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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Syria blast victims served with distinction

BY COREY DICKSTEIN,
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AND CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Islamic State-claimed bombing of a restaurant in Syria on Wednesday killed an Army Green Beret with four children, a former Navy SEAL working for the Pentagon's intelligence agency and a Navy linguist, the first female U.S. servicemember killed in the anti-ISIS campaign, the Pentagon announced Friday.

Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jonathan R. Farmer, 37, of Boynton Beach, Fla.; Navy Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent, 35, of New York, and Defense Intelligence Agency civilian Scott A. Wirtz, 42, of St. Louis, were killed in the blast, the deadliest incident for the U.S. military since it began operating on Syrian grounds in 2015. The attack in the small northern town of Manbij also killed an American contractor working with the Defense Department and wounded three servicemembers, Pentagon officials said. The Defense Department declined to name those individuals, as is Pentagon policy, the officials said.

The attack on Wednesday brings the number of American servicemembers killed in action in the anti-ISIS fight in Iraq and Syria to 16. Wirtz is the first known Defense Department civilian killed in what has been called Operation Inherent Resolve since 2014.

The servicemembers were at a restaurant near a crowded market for a meeting with local leaders, U.S. Central Command said after the attack. Members of the Manbij Military Council, which has controlled the city since it was liberated from ISIS in mid-2016, were also reportedly among the roughly 16 people killed in the blast.

President Donald Trump last

month declared ISIS defeated in Syria and announced he would withdraw all American forces from the country in the near future. The Pentagon has begun withdrawing equipment from Syria, but roughly 2,000 troops remain on the ground there, officials have said.

Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday at the Pentagon that the attack would not change the administration's determination to leave Syria.

"We will honor the memory of the fallen," he said. "And their families and our armed forces should know their sacrifice will only steel our resolve that as we begin to bring our troops home, we will do so in a way that ensures that the remnants of ISIS will never be able to reestablish their evil and murderous caliphate."

Shannon Kent

'Rambo on the outside'

There was pretty much nothing Navy Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent couldn't handle, her friends and family said.

Kent outsmarted many of those around her, knew more than a half-dozen languages, was a wife and mother to two young boys, a cancer survivor, a world traveler deployed multiple times for the military, lobbied on Capitol Hill for new protections for servicemembers and was slated to start a graduate program this year.

"She was so loving and such a worldly person, the smartest person I knew, Rambo on the outside but a girly girl at heart. She was such a badass woman," her sister-in-law Kay Kent said Friday.

Kent signed up for the military shortly after high school and her husband was also in the military, Kay Kent said.

"They've been through so

much in the last 10, 15 years in the military, you think you paid your dues and buried your friends and you make it," she said. "But that's so false. Slowly but surely people got word where they ate lunch and then horrible people make decisions."

In a statement, the Navy said Kent enlisted in December 2003 and graduated from language training at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., in October 2005.

Shannon Kent had just deployed to Syria in late 2018. Following Trump's announcement that troops would be withdrawn, the Kent family assumed Shannon would get moved to a new post in the Middle East.

"To make it this far, we are so shocked that this could happen," Kay Kent said.

Jonathan Farmer

A true warrior

Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jonathan Farmer, an athletic Green Beret, was described by friends and family members as a good person.

"A good man. Good son. Good father. Good husband," the soldier's father, Duncan Farmer, told the Palm Beach Post, their hometown newspaper. "A good friend."

Farmer joined the Army in March 2005 and completed training to become a Special Forces engineer sergeant in 2007. He earned his commission as a warrant officer in 2016 and was then selected to serve as an assistant detachment commander. He had previously served five combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, arriving earlier this month in Syria for his sixth deployment.

Duncan Farmer said his family was aware his son was serving in Syria, but they were not certain where.

Farmer is survived by his

wife and their four children, according to the Army.

"He was the kind of person you want to be around, you want your kids to be around," Cathy White, a longtime neighbor and close friend, told the Palm Beach Post.

Scott Wirtz

'He absolutely loved his work'

Energetic and adventure-seeking, Wirtz knew from a young age he wanted to be a Navy SEAL, family members said Friday morning on their way to Dover Air Force Base, Del., to receive his remains.

"He never really was into swimming, but he wanted to join the Navy and he especially wanted to be a SEAL," his mother Sandy Wirtz said.

Like most of his other goals in life, Wirtz accomplished that objective. He spent most of his Navy career from 1998 to 2005 assigned to the Coronado, Calif.-based SEAL Team 5, where he specialized as a sniper. He served combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and also deployed to locations in Africa, the Philippines and South Korea, according to his mother.

After leaving the service in 2005, he spent years working for military contracting groups before joining the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2017 as an operations support specialist, charged with overseeing operations to collect human intelligence. He served three deployments to the Middle East in the role, according to his DIA biography.

"He was always happy, and he absolutely loved his work," his mother said, admitting she often worried about his safety. "He'd always say to me, 'Don't worry, Mom, I'm well trained.' I always carried that with me."

Study highlights Army's missteps in Iraq

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

While fighting in Iraq, the Army failed to grasp the significance of the country's sectarian divisions and "tended to penalize" its own innovative leaders, according to the service's long-awaited history of the war that claimed more than 4,000 servicemembers' lives.

The study, titled "The U.S. Army in the Iraq War" and published by the U.S. Army War College, was commissioned in 2013 by retired Gen. Raymond Odierno when he was the service's chief.

The study highlights numerous failures during the 8-year conflict, including a lack of awareness among military leaders of the sectarian, social and political dynamics in the country that would fuel much of the violence. The critique, which is more than 1,000 pages long and contains hundreds of declassified documents, also says efforts to train Iraq's military were insufficient and led to a force that was over-reliant on the U.S.

The decisions by commanders, often made in consensus,

"seemed reasonable at the time they were made, but nonetheless added up over time to a failure to achieve our strategic objectives," the study said. "Examining the reasoning behind these decisions and the systemic failures that produced them should be the first task in analyzing the Iraq War's lessons."

Authored by a group of Army officers, the study also criticizes the Army for failing to recognize effective leaders on the battlefield and an institutional tendency to punish the best innovators.

"Indeed, it seems that the most successful innovators were actually inverting policy rather than operating within policy, most notably in the case of the brigade and battalion-level COIN (counterinsurgency) approaches of 2005-2006," the study said. "This is a fact the Army has not really confronted, and it seems possible that the Army in the Iraq War actually tended to penalize successful leaders who challenged their commanders."

In the forward to the study, Odierno, who served multiple tours in Iraq including commander of multinational and

U.S. forces, wrote that for operations to succeed, "we must have a thorough understanding of the operating environment and the local political and social consequences of our actions, especially when facing an enemy who understands the environment better than we do."

The 2007 surge, which brought thousands of additional troops to quell violence and carry out a counterinsurgency mission focused on securing the population, gets the credit in the study for turning the security environment around.

However, President Barack Obama's decision to withdraw all U.S. forces in 2011 after failing to reach agreement with the Iraqi government over a continued mission left the Iraqi army unprepared to deal with insurgencies to come.

"U.S. military plans did not anticipate the fall 2011 decision to withdraw all troops," the study said. Those plans were based on "mistaken assumptions" that the State Department would negotiate ongoing training efforts.

"This mismatch of ends and means was more serious than

U.S. government leaders understood in 2011-2012, partly because of the U.S. misinterpretation of low reported levels of violence and the difficulty of maintaining situational awareness as U.S. forces drew down," the study said.

The study also faults the Iraqi government, led by then-Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, for worsening sectarian divisions between rival Sunnis and Shiites, which brought a return of violence.

In the aftermath, Iraq eventually returned to a state of civil war and by 2014, the Islamic State group emerged as a major force as it seized huge pieces of territory, including the city of Mosul. "The war that had begun in 2003 was far from over," the report said.

U.S. forces began trickling back to the country in 2014, and remain there today to help Iraq in the fight against ISIS.

Gen. Mark Milley, the current Army chief of staff, said the study was a first effort to grapple with the lessons of Iraq and that more studies were to come about the Army's role in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Trump, N. Korean official meet to discuss second summit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump met with a North Korean envoy Friday as the two sides worked to resume stalled efforts to end the North's nuclear weapons program by arranging a second summit with leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump and former spy chief Kim Yong Chol were to discuss relations between the two countries and continued progress on what White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said was "North Korea's final, fully verified denuclearization."

Kim Yong Chol earlier held

talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at a Washington hotel. A State Department spokesman, Robert Palladino, said they had a "good" discussion toward progress on commitments Trump and Kim Jong Un made at their June summit in Singapore.

Trump has spoken several times of having a second summit early this year and has exchanged multiple letters with Kim Jong Un despite little tangible progress on a vague denuclearization agreement reached at their historic first meeting.

The talks have stalled over North Korea's refusal to pro-

vide a detailed accounting of its nuclear and missile facilities that would be used by inspectors to verify any deal to dismantle them.

The North has demanded that the U.S. end harsh economic penalties and provide security guarantees before the North takes any steps beyond its initial suspension of nuclear and missile tests.

Vice President Mike Pence said Wednesday that the Trump-Kim Jong Un dialogue was "promising" but that "we still await concrete steps by North Korea to dismantle the nuclear weapons that threaten our people and our allies in the

region."

Trump has offered assurances that a second summit would allow him and Kim to seal a deal resolving the nuclear standoff and improving a relationship marked by decades of animosity and mistrust since the Korean War.

Kim Jong Un expressed frustration in an annual New Year's address over the lack of progress in negotiations. But on a visit to Beijing last week, he said North Korea would pursue a second summit "to achieve results that will be welcomed by the international community," according to China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Bahrain school enjoys its 50th anniversary

By JOSHUA KARSTEN

Stars and Stripes

BAHRAIN — The Bahrain School Falcons wrapped up a homecoming spirit week as the school was slated to host a Department of Defense Education Activity opponent for the first time in its 50-year history on Friday night.

The Vicenza High School Cougars traveled to Bahrain to face the Falcons on the basketball court in games on Friday and Saturday. Tip-off is scheduled for 5 p.m. both days — Friday at Naval Support Activity Bahrain and Saturday at the Bahrain School. The boys and girls teams will each play both days, for a total of four games.

Throughout the week leading up to the match-up, students participated in themed events, such as pajama days and lip sync battles. In the latter, the faculty crushed the competition with a performance of Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

High school and middle school students competed for bragging rights in field day events on Thursday. A pep rally ended with a scrimmage basketball game pitting

the varsity boys' and girls' teams against the faculty. With a little help from a sixth man and some overlooked playful fouls, the teachers won 23-16.

"It was so heartwarming to see my school come together for this 50th anniversary and share some Falcon spirit," said Nicole Parker, a senior. "Especially considering this is my senior year, I couldn't help but cheer along and support my school."

School alumni also returned to their alma mater Thursday evening for a dinner and social event. Several told Stars and Stripes they planned to cheer on the varsity teams.

The oldest alum in attendance, Fahad Murad, began attending the Bahrain School when it opened in 1968 and graduated in 1977. Now a Bahraini investment banker, Murad and Isa Al Khalifa, the youngest alum there, cut a cake during the alumni event. "It's like a family," Murad said of the gathering and noted the school's growth and improved facilities since starting with 50 students and three teachers five decades ago. At the time, it was the only English-language curriculum on the island. "When

I look at the track, at the football field and the indoor basketball — that is really amazing ... students are very lucky."

Nearly 740 now attend the K-12 school. The Falcons sports teams have historically traveled to Europe for DODEA championship tournaments each year, typically in Germany or Italy, but rarely on their home turf do they face competitors of Vicenza's caliber.

It's difficult to compete when they only get one shot a year, said girls basketball coach and physical education teacher, Brant Tyron.

"We have to prepare the kids for this European tournament, especially because we're spending a lot of money to fly them to Europe," Tyron said. "But we're not getting the competition we need here locally so how can we get that?"

The school also competes in the Bahrain Island League to hone their skills during the long gaps between DODEA matchups. The Falcons currently hold the championship title in the local club.

Ex-Fort Bliss soldier convicted of murder

El Paso (Texas) Times

Former Fort Bliss, Texas, soldier Anthony Michael Bowden was convicted Thursday of murder in the stabbing death of a transgender woman who allegedly attempted to blackmail him.

Bowden had no reaction to the verdict; friends and family of the victim wept.

Bowden was found guilty on one count of murder in the death of Erykah Tijerina on Aug. 8, 2016, at the Rio Grande Government Apartment Complex.

A jury of six women and six men deliberated for more than three hours before reaching the verdict.

The sentencing phase of the trial was to begin Friday morning. Bowden faces life in prison on the murder charge.

Tijerina's family said they would not comment until Friday.

The trial, which began Tuesday, is being held in the 384th District Court with Judge Patrick Garcia presiding.

Tijerina, whose legal name was Eric Tijerina, identified as a transgender woman and worked as a prostitute, according to testimony.

Prosecutors said "Erykah" when referring to Tijerina, while defense lawyers used "Eric."

Defense lawyers William Ahee, Rene Flores and Rebecca Spencer Tavitas argued throughout the trial that Bowden killed Tijerina in self-defense.

The defense claimed that Tijerina was at-

tempting to blackmail Bowden and had raped him and was trying to do so again when Bowden killed Tijerina.

Tijerina had threatened to tell military officials that Bowden had slept with a transgender woman and was her pimp, according to testimony.

"On Aug. 8, 2016, Eric threatened Anthony Michael Bowden," Ahee said in his closing arguments. "She blackmailed him. He went to the apartment, and Eric started undressing him (Bowden). He (Tijerina) threatened him. He (Bowden) feared he was going to be raped again. He went to his car, got the chisel. Eric threatened him, and he (Bowden) had the right to defend himself."

Defense lawyers alleged that Tijerina used deadly force against Bowden since she knew she had HIV. They added that Tijerina was a predator and Tijerina's actions led to the fatal stabbing.

"Make no mistake about it; Eric was a predator — clear and simple," Flores said. "He was a predator, and Michael never stood a chance."

State prosecutors Denise Butterworth and Elizabeth Howard claimed that Bowden has lied throughout the case.

They countered that Bowden was never raped and had the opportunity to flee from Tijerina, but he went to Tijerina's apartment with the intent to kill Tijerina.

According to testimony, Bowden bought a chisel from a hardware store before meeting Tijerina.

Army says soldier's tale of saving life is inaccurate

Staff and wire reports

The U.S. Army said Thursday that a Fort Bliss soldier's account of saving a man's life with a ballpoint pen and a Saints hoodie was inaccurate.

Fort Bliss retracted the news release after Fort Bliss and Texas Department of Public Safety officials investigated and found no evidence to back up the soldier's story, according to the El Paso Times.

"The entire 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss team sincerely apologize to the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Highway Patrol, the city of Sweetwater, Texas, the city of El Paso, the University of Texas at El Paso, the New Orleans Saints, the local and national media and the American people," Fort Bliss said in a statement that was released to several media outlets.

Report: Trump told lawyer to lie to Congress

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Democratic chairmen of two House committees pledged Friday to investigate a report that President Donald Trump directed his personal attorney to lie to Congress about negotiations over a real estate project in Moscow during the 2016 election.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said: “we will do what’s necessary to find out if it’s true.”

He said the allegation that Trump directed Michael Cohen to lie in his 2017 testimony to Congress “in an effort to curtail the investigation and cover up his business dealings with Russia is among the most serious to date.”

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, said directing a subordinate to lie to Congress is a federal crime.

“The @HouseJudiciary Committee’s job is to get to the bottom of it, and we will do that work,” Nadler tweeted.

The report by BuzzFeed News, citing two unnamed law enforcement officials, said that Trump directed Cohen to lie to Congress and that Cohen regularly briefed Trump and his family on the Moscow project — even as Trump said he had no business dealings with Russia.

The Associated Press has not independently confirmed the BuzzFeed report.

The BuzzFeed story said that Cohen told

Mueller that Trump personally instructed him to lie about the timing of the project in order to obscure Trump’s involvement.

Trump’s lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, scoffed at the report, saying in a statement, “If you believe Cohen I can get you a good all-cash deal on the Brooklyn Bridge.”

Cohen pleaded guilty in November to lying to Congress in 2017 to cover up that he was negotiating the real estate deal in Moscow on Trump’s behalf during the heat of his presidential campaign. The charge was brought by Mueller and was the result of his cooperation with that probe.

The report comes as House Democrats have promised a thorough look into Trump’s ties to Russia.

Thousands more children may have been separated

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands more migrant children may have been split from their families than the Trump administration previously reported, in part because officials were stepping up family separations long before the border policy that prompted international outrage last spring, a government watchdog said Thursday.

It’s unclear just how many family separations occurred at the U.S.-Mexico border; immigration officials are allowed under longstanding policy to

separate families under certain circumstances. Health and Human Services, the agency tasked with caring for migrant children, did not adequately track them until after a judge ruled that children must be reunited with their families, according to the report by the agency’s inspector general.

Ann Maxwell, assistant inspector general for evaluations, said the number of children removed from their parents was certainly larger than the 2,737 listed by the government in court documents. Those documents chronicled

separations that took place as parents were criminally prosecuted for illegally entering the country under President Donald Trump’s “zero tolerance” policy.

“It’s certainly more,” Maxwell said. “But precisely how much more is unknown.”

Maxwell said investigators didn’t have specific numbers, but that Health and Human Services staff had estimated the tally to be in the thousands.

Lee Gelernt, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney who sued on behalf of a mother separated from her son, said the

separation policy “was a cruel disaster from the start. This report reaffirms that the government never had a clear picture of how many children it ripped from their parents.”

Most of the tens of thousands of children who come into government custody cross the border alone. But the report found that in late 2016, 0.3 percent of children turned over to Health and Human Services had crossed with a parent and were separated. By the summer of 2017, that percentage had grown to 3.6 percent, officials said.

Amid growth concerns, brewers turn to cannabis market

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The makers of Budweiser, Coors and other large-scale brewers are placing their bets on cannabis as a way to fight saturated markets and shifting consumer trends.

For years, the industry’s largest players have struggled with stagnating markets and shifting consumer tastes. Anheuser-Busch InBev, Molson Coors and Corona brewer Constellation Brands have responded by buying up fast-growing craft brews. Anheuser-Busch’s 2011 purchase of Chicago’s Goose Island is one of the most

emblematic examples of this strategy, which has helped big brewers maintain revenue and profit steady. But concerns over growth continue to hang over the industry.

The craft beer segment of the industry has slowed considerably since 2016, however, according to trade association The Beer Institute.

“This seems to be running out of steam now,” said Spiros Malandrakis, head of alcoholic drinks at market research provider Euromonitor International.

While the same macroeco-

nomics issues of saturated markets and consumers constantly looking for something new remain, the industry may have to contend with escalating trade issues and a market downturn that could cut into consumer spending.

The larger players are fighting back by pushing into the cannabis industry as a potential engine for future growth. Anheuser-Busch said in December it would partner with medicinal cannabis maker Tilray Inc. to develop non-alcoholic drinks containing cannabis.

Constellation raised its stake

in Canadian cannabis maker Canopy Growth to 38 percent from 9 percent in 2018. Molson Coors holds a 59 percent stake in cannabis producer Hydropothecary.

“This is the area that I would expect the most interesting development to happen,” Malandrakis said. “Cannabis could be the big disruptor.”

Constellation, in its latest conference call with investors, said the “emerging cannabis space represents one of the most significant global growth opportunities of the next decade and frankly our lifetime.”

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Coyote caught in convention center

TN NASHVILLE — A coyote sprinted past a security checkpoint and into a Nashville convention center where a boat show was packing up Sunday night.

According to the Music City Center, at around 10:20 p.m. the coyote entered through a loading area and ran into an exhibit hall before staff trapped it in a bathroom.

Police and animal control officers used a catch pole to capture the animal, which was released in a wooded area.

Metro Animal Care and Control Director Lauren Bluestone said coyote encounters are becoming more common in Nashville as the city expands.

Bluestone said, "I don't want to say coyotes in bathrooms are going to become the norm, but because of intrusion into their habitat, it's going to be close living."

Divers swim with giant great white shark

HI HONOLULU — Divers monitoring tiger sharks feeding on a decomposing sperm whale off the coast of Oahu were surprised by a great white shark, a rare sighting in Hawaiian waters.

The smaller sharks left when the possibly pregnant great white came to dine on the dead whale Tuesday, diver Ocean Ramsey told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

"She was just this big beautiful gentle giant wanting to use our boat as a scratching post," Ramsey said. "We went out at sunrise, and she stayed with us pretty much throughout the day."

Ramsey studies sharks, advocates for their conservation and leads cage-free shark

diving tours. Ramsey and her team were working offshore from Sand Island with a permit from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Officer kills rabid otter following several attacks

FL MAITLAND — Authorities said a Florida police officer fatally shot a rabid otter several days after people reported attacks.

The Orlando Sentinel reported that the Maitland police officer put down the sick animal last week near Lake Maitland.

Police said a visitor at a nearby park reported being attacked Jan. 7, followed by two more attacks the next day. Several days later, police responded to a home where someone reported a sick otter in their backyard. Officers said the animal appeared to be seizing and shaking.

Peeps contest offers factory tour for winner

PA BETHLEHEM — The creators of marshmallow Peeps are offering a first-ever peep inside their Pennsylvania candy factory.

Just Born Quality Confections company in Bethlehem is teaming up with the United Way on a sweepstakes. The grand prize is a behind-the-scenes tour of the factory, which has never been open to the public.

The contest lets people across the country donate \$5 to the United Way of Greater Lehigh Valley for a chance to visit the factory. That money will go toward community schools.

The grand prize winner will receive a trip for four to Bethlehem where they'll take a tour of the Peeps Factory. They'll also receive \$250 to shop at the Peeps and Co. store.

2 men held after 220 pounds of pot found

NE YORK — Authorities said two men were arrested after officers found an estimated \$600,000 worth of marijuana in their sport utility vehicle along Interstate 80 in eastern Nebraska.

The York News-Times reported that a deputy pulled over the SUV for a traffic violation Tuesday night in York County. Sheriff's Lt. Josh Gillespie said the deputy grew suspicious and asked for consent to search the vehicle. None was given, so a drug K-9 was sent to the scene. It alerted officers to the presence of drugs.

Gillespie said deputies searched the SUV and found six suitcases that held a total of around 220 pounds of pot.

Fireball becomes state's best-selling booze

ME PORTLAND — There's no question Allen's Coffee Flavored Brandy is a Maine icon, but its status as the state's best-selling liquor is over.

State data released Monday said Fireball Cinnamon Whisky is now the most popular brand of liquor in the state. The Bangor Daily News reported Fireball outsold Allen's by half a million dollars last year.

Fireball is well known for being available in 50-milliliter bottles called "nips." The wee bottles made up \$4 million of its more than \$10 million in sales last year.

Allen's has dominated liquor sales in Maine since at least the mid-2000s. The beverage is also a piece of the state's cultural identity, along with lobsters and wild blueberry pie.

Fireball started catching up to Allen's recently. It became the second most popular liquor in 2017.

Man accused of placing child in washer, dryer

AL COLUMBIANA — A man accused of placing a child in a clothes dryer and turning it on is charged with aggravated child abuse.

Court documents alleged Steven Garrett Todhunter, 25, of Wilsonville repeatedly put a child in a dryer or washing machine, over the course of a year.

A warrant filed in Shelby County claimed the man sometimes would use a chair to secure the dryer's door and turn it on.

Police in Alabaster told news outlets the man also sometimes placed the child in a washing machine and threatened to turn it on, saying the water was going to be "very hot."

Todhunter has been ordered to avoid any contact with the child.

Submarine museum begins \$20M project

HI HONOLULU — The USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park is undergoing a \$20 million revitalization and expansion project to update its Pearl Harbor campus.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported officials broke ground Monday on the project that includes adding new exhibits and about 3,000 square feet of space.

The facility will be named the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum when the project is completed in April 2020.

Portions of the campus will be closed during construction, but its centerpiece World War II submarine will remain open. The campus is next to the USS Arizona Memorial visitors' center operated by the National Park Service.

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Suh may be missing piece for Rams 'D'

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Ndamukong Suh earned multiple All-Pro honors, Pro Bowl selections and tens of millions of dollars during his first eight NFL seasons.

The imposing defensive lineman had never won a playoff game, let alone a Super Bowl. When he was free to choose his next team after the Dolphins released him last March, Suh decided he would try to fill that gap in his résumé.

After speaking at length with the New Orleans Saints and other suitors, he decided to join the Los Angeles Rams. They hadn't won a playoff game since the 2004 season, but they appeared to be on the verge of something big after going 11-5 last season.

"I felt this team had some of the right pieces, and I would be a good addition to it," Suh said. "A lot of conversations that we had with the coaching staff and the front office on my visit were

(about) playing well in the season and being prepared for the postseason."

Nearly 10 months later, the payoff has arrived for Suh's leap of faith to Los Angeles.

After the Rams went 13-3 for the best regular-season record of Suh's career, he had likely his best game for his new team last weekend when Los Angeles beat the Dallas Cowboys 30-22 in the divisional round. The Rams head into the NFC championship game against the Saints at the Superdome on Sunday with a shot at the 32-year-old Suh's first trip to his sport's biggest stage.

"It would mean a lot," Suh said. "I've been in this league for nine years. (This is) my first NFC championship (game), and that would be my first Super Bowl. I get chills just thinking about it, so I'm excited. I'm looking forward to it."

Suh's thoughts are echoed across the Rams' locker room, which is filled with accomplished NFL players who have

never accomplished much in the postseason.

Many key players remain from the team that went 4-12 in 2016 during the franchise's 13th straight non-winning season, from Jared Goff and Todd Gurley to Aaron Donald and Michael Brockers.

Several of the veterans that Los Angeles has added in the past two years also lacked playoff credentials — including 37-year-old Andrew Whitworth, the dominant left tackle who finally got his first postseason win last weekend.

"Honestly, we feel like we've been through it," Whitworth said. "There's really not much adversity we haven't seen all year long. I think we kind of feel like we were born for this moment and this opportunity."

Indeed, the Rams likely don't have the collective playoff experience of their fellow conference finalists, but they have a firm bond forged during a season of upheaval.

They had to stick together

in November when the suburban area around their training complex was rocked by the double impact of a mass shooting at a bar and two wildfires that forced several players and coaches to leave their homes as a precaution. The Rams also had to adjust to a schedule change when their game against the Chiefs in Mexico City was moved back to Los Angeles on six days' notice.

None of it has shaken the team led by Sean McVay, who became the youngest coach in NFL history to win a playoff game last weekend.

McVay acknowledges no concern about his inexperience on the sport's highest levels when compared to the likes of New Orleans' Sean Payton, who has a Super Bowl ring.

That's because McVay has assistant coaches with experience in conference championships and Super Bowls — particularly defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, who has done and seen everything the NFL can offer.

Patriots looking to overcome season's road problems

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The Patriots are going on the road again in the playoffs, a place that hasn't always been kind to them during the Tom Brady era.

New England was unbeatable at home this season, going 8-0 during the regular season and rolling past the Los Angeles Chargers in the divisional round.

Playing outside of Massachusetts has provided different outcomes. Brady is 8-4 in AFC championship games with a 6-1 record at home. But he's just 2-3 on the road in the conference title game, with both wins coming at Pittsburgh during 2001 and 2004 seasons. New England was 3-5 in games away from Gillette Stadium during the 2018 regular season.

The Patriots enter Sunday's

AFC title game at Kansas City trying to become the first team since the 1990s Bills to reach the Super Bowl after losing it the previous season. They haven't won a road playoff game since beating the Chargers 24-21 in the divisional round of the 2006 season.

The Patriots lost to the Colts on the road in the 2006 AFC title game and twice at Denver — in the AFC championship game during the 2013 season and again in the 2015 AFC title game. New England has played the rest of its 22 playoff games since 2006 at home or on a neutral field in the Super Bowl.

"It's tough to beat the No. 1 seed on the road. That's the reality, just like we're tough to beat at home when we're the No. 1 seed," Brady said this week. "It takes a lot. It takes a lot of good football. It takes a great complementary game. All three phases have to be

on point. We're going against a team that scores a lot of points."

They will also have to deal with what could be the coldest temperature for a game in Arrowhead Stadium history. An arctic blast is forecast for Kansas City.

Patriots linebacker Dont'a Hightower said his focus will be on trying to contain the NFL's top scoring offense and not the thermometer.

"It's definitely one of the hardest places to play. But, at the end of the day, it just comes down to executing. It comes down to football and executing plays," Hightower said. "They're a high-powered offense and they're real good on defense, so obviously defensively, we're going to have to eliminate big plays."

The Patriots opened the week as a three-point underdog, the first time in 68 games, includ-

ing playoffs, that Brady didn't enter a week as the favorite.

It's why Chiefs coach Andy Reid is expecting Brady and the Patriots' best effort on Sunday.

"They're a heck of a team, so I don't get caught up in all that," Reid said. "You're talking about a dynasty, if there is such a thing, in the National Football League. They've been that. You're talking about a head coach that I think the world of him, I think he's a great coach. He's done a phenomenal job keeping that thing together. We're getting ready to get their best shot, offense, defense and special teams."

Brady didn't hide his thoughts for the Patriots' critics in the aftermath of their divisional-round win over the Chargers, commenting, "I know everybody thinks we suck and, you know, we can't win any games."

Australian Open

17-year-old Anisimova ousts Sabalenka

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — All of 17, never the winner of a Grand Slam match until this week, Amanda Anisimova is making quite a first impression at the Australian Open.

Anisimova showed precisely why there are those who consider her a possible future star, producing one spectacular shot after another Friday to upset 11th-seeded Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-3, 6-2 and reach the fourth round.

“I want to win this tournament,” Anisimova said, tapping her right index finger on a table for emphasis at her post-match news conference. “Right now.”

She is the youngest American to get this far at Melbourne Park since Jennifer Capriati in 1993 — and at any Grand Slam tournament since Serena Williams at the 1998 French Open. Pretty heady company.

“This is an unreal feeling,” Anisimova said. “I can’t believe that this is happening right now.”

Believe it, kid. She captured a ton of attention on Day 5, when defending champion Caroline Wozniacki was knocked out by 2008 champion Maria

Sharapova 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Another American woman, 35th-ranked Danielle Collins, joined Anisimova in earning a debut trip to the round of 16 at a major with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over No. 19 Caroline Garcia. Up next for Collins will be three-time major champion and former No. 1 Angelique Kerber, who needed less than an hour to overwhelm 240th-ranked Australian wild-card entry Kimberley Birrell 6-1, 6-0.

At the 2006 U.S. Open, when she was 19, Sharapova became the most recent teen to claim a Slam title. Anisimova grew up cheering for Sharapova — they now share an agent — and would love to match her feat of winning a major before age 20. Who would doubt her?

“I respect her a lot, because I think she’s young and has a great game. I mean, she’s really proving what she can do,” said Sharapova, who sat at the same table as Anisimova at their agent’s wedding last year. “She has a really bright future ahead of her.”

It’s not just that Anisimova, who was born in New Jersey and is based in Florida, has knocked off two seeded players already, including the hard-hit-

ting Sabalenka, who was many a pundit’s pick for a deep run at Melbourne Park.

Or that she’s dropped a measly total of 17 games through three matches.

It’s the way the 87th-ranked Anisimova — there is no one younger in the WTA’s top 100 — is doing it, with clean and dangerous shotmaking and impeccable court coverage.

Anisimova’s first trip to Australia, and third appearance in the main draw at a major, now progresses to Week 2 and a matchup against two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, who beat Belinda Bencic 6-1, 6-4.

On a rainy afternoon that saw the roofs closed on the three main courts, and play delayed on smaller arenas, Sharapova advanced to face No. 15 Ash Barty of Australia, while 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens beat No. 31 Petra Martic 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5) and now meets Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia.

In the men’s draw, Roger Federer dispatched one youngster and set his sights on facing another.

The 37-year-old Federer, seeking a third consecutive

title in Melbourne, dismissed 21-year-old Taylor Fritz of the U.S. 6-2, 7-5, 6-2. Federer now takes on 20-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece, who eliminated Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4.

Also advancing was the man Federer beat in last year’s final, Marin Cilic. He overcame two match points — opponent Fernando Verdasco double-faulted one of them away — and erased a two-set hole to win 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (8), 6-3 in a contest that lasted more than 4 hours and ended just before 1 a.m.

Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion, now faces No. 22 Roberto Bautista-Agut, a 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 winner against No. 10 Karen Khachanov.

Rafael Nadal beat 19-year-old Australian Alex de Minaur 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 and now gets 2010 Wimbledon runner-up Tomas Berdych.

Frances Tiafoe, an American who turns 21 on Sunday, got to the fourth round at a major for the first time by defeating Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-7 (3), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Tiafoe now meets No. 20 Grigor Dimitrov, who is being coached by Andre Agassi.

College basketball roundup

Norvell, No. 5 Gonzaga turn back Loyola Marymount

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Zach Norvell Jr. scored 17 points and No. 5 Gonzaga used a stout defense to beat Loyola Marymount 73-55 on Thursday night, the eighth consecutive win for the Bulldogs since a pair of losses knocked them out of the top spot in The AP Top 25.

Brandon Clarke added 13 points, Corey Kispert 12 and Rui Hachimura 10 for Gonzaga (17-2, 4-0 West Coast), which beat Loyola Marymount for the

20th straight time. The Zags have won 18 straight games at home.

James Batemon led Loyola Marymount (13-5, 1-3) with 12 points.

Loyola Marymount used a slow-down offense and stingy defense to keep the scoring low, and it mostly accomplished that goal.

Gonzaga, which averages 92 points a game, led just 17-16 midway through the first half.

The Zags went on a 19-6 run the rest of the half to take a 36-

22 lead at halftime.

The Lions shot only 36 percent in the first and committed 11 turnovers.

No. 6 Michigan State 70, Nebraska 64: Cassius Winston scored a career-high 29 points, Nick Ward added 15 and the visiting Spartans pulled away from the Cornhuskers.

Michigan State (16-2, 7-0) relied on tough defense to extend its school-record Big Ten winning streak to 19 games. Nebraska (13-5, 3-4) had its school-record 20-game home

winning streak end.

The Spartans led by 12 points in the final 2 minutes, but Nebraska cut the lead to four twice before Matt McQuaid made a pair of free throws for his first points with 14.2 seconds to put the game away.

Nebraska shot a season-low 32.8 percent and was just 5-for-26 on three-pointers, 1-for-12 in the second half.

James Palmer, who led Nebraska with 24 points, struggled mightily from the field, going 6-for-21.

NBA roundup

Wizards top Knicks on goaltending call

Associated Press

LONDON — When Bradley Beal felt his legs go out beneath him, likely ending his chances of scoring the go-ahead basket for the Washington Wizards, he spotted Thomas Bryant standing alone in the lane.

Beal dropped the ball off to Bryant, who was awarded two points after Allonzo Trier was called for goaltending on his layup attempt with 0.4 seconds remaining, and the Wizards claimed a 101-100 victory over the New York Knicks at The O2 Arena on Thursday night.

It was an odd finish for the Wizards, who outscored the Knicks 24-11 in the fourth quarter to send New York to its fifth consecutive defeat.

“I’ve never seen that — especially in London,” Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. “But what a finish. This was one of those games that nobody deserves to go on their long flight home without a win, but it happens in sports.”

Beal scored 26 points and

had nine rebounds and Otto Porter Jr. had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards, but it was Bryant’s bucket — or, more accurately, the one he didn’t make — that mattered most.

Noah Vonleh gave the Knicks the 100-99 edge with a one-handed finish over Bryant with 33.7 seconds remaining, and a three-pointer by Beal rimmed out. Kevin Knox tried to run down the clock, but his off-balance three-point attempt missed the rim and led to a shot-clock violation with 3.3 seconds remaining.

That left Washington with one last opportunity. After Beal drove the lane, Trier and Emmanuel Mudiay failed to account for Bryant, who released the ball in time but had his shot swatted away by Trier.

“I think from my angle, watching the replay ... I was peeking over (the official’s shoulder) and it looked like it started just on its tick down,” Knicks coach David Fizdale said. “But we had a breakdown in coverage. It was supposed

to be a switch and it wasn’t a switch and we paid for it.”

Lakers 138, Thunder 128 (OT): Kyle Kuzma scored 32 points to help visiting Los Angeles beat Oklahoma City in overtime without injured LeBron James.

The four-time MVP missed his 12th straight game with a left groin strain, but the Lakers still pulled off a solid road win. Ivica Zubac had a career-high 26 points and Lonzo Ball added 18 for the Lakers, who improved to 5-7 without their star.

Raptors 111, Suns 109: Pascal Siakam scored basket just before time expired to lift host Toronto past Phoenix.

Siakam had 10 points and 12 rebounds, Serge Ibaka scored 22 points and Kyle Lowry had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Raptors. They have won eight straight at home and six of seven overall.

76ers 120, Pacers 96: Joel Embiid had 22 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists to lead visiting Philadelphia past

Indiana for its seventh victory in nine games.

Jimmy Butler added 27 points, eight assists and five rebounds. Former 76ers player Thaddeus Young led Indiana with 27 points.

Nuggets 135, Bulls 105: Jamal Murray scored 22 of his 25 points in the third quarter, Nikola Jokic finished two rebounds shy of another triple-double and host Denver routed Chicago.

Jokic had 18 points and 11 assists to help the Nuggets rebound from a 142-111 drubbing Tuesday night against Golden State. Lauri Markkanen scored 27 points for Chicago. The Bulls have lost nine a row.

Hornets 114, Kings 95: Kemba Walker scored 23 points, surpassing 11,000 for his career, and host Charlotte beat Sacramento.

Miles Bridges and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist each had 15 points and Willy Hernangomez added 11 points and 16 rebounds. Buddy Hield led the Kings with 24 points.

NHL roundup

Marner scores go-ahead goal as Leafs down Lightning

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Although they trail Tampa Bay by 14 points in the standings, the Toronto Maple Leafs are having some head-to-head success against the top team in the NHL.

Mitch Marner scored a go-ahead goal late in the second period, Nazem Kadri and Patrick Marleau each had a goal and an assist, and the Maple Leafs beat the Lightning 4-2 on Thursday night.

“I think we embrace the challenge of playing against the best, and I think we’ve proved time and time again even though there’s tough parts

to the season we compete with the best,” Kadri said. “I think that’s an important note to take out of this game.”

Frederik Andersen stopped 36 shots and Zach Hyman added an empty-netter for the Maple Leafs, who had lost five of seven.

“We showed we’re a pretty good hockey team when we work this hard,” Andersen said.

Tampa Bay got goals from Brayden Point and Victor Hedman, and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 27 saves. Nikita Kucherov, the NHL leader with 76 points, had an assist after two straight games without a point.

The Lightning have a 14-

point lead in the Atlantic Division over Toronto. Tampa Bay’s nine-game home winning streak ended.

Bruins 5, Blues 2: Chris Wagner scored the go-ahead goal 5:27 into the third period, Tuukka Rask tied a franchise record with his 252nd career victory and host Boston beat St. Louis.

Ducks 3, Wild 0: John Gibson made 37 saves for his second shutout of the season, Adam Henrique and Rickard Rakell scored 11 seconds apart in the first period and visiting Anaheim beat Minnesota to end its franchise-record 12-game losing streak.

Jets 5, Predators 1: Connor

Hellebuyck made 37 saves and visiting Winnipeg beat Nashville to stay alone atop the Central Division, four points ahead of the Predators.

Kings 2, Stars 1: Dustin Brown scored a rare Los Angeles power-play goal and goalie Jack Campbell beat host Dallas, the team that drafted him.

Rangers 4, Blackhawks: Chris Kreider had a goal and an assist, Henrik Lundqvist moved into a tie for sixth place on the NHL victory list and host New York beat Chicago.

Islanders 4, Devils 1: Anders Lee scored twice and host New York beat New Jersey for its ninth victory in 11 games.