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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Fitness devices reveal soldiers' locations

The Washington Post

BEIRUT — An interactive map posted on the internet that shows the whereabouts of people who use fitness devices such as Fitbit also reveals highly sensitive information about the location and activities of soldiers at U.S. military bases, in what appears to be a major security oversight.

The Global Heat Map, published by the GPS tracking company Strava, uses satellite information to map the location and movements of subscribers to the company's fitness service over a two-year period by illuminating areas of activity.

Strava said it has 27 million users around the world, including people who own widely available fitness devices such as Fitbit, Jawbone and Vitofit as well as people who directly subscribe to its mobile phone application. The map is not live — rather it shows a pattern of accumulated activity between 2015 and September last year.

Most parts of the United States and Europe, where millions of people use some form of fitness tracker, show up on the map as a blaze of light, because there is so much activity.

In war zones and deserts such as Iraq and Syria, the heat map becomes almost entirely dark — except for a few scattered pinpricks of activity. Zooming in on those

brings into focus the locations and outlines of known U.S. military bases, as well as of other unknown and potentially sensitive sites — presumably because U.S. soldiers and other personnel are using fitness trackers as they move around.

Air Force Col. John Thomas, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said Sunday the U.S. military is looking into the implications of the map.

The U.S. military did not respond to a question about what the regulations are regarding use of fitness tracking apps. But the Pentagon has encouraged the use of Fitbits among military personnel and in 2013 distributed 2,500 of them as part of a pilot program to battle obesity.

The Global Heat Map was posted online in November 2017, but the information it contains was only publicized on Saturday after a 20-year-old Australian student stumbled across it. Nathan Ruser, who is studying international security and the Middle East, found out about the map's existence from a mapping blog and was inspired to look more closely, he said, after a throwaway comment by his father, who observed that the map offered a snapshot of "where rich white people are" in the world.

"I wondered, does it show U.S. soldiers?" he said, and immediately zoomed in on Syria. "It sort of lit up like a Christmas

tree."

He started tweeting about his discovery, and the internet also lit up, as data analysts, military experts and former soldiers began scouring the map for evidence of activity in their areas of interest.

The site does not identify the users of the app and shows many locations that may belong to aid agencies, United Nations facilities and the military bases of other nations — or anyone whose personnel is likely to use fitness trackers, said Tobias Schneider, an international security analyst based in Germany. But it is not hard, he said, to map the activity to known, or roughly known, U.S. military sites and then glean further information.

"This is a clear security threat," he said. "You can see a pattern of life. You can see where a person who lives on a compound runs down a street to exercise. In one of the U.S. bases at Tanf (in Syria) you can see people running round in circles."

By no means is all of the activity discovered U.S. activity, said Schneider. The perimeter of the main Russian base in Syria, Hemeimeem, is clearly visible — as are several routes out of the base that are presumably taken by patrols, he said.

Other Russian bases also show up, but Iranians either don't use fitness trackers or prudently turn them off, he noted.

Army expands bases to assign women to combat jobs

The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

Female officers in infantry and armor jobs will be heading to three additional installations, leading the way for women who are choosing jobs on the front lines.

Col. Michael Lawhorn, a spokesman for U.S. Army Forces Command, said women in combat jobs can now be assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Carson, Colo.; and Fort Campbell, Ky. The move expands opportunities for women, who have previously been assigned only to Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Hood, Texas.

"Forces Command plans to

provide a long-term plan to its units in the next 30 days," Lawhorn said, noting the expansion is based on commander recommendations.

Lawhorn said the expansion provides women with more opportunities, especially if they are planning on a 20-year career in the Army.

The Army will follow its leaders-first structure for integration by first moving two female officers or noncommissioned officers into a unit, then moving female junior enlisted soldiers. That structure was in place for Fort Bragg and Fort Hood integration.

Since 2012, the Department

of Defense opened more than 111,000 positions to women. In December 2015, the final 213,600 positions across 52 military occupational specialties were opened to women when the DOD struck down regulations that prevented them from serving in combat jobs.

Among the first to open to women were field artillery jobs in October 2015. At Fort Bragg, that meant women could be assigned to field artillery jobs with the 18th Field Artillery Brigade and the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery.

As women began graduating from infantry training over the past year, they began arriving

to units at Fort Bragg and Fort Hood. To date, there are about 40 women assigned to infantry jobs with brigades at Fort Bragg and about 140 women assigned to infantry and armor brigades at Fort Hood.

Those installations were the first chosen for women in combat jobs because of their large populations, according to Forces Command.

In November, six women at Fort Bragg were recognized when they became the first in the Army to earn the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge. Testing for the badge only recently opened to women as infantry jobs opened.

Bloody week shows how US policy in Afghanistan failing

The Washington Post

On Saturday, a suicide bomber packed a fake ambulance with explosives, drove to a hospital in central Kabul and set off an explosion that rocked the Afghan capital. At least 103 people were killed and 235 wounded. The attack, claimed by the Taliban, was one of the deadliest in the country's history.

It was also the third major attack in Afghanistan in a week. On Jan. 22, 22 people died when Taliban fighters stormed the Hotel Inter-Continental, a tightly guarded luxury hotel in Kabul, and sparked a firefight that lasted more than 14 hours. Just days later, an assault by Islamic State on the Jalalabad office of British charity Save the Children left at least four people dead. The organization has since suspended all operations in the country.

And that wasn't all. On Monday morning militants stormed a major training base in the capital, killing at least 11 Afghan soldiers and wounding 16 others. ISIS claimed responsibility.

The unrelenting violence underscores the frustrating reality in Afghanistan: Despite more than 16 years of fighting by the U.S.-led coalition and Afghan security forces, the Taliban and other terrorist groups are again growing stronger.

In the years since they toppled the Taliban in 2001, U.S. and Afghan forces have struggled to dismantle the terrorist group's networks in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Today, the Taliban controls about a third of Afghanistan, more territory than at any point since the U.S. invasion.

It has gained a foothold in areas like Babaji and Marjah that coalition troops fought hard to defend, and it has launched

high-profile attacks in major cities, creating a sense among Afghans that no one is safe.

As Krishnadev Calamur wrote for the Atlantic, "The group's resilience and the apparent ease with which it continues to strike at the heart of the Afghan state underscores the challenge its government faces in bringing stability to the country, even as U.S. military support is set to increase under President Donald Trump."

Meanwhile, that government is fragile and fractured. President Ashraf Ghani presides over a coalition plagued by rivalries and infighting. Corruption is rampant. One poll from July 2017 found 61 percent of Afghans believe the country is moving in the wrong direction.

So it's perhaps no surprise that other terrorist groups have gotten a foothold in Afghanistan as well. Islamic State has launched several attacks on foreigners and Afghanistan's Shiite minority. The group took credit for at least 15 bombings in Afghanistan in 2017, up from just a couple in 2016.

"ISIS has lost land but has not surrendered its arms and is looking for land in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia to, in this way, revive the idea of the Islamic caliphate," said Iranian Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi to Tehran's Seminar on Terrorism, Extremism and Regional Security in West Asia in December.

U.S. policymakers are not blind to this problem. Since taking office, Trump has increased the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan from 8,500 to 14,000 — and the U.S. Army is preparing to send up to 1,000 more.

Unfortunately, those new troops will likely have little impact on the security situation.

3rd deadly attack in Kabul; at least 11 killed, 16 wounded

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN AND CHAD
GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Militants armed with suicide vests and small arms stormed a major training base in Kabul on Monday, killing at least 11 Afghan soldiers and wounding 16 others in the third deadly attack in the Afghan capital in the past nine days.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.

The predawn assault near the Marshal Fahim National Defense University on the western outskirts of the city lasted a few hours, according to Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri, who said four assailants were killed and one was captured.

Two of the attackers died after detonating suicide vests, Waziri said. The others were killed by security forces.

The group attacked an entrance to the heavily fortified compound, which houses U.S. and NATO instructors but was prevented from entering, Waziri added.

About 40 Afghan commandos were sent to the scene shortly after 5 a.m. to combat the mili-

tants, Abdul Qayum Nooristani, a spokesman for the Afghan National Army Special Operations Command, told Stars and Stripes.

The assault near the academy compound follows an attack there in October, when 15 cadets were killed when a suicide bomber attacked their bus.

The latest deaths follow a string of attacks that has left Kabul residents on edge. Two days ago, an ambulance packed with explosives was detonated in central Kabul, killing more than 100, in one of the deadliest attacks of the 16-year-old war.

A week earlier, six Taliban gunmen stormed the Hotel Inter-Continental Kabul and battled security forces there for more than 12 hours. At least 22 people — mostly foreign civilians, including four Americans — were killed.

The bloodshed has led to widespread criticism among Afghans of the country's national unity government, which the U.S. helped broker in 2014 after disputed elections.

Monday had been declared a holiday as part of three days of mourning for the victims of the recent attacks. Tuesday was declared a national day of prayer.

Snowfall answers many prayers

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Snow dusted Kabul and other areas in white Monday morning for the first time since mid-December, providing a small bright spot as the capital tries to recover from a series of terrorist bombings.

Flurries continued through much of the day, less than a week after President Ashraf Ghani called on Afghans to pray for precipitation. Farmers

in the country depend on snowfall in the winter months for a bountiful harvest, but so far there's been little of it.

Children played cricket Monday on snow-covered fields or tossed snowballs at one another. Some skipped along or twirled umbrellas as they followed parents on their daily routines.

In Parwan province, where Bagram Air Field is located, there was little snow; instead, a slushy rain fell. Deep puddles dotted the American base's parking lots and roadways.

Terrorism suspect wanted deportation

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A man accused of plotting an attack on a federal medical facility in Texas asked a judge in December to deport him instead of sending him to prison, saying he didn't deserve to spend time behind bars, records show.

Abdirahman Sheik Mohamud told federal Judge Michael Watson that he didn't want to leave his family but called his proposal "completely fair and just."

Mohamud, who was born in Somalia and came to the U.S. at age 2, may eventually get his wish.

After Mohamud was sentenced to 22 years in prison last week, the local Homeland Security Investigations office said it would seek to strip him of his citizenship and deport him to Somalia.

At sentencing on Jan. 22, Mohamud told Watson that he knew what he'd done was wrong and that he'd fallen into the trap of radicalization while abroad.

Mohamud, 26, tried to fire his attorney in a second letter dated Dec. 15, saying they weren't communicating well. A handwritten note on the letter says Mohamud's request was withdrawn Jan. 9 in court.

His attorney, Sam Shamansky, declined to comment.

Mohamud planned to fly to Texas and attack Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth in an attempt to free Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani scientist convicted of shooting at two U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, Watson said as he outlined the allegations against Mohamud.

According to the government, Mohamud

applied for a passport to travel abroad only a week after he became a U.S. citizen in 2014.

He bought a ticket to Greece with a stop in Turkey, where he disembarked before going to Syria, prosecutors said in court documents.

Mohamud trained with Nusra Front, an extremist organization affiliated with al-Qaida, prosecutors said.

Mohamud was arrested in 2015 and pleaded guilty a few months later. The attacks were never carried out.

Shamansky asked for leniency, saying Mohamud didn't have his father around when he was growing up and was brainwashed while abroad "by professional head twisters" but later realized his error and abandoned his plot.

Trump to seek more DOD funding in State of the Union

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — In his first, State of the Union speech, President Donald Trump will push lawmakers to look at new levels of military spending in light of threats around the globe.

The speech, under a theme of "building a safe, proud and strong America," to both chambers of Congress on Tuesday evening will focus on the administration's accomplishments in its first year and set an agenda for the coming year.

"I expect him to call for a significant increase in military spending," Molly Reynolds, a governance studies fellow at the Brookings Institution, said Monday during a preview of the speech at the liberal-leaning Washington think tank.

Trump's speech is expected to highlight a prosperous economy and low unemployment while pushing for new spending for infrastructure and defense.

In a move that could bolster new military spending requests, Trump is expected to provide an update on the fight against terrorism and other global threats, including North Korea.

The effort comes as new reporting reveals the Trump White House will push for a

much larger 2019 defense budget, even as a plan to approve Defense Department funding this year remains trapped in Capitol Hill gridlock.

On Friday, The Washington Post reported the White House next month will ask for \$716 billion in defense funding for 2019, a 7 percent increase over this year's plan. The \$700 billion 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which surpasses statutory budget caps, has yet to gain full-year funding approval.

The 2019 plan aims to modernize the military's weapon systems as it continues to engage in America's longest war in Afghanistan and prepares for new conflicts with major powers, The Post reported. The larger spending push signals Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' growing influence within the Trump administration.

The military, like the rest of the federal government, is operating on its fourth temporary funding bill, known as a continuing resolution in lieu of a full-year budget for the 2018 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. That plan faces a Feb. 8 deadline; more stopgap bills could be on the horizon as lawmakers struggle to agree on overall funding, budget caps, immigration and a debt ceiling deadline.

Families: Jealousy drove suspect in Pa. car wash shootings

Associated Press

A man suspected of gunning down four people at a Pennsylvania car wash was driven by jealousy, according to family members of the shooting victims.

State police said Timothy Smith, 28, was armed with a semi-automatic rifle, a .308-caliber rifle and a handgun, and was wearing a body armor carrier when he opened fire early Sunday morning at Ed's Car Wash in Saltlick Township, Pa.

William Porterfield, 27; Chelsie Cline, 25; Courtney Snyder, 23; and Seth Cline, 21, were all killed. Another woman was able to hide in the back seat of a truck and suffered only minor injuries from broken glass, police said.

Smith was on life support Sunday and is not expected to survive after suffering a possibly self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head, police said.

Porterfield and Chelsie Cline spent time together in the days before the shooting after Cline broke off a relationship with Smith, Porterfield's widow,

Jenna Porterfield, 24, told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. She said a state police investigator told her Smith was a jealous former boyfriend of Cline.

Cline shared a meme on her Facebook page last week that read, "After this week, I rilly (sic) need to get taken out ... on a date or by a sniper either one is fine w me at this point." A Facebook friend named Tim Smith replied, "I could do both."

Authorities would not reveal how Smith knew the victims, but Chelsie Cline's half sister, Sierra Kolarik, told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that Smith developed an obsession with Cline after the two possibly dated. Kolarik said Smith "came off as the most king-hearted person" but that his interests were "guns and guns and guns and shooting and beer and rolling cigarettes."

Ed Bukovac, who owns the car wash, told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that a neighbor called him about 4 a.m. Sunday and said something was wrong at his business. Bukovac said police were on the scene by the time he arrived.

Lithuanians feel hangover from tougher liquor rules

Associated Press

VILNIUS, Lithuania — One of the heaviest drinking nations in the world is facing a severe hangover.

Lithuania's new liquor law has increased the legal drinking age from 18 to 20, banned alcohol advertising and drastically curtailed opening hours for liquor stores. The law, in effect since Jan. 1, has stirred major controversy in this Baltic nation of 2.9 million people.

According to the World Health Organization, Lithuanians' per-capita alcohol consumption jumped more than 22 percent in a decade — from 15.7 quarts of pure alcohol annually in 2006 to 19.2 quarts in 2016. Authorities felt drastic measures were needed.

"We had to do something about it," said Health Minister Aurelijus Veryga, the main proponent of the new legislation. [Alcoholism] "makes Lithuania unattractive to foreign investments and tourism."

"Especially shocking are surveys showing that a third of our 15- and 16-year-olds consume alcohol regularly," Veryga noted.

With 36 per 100,000 people, Lithuania has the highest suicide rate in Europe, and suicide rates among alcoholics are consistently high, according to a study conducted by health specialists at Vilnius University.

"These were hard decisions," Veryga said, noting that opponents of the new law were trying "to make fools" of its supporters, including him.

Veryga became health minister in late 2016 when his party — Union of Farmers and Greens Union — claimed the most seats at the national elections. The party has pushed ahead with several conservative law changes in family policy, despite public protests and disagreements with coalition partners.

On a mural covering a wall of a popular Vilnius restaurant, Veryga is depicted as a Taliban fighter holding an AK-47 machine gun under the heading "the party is over," reflect-

ing concerns that Lithuania is entering a dark era of radical bans and restrictions.

Some columnists suggested Lithuania should start censoring classic literature describing the consumption of spirits, while members of the opposition have already filed amendments seeking to repeal the harshest aspects of the law. Even the country's president, Dalia Grybauskaite, has called for amendments.

"It reminds me of the Middle Ages and it causes huge international harm to Lithuania's image and reputation abroad," Grybauskaite said, speaking about pages having to be torn out of foreign magazines.

Publishers have rushed to remove — or cover with red stickers — liquor ads from foreign publications distributed in the country to avoid fines of \$37,480 per ad.

Restaurants have also been affected. Wine bottles are no longer allowed to be displayed after 8 p.m. as their labels are considered advertising and patrons have a choice of buying wine by the glass or having it served in a decanter.

"This is just ridiculous," said Arunas Starkus, study director at the Sommelier School of Lithuania, calling the new rules "simply irrational and naive."

"It takes decades to change people's customs and it has to be done by changing the culture, not by implementing restrictions and penalties," Starkus said.

Underage drinkers are still welcome at many downtown bars, with owners highly skeptical about the new regulations.

"Of course, we let in everybody, even those who are under 20," said Raminta Ruibyte, manager of a popular Vilnius bar. "We can offer them non-alcoholic beverages."

Veryga, for his part, was unmoved.

"Nobody will solve these problems for us," Veryga said. "We must ... help the new generation grow up not thinking that alcohol is the main factor that unites and keeps our society together."

Witness: Kim met Korean-American before his murder

Associated Press

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia — A police witness said Monday that the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader met with an unidentified Korean-American man on a Malaysian resort island four days before he was murdered, as the trial of two women accused of killing him resumed.

Siti Aisyah, 25, of Indonesia, and Doan Thi Huong, 29, of Vietnam, are accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur last Feb. 13. They pleaded not guilty to murder charges when their trial began Oct. 2. The two are the only suspects in custody, though prosecutors have said four North Koreans who fled the country were also involved.

Chief police investigating officer Wan Azirul Nizam Che Wan Aziz told the court Monday that Kim flew from Macau to Kuala Lumpur last Feb. 6 and went to the northern island of Langkawi two days later. He said Kim met with the Korean-American at a Langkawi hotel the next day, but he didn't know the man's identity and it wasn't related to the \$138,000 in cash found in Kim's backpack when he was murdered.

Wan Azirul was responding to questions from Gooi Soon Seng, Aisyah's lawyer, who asked him to confirm a report by the Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun that Kim had met in Langkawi with a U.S. intelligence agent who was based in Bangkok.

"Until now, the identity of the man is not known," Wan Azirul told the court. He said he could not remember the hotel name or whether the

room was registered under Kim or the man, prompting a lashing from Gooi for his "severe lapse of memory."

Wan Azirul said an analysis of Kim's laptop showed it was last used on Feb. 9. He said Kim returned to Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 12, a day before he was killed while waiting for a flight back to Macau.

The trial is to resume Tuesday.

Gooi has told reporters that Kim's killing was likely a political assassination because of involvement by the North Korean Embassy.

A police witness has testified that a car used to take the North Korean suspects to the airport on the day of the murder belonged to the embassy. The court also heard that an embassy official met the suspects before they fled and facilitated their check-in at the airport.

If they are convicted, the two women could face the death penalty, but not if they lacked intent to kill. Defense lawyers say the women believed they were playing a prank for a hidden-camera TV show. Prosecutors contend the women knew they were handling poison.

Kim, the eldest son in the family that has ruled North Korea since its founding, had been living abroad for years after falling out of favor.

It is thought he could have been seen as a threat to the rule of his half brother, Kim Jong Un. Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea of involvement in Kim's death and have made it clear they don't want the trial politicized.

Bruno Mars is big winner at the Grammys

Associated Press

The Grammy Awards seemed poised to make this a triumphant year for rap at music's showcase event — until Bruno Mars crashed the party.

The song-and-dance man from Hawaii won all six awards he was nominated for Sunday night, including the three most prestigious Grammys for song (“That’s What I Like”), record (“24K Magic”) and album of the year. His music also dominated the rhythm and blues categories.

The Grammys also saw Kendrick Lamar win five awards, Jay-Z go home empty-handed, some memorable performances by the likes of Lamar, Kesha, Mars and Logic, an odd oversight of singer Lorde and a surprise cameo from Hillary Clinton.

In accepting a trophy for the album “24K Magic,” Mars recalled when he was 15 years old and singing shows for tourists. He’d look down from the stage to see people from all over the world who had never met dancing together and toasting one another.

“All I ever wanted to do with this album was that,” he said. “These songs were written with nothing but joy.”

Mars has won 11 Grammys in his career.

His success, however, instantly became a target for second-guessers, similar to last year when people were befuddled when Adele won album of the year over Beyonce. Social media filled with commentary about whether Lamar’s hard-hitting disc “DAMN.” was more deserving.

Beyond being a critical favorite, Lamar seemed primed to be the evening’s star. He opened the Grammys with a hard-hitting medley that depicted black dancers falling to the floor to symbolize being shot, and

A partial list of winners:

Album of the year: “24K Magic,” Bruno Mars

Record of the year: “24K Magic,” Bruno Mars

Song of the year: “That’s What I Like,” Bruno Mars

Best new artist: Alessia Cara

Best rap album: “DAMN.,” Kendrick Lamar

Best rap performance: “HUMBLE.,” Kendrick Lamar

Best rap song: “HUMBLE.,” Kendrick Lamar

Best rap/sung performance: “Loyalty,” Kendrick Lamar featuring Rihanna

Best R&B album: “24K Magic,” Bruno Mars

Best R&B song: “That’s What I Like,” Bruno Mars

Best R&B performance: “That’s What I Like,” Bruno Mars

Best urban contemporary album:

“Starboy,” the Weeknd

Best pop vocal album: “÷ (Divide),” Ed Sheeran

Best pop solo performance: “Shape of You,” Ed Sheeran

Best pop duo/group performance: “Feel It Still,” Portugal. The Man

Best traditional pop vocal album: “Tony Bennett Celebrates 90,” various artists

Best rock album: “A Deeper Understanding,” the War on Drugs

Best rock song: “Run,” Foo Fighters

Best rock performance: “You Want It Darker,” Leonard Cohen

Best alternative music album: “Sleep Well Beast,” the National

Best country album: “From A Room: Volume 1,” Chris Stapleton

Best country song: “Broken Halos,” Chris Stapleton

Best country solo performance:

“Either Way,” Chris Stapleton

Best country duo/group performance: “Better Man,” Little Big Town

Best dance/electronic album: “3-D the Catalogue,” Kraftwerk

Best dance recording: “Tonite,” LCD Soundsystem

Best comedy album: “The Age of Spin & Deep in the Heart of Texas,” Dave Chappelle

Best music video: “HUMBLE.,” Kendrick Lamar

Best contemporary instrumental album: “Prototype,” Jeff Lorber Fusion

Best metal performance:

“Sultan’s Curse,” Mastodon

Best traditional R&B performance: “Redbone,” Childish Gambino

From The Washington Post

won the night’s first televised award. His work swept the rap categories, the prime factor in the night’s most-nominated artist, Jay-Z, winning nothing.

Lamar paid tribute to Jay-Z (“Jay-Z for president,” he said with a smile) and other forebears in accepting a Grammy.

“I thought it was about the accolades and the cars and the clothes,” he said. “But it really is about expressing yourself and putting that paint on the canvas for the world to evolve for the next listener, the next generation after that. Hip-hop has done that for me.”

Clinton’s appearance was the punch line for a skit where host James Corden pretended to cast celebrities for what he thought would be a sure-fire Grammy contender for spoken world performance next year, reading from Michael Wolff’s best-seller about the Trump administration, “Fire and Fury.” Cher, John Legend and Snoop Dogg left him frustrated, but

then Clinton lowered a copy of the opened book in front of her face to reveal herself.

Most of the show’s political references — to topics such as gun violence, immigration reform and women’s rights — were carefully scripted.

Kesha was joined by Cyndi Lauper, Camila Cabello, Julia Michaels, Andra Day and others in a performance of her Grammy-nominated song “Praying,” which is about fighting back from abuse. Singer Janelle Monae introduced Kesha and tied the appearance to the current flood of women speaking up about sexual misconduct. Dozens of artists and music industry players also sported white roses in support of the Time’s Up and #MeToo movements against sexual abuse and harassment.

“We come in peace but we mean business. To those who would dare try to silence us, we offer two words: Time’s Up,” Monae said. “It’s not just

going on in Hollywood. It’s not just going on in Washington. It’s here in our industry, too.”

The show also featured a somber performance of Eric Clapton’s “Tears in Heaven” by country artists Maren Morris, Eric Church and the Osborne Brothers. All were on the bill for the Las Vegas show in October that was torn apart by a mass shooter.

Album of the year nominee Lorde wasn’t among the night’s performers, even as classic rockers Sting and U2 made multiple appearances.

Alessia Cara won the Grammy for best new artist, and remembered the time when she would “win” Grammys in her dreams while singing in the shower.

Chris Stapleton won three Grammys in country categories. Other multiple winners included Ed Sheeran, CeCe Winans, Justin Hurwitz and Jason Isbell.

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Walker, Miller help AFC to Pro Bowl win

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Delanie Walker held the ball in the end zone and waited for his teammates to celebrate.

They came from every direction: left, right and even the bench.

The Tennessee Titans tight end caught two touchdown passes, including an 18-yarder with 1:31 remaining, and the AFC beat the NFC 24-23 in a rain-soaked Pro Bowl on Sunday.

Teammates mobbed him. Pittsburgh receiver Antonio Brown, Baltimore safe-

ty Eric Weddle, Jacksonville cornerback Jalen Ramsey and Steelers coach Mike Tomlin were among those who left the sideline to congratulate Walker.

“That’s as real as it gets in football,” Oakland quarterback Derek Carr said. “You always want to win, especially with money on the line.”

The winning team’s players got \$64,000 each, double the losing team’s share.

“You’ve got guys on the sidelines saying, ‘I need that money,’” Carr said.

Carr completed 11 of 15 passes for 115 yards and connected with Walker on a

skinny post for the winning score.

Denver’s Von Miller sealed the victory when he caused and recovered a fumble by Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff. Miller posed problems all afternoon for the NFC.

“I go all out all the time,” Miller said.

The AFC overcame a 17-point halftime deficit and four turnovers to win the annual all-star game.

Walker was voted the offensive MVP, and Miller was the defensive MVP. Both got luxury cars to go along with trophies.

Patriots, Brady hardly a dominant force

Associated Press

The New England Patriots are 5-2 in Super Bowls with Tom Brady.

They were this close to being 7-0. Or 0-7.

So when folks wonder why the spread against Philadelphia is between 5 and 6 points, they should consider that the total difference in scoring in those seven games is 12 points: Patriots 169, opponents 157.

“If you look at a Patriots Super Bowl, a lot of people feel that the Patriots are going to be dominant and they should just wipe the floor with whoever they play,” says Jay Kornegay of the Westgate Las Vegas sports book.

“The reality is all their Super Bowl wins have been in very close games. Last year’s six-point victory was their largest margin of victory in all their Super Bowls.

“We expect the Eagles to be competitive and we expect them to get some support from the general public. This is the only event we make a line that depends on public opinion. There’s so much money from the public on this game than you would get from the so-called sharks.”

New England has not exactly been a pool of sharks in those Super Bowls. Consider that the Patriots have not scored a point in the opening quarter of any of those seven games. Zip. Zilch. Nada.

And while Brady certainly has deserved his four Super Bowl MVP trophies, particularly in the past two Patriots wins, aside from the most successful quarterback in the modern NFL era, there hasn’t been much to separate New England from the vanquished opposition.

Consider:

Patriots 20, Rams 17: Super Bowl 36, Feb. 3, 2002

New England’s defense was masterful against the “Greatest Show on Turf”, playing an ultra-physical style that eventually led to some rules changes on how defenders could interact with receivers. Still, the Patriots blew a 17-3 lead and St. Louis tied it with 1:30 left.

That’s when Brady first showed he was, well, Brady. Rams coach Mike Martz, who ignored star running back Marshall Faulk far too often on a day begging for a run game, thought New England would play for OT. Instead, Brady, then 24, led his team to Adam Vinatieri’s winning field goal.

Patriots 32, Panthers 29: Super Bowl 38, Feb. 1, 2004

Again, the Patriots lost a late lead in a strange game, with all the scoring coming in the second and fourth quarters. The Panthers’ John Kasay, one of the league’s most reliable kickers, sent the kickoff following the tying TD out of bounds with 1:08 remaining. From their 40, the Patriots easily moved in po-

sition for another winning field goal by Vinatieri.

Patriots 24, Eagles 21: Super Bowl 39, Feb. 6, 2005

New England repeated, helped greatly by Philadelphia’s ineffectiveness in a hurry-up offense — and Eagles QB Donovan McNabb vomiting in the huddle at one point. But Philly did have the ball and a chance to win with less than a minute left before Rodney Harrison’s interception.

Giants 17, Patriots 14: Super Bowl 42, Feb. 3, 2008

This is the biggest head scratcher because the Patriots were undefeated, unstoppable on offense and chasing history. Yet Tom Coughlin and his staff outcoached Bill Belichick and his assistants, and a New England squad that averaged nearly 37 points was befuddled by New York’s pressure D.

Giants 21, Patriots 17: Super Bowl 46, Feb. 5, 2012

Coughlin and Eli Manning got the better of Belichick and Brady again, with a similar formula and some huge plays. But, just as in the 2008 Super Bowl, New England led late in the fourth quarter.

Patriots 28, Seahawks 24: Super Bowl 49, Feb. 1, 2015

This one will always be remembered for Seattle’s incomprehensible decision to throw from the New England 1-yard line in the final moments rather than hand off to Marshawn Lynch — who, incidentally, is

nicknamed “Beast Mode”.

The Patriots were within a few feet and a few ticks of the clock of losing a third straight Super Bowl appearance. But Brady was sensational in bringing his team back from a 24-14 fourth-quarter deficit. At the time, that was the biggest second-half rally in Super Bowl history.

Until ...

Patriots 34, Falcons 28, OT: Super Bowl 51, Feb. 5, 2017

Still shaking your head over this one? So is the rest of the nation outside New England — and maybe some folks there, as well.

This is when Brady leaped beyond the Joe Montanas and Otto Grahams of pro football to establish himself as the measuring stick at his position. Keeping his team hungry and focused while down 28-3 in the third quarter cemented his unequalled leadership.

Remember, though, that the tiring Falcons had an 8-point lead and were within easy field goal range as the clock ticked down. They came away with nothing after some curious and ill-advised play calling, instead playing right into Brady’s hands.

The lessons here are clear, for fans (and bettors) of all kinds:

New England has been beatable in its past seven Super Bowl appearances. And it lost only twice.

Indians dumping Chief Wahoo

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Divisive and hotly debated, the Chief Wahoo logo is being removed from the Cleveland Indians' uniform next year.

The polarizing mascot is coming off the team's jersey sleeves and caps starting in the 2019 season, a move that will end Chief Wahoo's presence on the field but may not completely silence those who deem it racist.

The Associated Press was informed of the decision before an official announcement was planned for Monday by Major League Baseball.

After lengthy discussions between team owner Paul Dolan and MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred, the Indians are taking the extraordinary step of shelving the big-toothed, smiling, red-faced caricature, which has been used in used in various expressions by the team since 1947.

However, the American League team will continue to wear the Wahoo logo on its uniform sleeves and caps in 2018, and the club will still sell merchandise featuring the mascot

in Northeast Ohio. The team must maintain a retail presence so that MLB and the Indians can keep ownership of the trademark.

"Major League Baseball is committed to building a culture of diversity and inclusion throughout the game," Manfred said in a statement. "Over the past year, we encouraged dialogue with the Indians organization about the club's use of the Chief Wahoo logo. During our constructive conversations, Paul Dolan made clear that there are fans who have a longstanding attachment to the logo and its place in the history of the team.

"Nonetheless, the club ultimately agreed with my position that the logo is no longer appropriate for on-field use in Major League Baseball, and I appreciate Mr. Dolan's acknowledgment that removing it from the on-field uniform by the start of the 2019 season is the right course."

Under growing pressure to eliminate Chief Wahoo, the club has been transitioning away from the logo in recent years. The Indians introduced

a block "C" insignia on some of their caps and have removed signs with the Wahoo logo in and around Progressive Field, the team's downtown ballpark.

National criticism and scrutiny about the Indians' allegiance to Chief Wahoo grew in 2016, when the Indians made the World Series and Manfred expressed his desire to have the team eradicate the symbol. Earlier in that postseason, a lawsuit was filed while the club was playing in Toronto to have the logo and team name banned from appearing on Canadian TV. That court case was dismissed by a judge.

The Indians' bid to host the 2019 All-Star Game, which it was ultimately awarded, further heightened debate over Wahoo.

"We have consistently maintained that we are cognizant and sensitive to both sides of the discussion," Dolan said. "While we recognize many of our fans have a long-standing attachment to Chief Wahoo, I'm ultimately in agreement with Commissioner Manfred's desire to remove the logo from our uniforms in 2019."

Top 25 roundup Villanova holds off Marquette

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Jalen Brunson scored 31 points despite leaving briefly with a left ankle injury, Donte DiVincenzo added 23 and top-ranked Villanova beat Marquette 85-82 on Sunday.

Last year, Marquette upset then-No. 1 Villanova in Milwaukee.

DiVincenzo's putback off a missed three with 15 seconds to go gave Villanova (20-1, 7-1 Big East) a five-point lead. Andrew Rowsey led Marquette (13-8, 4-5) with 27 points, including a deep three from the wing that pulled the Golden Eagles to 83-80 with 1:30 left.

No. 3 Purdue 74, Indiana 67: Isaac Haas matched his career high with 26 points, Vincent Edwards added 19 and Purdue held off Indiana for its school-record 17th consecutive victory.

The Boilermakers (21-2, 10-0 Big Ten) extended the nation's longest active winning streak with their 12th straight conference victory, also a school record. Purdue hasn't lost since Nov. 23.

No. 6 Michigan State 74, Maryland 68: Joshua Langford scored 19 points and Michigan State beat Maryland for coach Tom Izzo's seventh straight 20-win season.

Down by 13 at halftime, Michigan State (20-3, 8-2 Big Ten) outscored the Terrapins 20-4 in the opening 5½ minutes and held on for its fourth straight victory.

No. 17 Wichita State 90, Tulsa 71: Austin Reaves hit seven three-pointers in the first half and scored all of his career-high 23 points before halftime to lead host Wichita State.

No. 18 Clemson 72, Georgia Tech 70: Gabe DeVoe scored a career-high 25 points, Marcquise Reed hit a decisive layup in the closing seconds and Clemson held off host Georgia Tech.

Day wins Farmers title in playoff

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Jason Day sank an 18-inch birdie putt on the sixth playoff hole to beat Alex Noren and win the Farmers Insurance Open in front of empty grandstands on No. 18 at Torrey Pines on Monday morning.

Day and Noren had to return after grinding through five playoff holes Sunday before it got too dark to continue.

Day teed off at 8:04 a.m. and sank the winning putt 13 minutes later, his fourth birdie on the par-5 hole in the playoff.

His victory was accompanied only by the sounds of camera shutters and cheers from Day's family members. Spectators weren't allowed in because organizers said they didn't have time to arrange for security.

Noren tried an aggressive second shot from the first cut, but his ball landed short of the green and rolled into Devlin's Billabong, a pond that protects the hole.

Day, meanwhile, hit his second shot out of the

rough and over some trees onto the fairway before hitting a beautiful approach shot that set up the winning putt.

Noren bogeyed the hole.

"It's been a long time coming," said Day, a former No. 1 who won for the first time since 2016.

He had a dreadful 2017, which included his mother recovering from lung cancer and a game that lost some discipline and focus.

Tiger Woods was "very pleased" with only his second PGA Tour event since he tied for 10th in the Wyndham Championship in August 2015. He had two back surgeries that fall, and fusion surgery on his back last April.

Woods cooled off after birdies on four of seven holes midway through his round Sunday and finished with an even-par 72 on the South Course that left him tied for 23rd.

"It was nice. You know, some of the shots I had to hit out of the rough, out of the trees, shaping them both ways, and a few times I had to jack up the speed and had no issues at all."

Boeser, Rakell lead Pacific to All-Star win

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Vancouver's Brock Boeser was more than happy to just be at the NHL All-Star Game, mingling with some of the high-profile players he grew up admiring.

Leaving Amalie Arena as the first rookie to take MVP honors since Mario Lemieux in 1985 on Sunday far exceeded anything he imagined possible.

"Shocked," the 20-year-old said Canucks star said, describing his reaction. "I never would have dreamt this any time in life."

Rickard Rakell had two goals and Boeser, Johnny Gaudreau and Drew Doughty also scored to help the Pacific Division beat the Atlantic 5-2 in the championship game of a four-team divisional tournament played in an entertaining three-on-three format adopted for the All-Star Game in 2016.

The NHL's leading rookie scorer with 24 goals and 19 assists for the Canucks also had a helper in the final after scoring to put his team ahead for good in the Pacific's 5-2 semifinal victory over the Central Division.

"I was definitely nervous coming into it," said Boeser, the only rookie among 15 first-time All-Stars. "[I said] enjoy this, just have fun, smile. That's what I did."

Goalies Marc-Andre Fleury and Mike Smith teamed to allow just four goals in the two games the Pacific won to claim the \$1 million winner-take-all prize.

Mike Green had two goals for the Atlan-

tic, one off both Fleury and Smith in the final.

Tampa Bay's Nikita Kucherov had three goals in the Atlantic's 7-4 semifinal win over the Metropolitan Division, however the Lightning's young star was shut out in the championship game.

"After we saw that we won the first game, we said we needed to tighten up a little bit and play a little harder there for the cash," said Gaudreau, who plays for the Calgary Flames.

"We made sure we were ready to go. [Because] now there's something to play for in the finals," said Smith, who stopped six of seven shots in the second half. "Our guys did a good job to up the tempo."

All-Star weekend began with a free outdoor concert headlined by Fitz and the Tantrums and also featured a three-day fun fest for fans, as well as the annual skills competition that wrapped up Saturday's festivities.

Adding spice and a unique flavor to the experience was Tampa's annual Gasparilla Pirate Invasion, which drew what officials estimated as an additional 200,000 people to the downtown waterfront for a parade and other activities.

Players walked the red carpet, posing for pictures and signing autographs before entering Amalie Arena for the first All-Star Game played in Tampa since 1999, the last of Wayne Gretzky's 18 appearances in the midseason showcase that shifts to San

Jose, Calif., next season.

"Tampa proved it's a great hockey town," said Lightning first-time All-Star Brayden Point, added to the game because of an injury to Tampa Bay defenseman Victor Hedman. "It's awesome."

With the Lightning's Jon Cooper coaching the Atlantic Division, and the team with the NHL's best record represented by a league-high four players, the sellout crowd of 19,092 roared its approval when the Atlantic-Metropolitan semifinal began with goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy, plus Kucherov, Point and Steven Stamkos on the ice at the same time.

Kucherov's hat trick in the Atlantic's semifinal win was the first for an All-Star game since the NHL instituted the three-match, three-on-three tournament format.

"He's a magical player," Cooper of the 24-year-old two-time All-Star who's among the league's leading scorers.

Point, Toronto's Auston Matthews and Buffalo's Jack Eichel also scored for the Atlantic, which rallied from a 3-1 deficit after Vasilevskiy allowed early goals to Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby, Philadelphia's Claude Giroux and Washington's Alex Ovechkin.

Boeser snapped a 2-2 tie, James Neal of the Western Conference-leading Vegas Golden Knights scored two goals, and Edmonton's Connor McDavid had four assists in the Pacific's semifinal win over the Central Division.

NBA Roundup

Westbrook's 37 lift Thunder over 76ers

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Russell Westbrook scored 37 points, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Philadelphia 76ers 122-112 on Sunday night for their eighth straight victory.

Westbrook made just 6 of 20 shots in the first half, when he was knocked to the ground trying to take a charge as Joel Embiid threw down a dunk over him. He was 8 of 13 in the second half and also had 14 assists and nine rebounds.

Paul George scored 31 points, and Steven Adams added 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Thunder. Embiid had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Ben Simmons added 22 points for the

76ers.

The Thunder said guard Andre Roberson is expected to miss the rest of the season after having surgery on a ruptured left patella tendon. Roberson, who was a second-team All-Defense selection last season, was injured when his knee buckled and he fell Saturday at Detroit.

Cavaliers 121, Pistons 104: LeBron James had 25 points, 14 assists and narrowly missed his second straight triple-double, and Cleveland sent visiting Detroit to its eighth straight loss.

Cleveland won consecutive games for the first time since a five-game streak Dec. 9-17.

Raptors 123, Lakers 111: Fred VanVleet scored a career-

high 25 points, DeMar DeRozan had 19 and host Toronto snapped Los Angeles' winning streak at four games.

The victory guarantees the Raptors will have the second-best record in the Eastern Conference through Feb. 4, meaning Dwane Casey will coach Team LeBron in the All-Star Game. Boston's Brad Stevens, whose Celtics lead the Eastern Conference, is ineligible after coaching last year's game.

Spurs 113, Kings 98: Bryn Forbes scored a season-high 23 points, helping San Antonio overcome a sluggish in a game in which visiting Sacramento coach Dave Joerger left in the opening minutes after a dizzy

spell.

Clippers 112, Pelicans 103: Blake Griffin had 27 points and 12 rebounds, and made a crushing three-pointer with 43 seconds left, leading Los Angeles past host New Orleans in the Pelicans' first game since a season-ending injury to All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins.

Rockets 113, Suns 102: James Harden had 27 points and 10 rebounds to lead host Houston.

Bucks 110, Bulls 96: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 27 points, nine rebounds and eight assists to help Milwaukee improve to 3-0 since interim coach Joe Prunty replaced the fired Jason Kidd.