 12) a four-point lead in the final minute and send the first sellout crowd of the season into a frenzy. The Mountaineers had their nation-leading 15-game winning streak stopped.

Jevon Carter scored 28 points — one off his career high — for West Virginia (15-2, 4-1).

No. 1 Villanova 78, St. John's 71: Donte DiVincenzo hit six three-pointers and scored 25 points to help the Wildcats silence a rowdy crowd and hold off the upset-minded Red Storm at Madison Square Garden.

No. 5 Purdue 81, Minnesota 47: Vincent Edwards scored 25 points in 29 minutes on 9-for-14 shooting for the visiting Boiler-makers in their 13th consecu-

tive victory.

No. 5 Wichita State 72, Tulsa 69: Landry Shamet and back-court mate Conner Frankamp each scored 16 points and the Shockers held off the host Golden Hurricane.

No. 7 Duke 89, Wake Forest 71: Marvin Bagley III had 30 points and 11 rebounds for the host Blue Devils, who were without Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski due to a virus.

No. 9 Oklahoma 102, No. 16 TCU 97 (OT): Trae Young scored 29 of his 43 points after halftime for the host Sooners, who won in overtime.

No. 10 Xavier 92, No. 25 Creighton 70: Trevon Bluiett emerged from his shooting slump with 24 points and Kaiser Gates responded to getting dropped from the starting lineup by scoring 16, as the host Muskateers recovered from back-to-back road losses.

No. 11 Arizona State 77, Oregon State 75: Shannon Evans scored seven of his 22 points in a late 10-0 run for the host Sun Devils.

No. 12 Kansas 73, Kansas

State 72: At Lawrence, Kan., Devonte Graham had 23 points, and Malik Newman hit the go-ahead foul shots with 15 seconds left for the Jayhawks.

No. 13 Seton Hall 74, Georgetown 61: Desi Rodriguez and Myles Powell each scored 19 points to lead the host Pirates.

No. 14 Cincinnati 78, South Florida 55: Jarron Cumberland scored 18 points and the visiting Bearcats shrugged off a slow start.

No. 15 Gonzaga 75, San Francisco 65: Johnathan Williams scored 17 points and Josh Perkins added 16 to lead the Bulldogs to their 18th straight road victory in the West Coast Conference.

No. 17 Arizona 90, Oregon 83: Allonzo Trier scored 25 points and Deandre Ayton added 24 for the host Wildcats.

No. 19 Clemson 72, No. 18 Miami 63: Donte Grantham had 18 points, including four three-pointers, and Mark Donnal had 12 points, including two critical second-half threes, for the host Tigers.

No. 20 North Carolina 69,

Notre Dame 68: Joel Berry II hit two free throws with 7.1 seconds left as the Tar Heels earned their first Atlantic Coast Conference road victory of the season.

No. 21 Kentucky 74, Vanderbilt 67: Kevin Knox scored five straight points to put the visiting Wildcats ahead to stay.

No. 22 Auburn 76, Mississippi State 68: At Starkville, Miss., Bryce Brown scored 23 points and Mustapha Heron and Desean Murray both added 14 for the Tigers.

No. 23 Florida State 101, Syracuse 90 (2OT): Braian Angola scored 24 points, including five in the second overtime, and Christ Koumadje added a career-high 23 for the host Seminoles.

No. 24 Tennessee 75, Texas A&M 62: Jordan Bowden scored 15 points as the Volunteers handed the visiting Aggies their fifth consecutive loss.

Air Force 78, San Jose State 71: Ryan Swan scored 19 points and grabbed nine rebounds and Jacob Van added 14 points to help the Falcons beat the host Spartans.