

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Navy kicks off multinational exercise

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS ANTIETAM — Ships from four partner nations maneuvered around each other in waters near Guam on Friday morning, working together on a common goal: Find the submarine.

Helicopters flew ahead of the ships, which kept their distance from the imagined submarine, just as they would in actual combat, said Capt. George Kessler, commander of the guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam. Once they found the sub, the helicopters then “prosecuted” — or fired at — the hypothetical target.

The submarine hunt was one portion of the inaugural, six-day Pacific Vanguard exercise involving naval vessels from the United States, Japan, South Korea and Australia.

Although armed forces from the four nations have previously exercised together in some combination, the Navy described Pacific Vanguard as a “first of its kind event” in a statement issued Wednesday.

“It’s unique in that it’s an exercise focused on those four allies,” Kessler said. “These are our allies that we operate with on a consistent basis.”

Organizers hope to hold Pacific Vanguard twice a year, he said.

The exercise, which is slated to conclude Tuesday, involves 3,000 sailors and 10 ships in the waters off Guam.

The drills include live-fire exercises, defensive counter air operations, anti-submarine warfare and replenishment at sea, according to the Navy statement.

Conducting two exercises per year “is indicative to the strength of the partnership and the desire that we have to work

together and continue to push forward to ensure that we can operate seamlessly,” Kessler said.

The U.S. sent to the exercise, in addition to the Antietam, the 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge, the destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur, the fleet replenishment oiler USNS Rappahannock and the supply ship USNS Richard E. Byrd, according to the Navy statement. Aircraft from Electronic Attack Squadron 132 and Patrol Squadron 5 also took part.

Australia sent two frigates, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force sent two destroyers and South Korea sent one destroyer, according to the Navy.

The idea for the multilateral event was generated at a meeting of the four nations’ fleet commanders last year. The Pacific allies each work to maintain a “free and open Pacific,” Kessler said.

Trump’s visit to Japan marked by sumo, symbolism

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — There will be many symbolic moments during President Donald Trump’s second state visit to Japan, which kicked off with the arrival of Air Force One at a Tokyo airport Saturday evening and is expected to run through Tuesday.

The Japanese people already watched the American president and their prime minister, Shinzo Abe, attend the final day of a 15-day sumo tournament on Sunday. Trump presented the grand champion with an enormous, eagle-topped trophy that he called “the United States President’s Cup.” Jiji Press reported that it was more than 4½ feet tall and weighed about 66 pounds.

Trump, on Monday, is slated to become the first world leader to meet with new Japanese Emperor Naruhito since his enthronement on May 1 follow-

ing the abdication of his father, Akihito, 85.

On Tuesday, Trump and Abe are expected to tour one of Japan’s helicopter destroyers — the JS Kaga — near Yokosuka Naval Base, home of the U.S. Navy’s 7th Fleet.

Japan’s purchases of U.S. military equipment have played a major role in offsetting the massive amount of Japanese goods imported by Americans. In 2018, the U.S. trade deficit with Japan was \$67.6 billion, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

As they stand on the deck of the Kaga — a ship that potentially could be turned into an aircraft carrier capable of supporting F-35B short takeoff and vertical landing stealth fighters — it’s possible the Japanese and American leaders could cut even more deals.

Japan — already looking to increase its purchase of F-35 fighters to as many as 140 aircraft — is deliberating its next

big-ticket defense procurement, which will be replacements for its aging fleet of F-2 fighters.

It’s an issue that Trump and Abe might discuss, according to Michael Green, a Japan expert with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

“Donald Trump likes pagentry. He also likes military hardware. And it’s a pretty impressive flat-top,” Green said of the Kaga.

“The Japanese have not decided officially yet whether they’ll procure the F-35B, but there’s an awful lot of interest,” he said. “I’m sure Donald Trump would like to sell them.”

Abe has cultivated, perhaps, the closest relationship with Trump of any world leader. The avid golfers teed off together for the fifth time on Sunday morning. The 16-hole outing at Mobarra Country Club in Chiba prefecture with professional golfer Isao Aoki included dou-

ble cheeseburgers made with American beef for lunch, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hours before Trump’s arrival Saturday at Haneda International Airport, National Security Adviser John Bolton told reporters at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo that North Korea will be among the first issues that Trump and Abe discuss.

Bolton also called short-range missile tests by the North a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that prohibit the communist nation from launching ballistic missiles.

However, Trump later downplayed those recent tests in a tweet posted after he arrived in Tokyo.

“North Korea fired off some small weapons, which disturbed some of my people, and others, but not me,” the president wrote.

'Timeless heroes' honored in France

By MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

ST. AVOLD, France — American and French citizens marked Memorial Day and saluted the 10,489 people buried at Lorraine American Cemetery, the largest World War II cemetery in Europe.

The ceremony, hosted by the American Battle Monuments Commission, drew about 1,500 people.

Army and Air Force units from Germany participated in an event that featured speech-

es, a wreath-laying, a flyover by a C-130 aircraft, the firing of volleys and a rendition of taps.

Among the units participating were soldiers from Vilseck, Germany's 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Spangdahlem's 52nd Fighter Wing, Ramstein's 37th Airlift Squadron, the U.S. Army Europe Band's brass quintet and Stuttgart High School's JROTC chapter.

During his speech, Maj. Gen. Andrew Rohling, the deputy USAREUR commander, said: "We cannot measure or repay their sacrifice but we can honor

it. By retelling their stories, we keep their memories alive."

Sacrifice and duty and the friendship between the U.S. and France were common threads in all the speeches.

Kara McDonald, the U.S. consul general, and Lilian Pfluke, of the American Overseas Memorial Day Association, also spoke, as did local dignitaries.

"These timeless heroes gave their lives for freedom, for peace, for democracy and for human dignity," Rohling said.

Sgt. 1st Class Donavon Pierre, a member of the 2nd Cavalry

Regiment honor guard, said, "It was an honor to take part in the ceremony.

"We want to be sure we do it correctly, to honor the fallen."

Walking among the rows of white crosses and Stars of David — each decorated with French and American flags — Tom Favia, a retired Army sergeant first class, paused to touch some of them. "I live across the border in Germany. I try to come out here for the ceremony every year," he said.

WWII Code Talker, longtime NM lawmaker dies at 94

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — John Pinto, a Navajo Code Talker in World War II who became one of the nation's longest-serving Native American elected officials as a New Mexico state senator, has died. He was 94.

Senate colleague Michael Padilla confirmed Pinto's death in Gallup on Friday after Pinto had spent years suffering from various illnesses that rarely kept him from his duties.

After serving as a Marine, Pinto was elected to the Senate in 1976 and represented a district that includes the Navajo Nation for more than four decades. The re-

gion is one of the poorest in the country.

"Words cannot express the sadness we feel for the loss of a great Dine warrior," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, using the indigenous word for Navajo. "He dedicated his life to helping others."

Born in Lupton, Ariz., on the Navajo Nation to a family of shepherders, Pinto didn't start formal schooling until he was nearly a teenager.

"At the age of 12, I was in kindergarten," Pinto told the Albuquerque Journal in a 2007 interview. "I guess I did all right."

After serving as a Code Talker — a group of radio men who translated American co-

ordinates and messages into an indecipherable code based on the Navajo language — Pinto had to take an English test four times before he was finally admitted into the University of New Mexico's College of Education.

Pinto delved into politics to address the needs of impoverished indigenous populations. The Democrat won a seat in state Senate in 1976 as one of the state's first Native American senators.

An unassuming appearance and manner belied Pinto's political determination that carried him through 42 years in the Legislature.

Trump asks Citizenship and Immigration Services chief to quit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump asked the head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to resign, leaving yet another vacancy within the Department of Homeland Security.

Lee Francis Cissna told staff on Friday that his last day would be June 1, according to a copy of the email obtained by The Associated Press.

Cissna leads the agency responsible for legal immigration, including benefits and visas. With his departure, there are more than a dozen vacancies of top leadership positions at the

sprawling, 240,000-employee department.

Some are being temporarily filled, including secretary and inspector general. Cissna's position, like others, requires Senate confirmation.

Cissna had been on the chopping block last month amid a White House-orchestrated bloodbath that led to the resignation of Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, in part because aides felt he wasn't moving quickly enough to tighten immigration rules and push through complicated regulation changes.

But his job was saved, temporarily, after high-ranking

Republicans spoke out about his record — particularly Sen. Chuck Grassley, who worked with Cissna for years. And it appeared he was back to business.

He told the AP just two weeks ago that his agency was training dozens of U.S. border patrol agents to start screening immigrants arriving on the southwest border for asylum amid a surge in the number of families seeking the protection.

Last week, administration officials said Ken Cuccinelli, the former attorney general of Virginia, would be taking a job at the department, but it wasn't

clear what his role would be.

A person familiar with the matter said Cuccinelli was being considered for Cissna's job, but it was unclear how that would work because the position requires Senate confirmation. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters within the administration.

Cuccinelli's name has been tossed around for months. He had also been considered for a position as an immigration czar, a job possibly housed within the White House, but officials said last week he would not be taking on that role.

Officials say at least 2 dead after likely tornado hits Okla.

Associated Press

EL RENO, Okla. — A likely tornado killed at least two people as it destroyed a motel, roared through a nearby mobile home park and caused significant damage in the Oklahoma City area, officials said Sunday.

El Reno Mayor Matt White said during a news conference that “there have been two fatalities at this point in time,” adding that officials are currently working to notify relatives.

White said search and rescue efforts are continuing.

National Weather Service meteorologist Rick Smith, in Norman, Okla., told The Associated Press that the suspected twister hit El Reno on Saturday night as a powerful storm system rolled through the state.

Crews were to arrive on the scene Sunday to determine the severity of the damage to the town located just west of Oklahoma City.

The American Budget Value Inn was destroyed by the storm. Images from the scene showed emergency crews sifting through rubble after part of the motel’s second story collapsed into a pile of debris strewn about the first floor and parking lot.

Elsewhere, overturned cars and twisted metal could be seen briefly as intermittent lightning flashed across the sky and the wailing sirens of approaching emergency vehicles were heard in the distance.

Trailers at the Skyview Estates mobile home park adjacent to the motel also were damaged, as was part of a near-

by car dealership.

“We have absolutely experienced a traumatic event,” White said during a news conference Sunday.

Tweety Garrison, 63, told the AP early Sunday that she was inside her mobile home — along with her husband, two young grandchildren and a family friend — when the storm hit. Garrison said that when she heard the storm coming, she immediately hit the ground. Moments later, she said, she heard the mobile home next door slam into hers before it flipped over and landed on her roof.

Garrison said the incident lasted five to 10 minutes. She said there was a tornado warning on her phone but the sirens did not go off until after tornado hit.

Stan Lee’s ex-business manager charged with elder abuse

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A former business manager of Stan Lee was arrested Saturday on elder abuse charges involving the late comic book legend.

Keya Morgan was taken into custody in Arizona on an outstanding arrest warrant after being charged by Los Angeles County prosecutors earlier this month.

Morgan faces felony charges including theft, embezzlement, forgery or fraud against an elder adult and false imprisonment of an elder adult. A misdemeanor count also alleges elder abuse.

Authorities said Morgan sought to capitalize on the Marvel Comic mastermind’s wealth and exert influence over Lee even though he had no authority to act on his behalf.

Police said Morgan pocketed more than \$262,000 from autograph-signing sessions Lee did in May 2018.

Authorities say Morgan at one point also took Lee from his Hollywood Hills home to a Beverly Hills condominium, “where Morgan had more control over Lee.”

Lee’s daughter said in a request for a restraining order last year that Morgan was manipulating the mentally declining Lee, preventing him from seeing family and friends and trying to take control of his money and business affairs.

Attorney Alex Kessel has said Morgan has never abused or taken advantage of Lee.

Kessel said in an email on Saturday that he had been in contact with prosecutors to arrange for Morgan to surrender on Tuesday.

“It is unfortunate that the DA (district attorney) and police did not honor our commitment to surrender [this] week and arrested him,” Kessel said in an email.

Morgan’s bail has been set at \$300,000.

Iraq offers to mediate between Iran, US

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq offered Sunday to mediate in the crisis between its two key allies, the United States and Iran, amid escalating Middle East tensions and as Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers steadily unravels.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed al-Hakim made the offer during a joint news conference in Baghdad with visiting Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif.

“We are trying to help and to be mediators,” said al-Hakim, adding that Baghdad “will work to reach a satisfactory solution” while stressing that Iraq stands against unilateral steps taken by Washington.

In recent weeks, tensions between Washington and Tehran soared over America deploying an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf over a still-unexplained threat

it perceives from Tehran. The U.S. also plans to send 900 additional troops and extend the stay of the 600 already in the Mideast.

The crisis takes root in President Donald Trump’s withdrawal last year of America from the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers that capped Iran’s uranium enrichment activities in return for lifting sanctions. Washington subsequently reimposed sanctions on Iran, sending its economy into freefall.

Trump has argued that the deal failed to sufficiently curb Iran’s ability to develop nuclear weapons or halt its support for militias throughout the Middle East that the U.S. says destabilize the region, as well as to address the issue of Tehran’s missiles, which can reach both U.S. regional bases and Israel.

Zarif, who has been on a whirlwind diplomatic offen-

sive to preserve the rest of the accord, insisted that Iran “did not violate the nuclear deal” and urged European nations to exert efforts to preserve the deal following the U.S. pullout.

Speaking about the rising tensions with the U.S., Zarif said Iran will be able to “face the war, whether it is economic or military through steadfastness and its forces.” He also called for a nonaggression agreement between Iran and Arab countries in the Gulf.

The Shiite-majority Iraq has been trying to maintain a fine line as allies Tehran and Washington descended into verbal vitriol. The country also lies on the fault line between Shiite Iran and the mostly Sunni Arab world, led by powerhouse Saudi Arabia, and has long been a battlefield in which the Saudi-Iran rivalry for regional supremacy played out.

Venezuela crisis talks resume in Norway

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Representatives of the Venezuelan government and opposition have returned to Norway for talks aimed at resolving the political crisis in the South American country, the Norwegian government said Saturday.

Norway said it will mediate discussions this week in Oslo, in an indication that the negotiation track is gaining momentum after months of escalating tension between Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Juan Guaido, the U.S.-backed opposition leader.

Top Maduro aide Jorge Rodriguez and Hector Rodriguez, the governor of Miranda state, both of whom were in Oslo

earlier this month for a round of exploratory talks, will once again lead the government delegation. They will be joined this time by Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, said Maduro, who thanked Norway for promoting “peace and stability” in Venezuela through the mediation effort.

Larry Devoe, the government’s top human rights official, is also a delegate member, said a Venezuelan official who was not authorized to discuss the talks and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The opposition delegation is being led by Stalin Gonzalez, a senior member of the opposition-controlled congress, former Caracas area Mayor Gerardo Blyde and former

Transport Minister Fernando Martinez Mottola, according to an opposition statement.

They will be joined by Vicente Diaz, a supporter of past negotiations with the government who previously served on the nation’s electoral council.

Both delegations traveled Saturday for the meetings, according to officials.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Soreide praised both sides for their involvement.

Representatives of Venezuela’s political factions traveled to the European country earlier this month for talks, but it had been unclear if they would continue to engage with one another amid increased tensions over the opposition’s call for a

military uprising on April 30.

Addressing supporters on a visit to Venezuela’s Lara state, Guaido said the opposition would not be subjected to “false dialogue” as in the past.

“That is why we are on the streets, aware that we can’t believe anything the dictatorship says,” said the leader of the opposition-led National Assembly.

The U.S. State Department noted the arrests of key opposition figures in Venezuela and said the only thing to negotiate with Maduro is “the conditions of his departure” from office.

“We hope the talks in Oslo will focus on that objective, and if they do, we hope progress will be possible,” spokeswoman Morgan Ortigas said.

Israeli president shocked by German skullcap warning

Associated Press

BERLIN — Israel’s president said Sunday he is shocked by a German official’s comment that he wouldn’t advise Jews to wear skullcaps in parts of the country, which is drawing mixed reactions at home.

Felix Klein, the government’s anti-Semitism commissioner, was quoted Saturday as saying, “I cannot recommend to Jews that they wear the skullcap at all times everywhere in Germany.” He didn’t elaborate on what places and times might be risky.

“The statement of the German government’s anti-Semitism commissioner that it would be preferable for Jews not wear a kippa in Germany out of fear for their safety, shocked me deeply,” Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said in a statement.

He added that “we will never submit, will never lower our gaze and will never react to anti-Semitism with defeatism — and expect and demand our allies act in the same way.”

Government statistics released earlier this month

showed that the number of anti-Semitic and anti-foreigner incidents rose in Germany last year, despite an overall drop in politically motivated crimes.

Germany’s main Jewish leader, Josef Schuster, told news agency dpa “it has long been a fact that Jews are potentially exposed to danger in some big cities if they can be recognized as Jews.”

He added that he pointed that out two years ago, “so it is to be welcomed if this situation gets more attention at the highest political level.”

Others were sharply critical of Klein’s comment. Michel Friedman, a former deputy leader of Germany’s main Jewish group, said it was an admission of failure and that “the state must ensure that Jews can show themselves everywhere without fear.”

Bavaria’s state interior minister, Joachim Herrmann, said that wearing a skullcap is part of religious freedom. “Everyone can and should wear his skullcap wherever and whenever he wants,” he said.

Hong Kong commemorates 1989 Tiananmen protests

Associated Press

HONG KONG — More than 2,000 people marched in Hong Kong on Sunday to mark 30 years since a pro-democracy protest in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square ended in bloodshed.

Demonstrators took to the streets holding yellow umbrellas that read “Support Freedom, Oppose Evil Laws.”

Some people carried a black coffin, while others wheeled white crosses and the numbers 6 and 4 — a nod to the day on June 4, 1989, when leaders of China’s ruling Communist Party ordered the military to retake Tiananmen Square from student-led protesters.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of unarmed protesters and onlookers were killed late on June 3 and in the early hours of June 4 as a result of the martial action.

Commemorations of the historic event are strictly banned in mainland China, and those who attempt to raise awareness of or merely discuss it are often punished by authorities. Groups such as the “Tianan-

men Mothers” are pressured to stay quiet about the children they lost, while others are detained for making even subtle tributes to the occasion.

The semi-autonomous territory of Hong Kong, however, holds yearly vigils and other gatherings to remember the deceased and pay tribute to the spirit of the protests.

This year in Hong Kong, the march took on additional significance as opposition to changes to an extradition law widely seen as eroding the territory’s independent legal system.

Revisions to the law would make it easier to send criminal suspects to mainland China, where critics say they could face vague national security charges and unfair trials.

“Recently, we are facing the challenge of this (extradition law), which affects our basic freedom and liberty,” said Albert Ho, who organized Sunday’s march. He is chairman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man accused of taking 2 cars in same day

NH FRANKLIN — A New Hampshire man has been accused of stealing two cars in the same day.

Carl Wescott, 61, of Franklin, was arrested Wednesday after police found a woman's car that she said was stolen at a car wash.

Police said the driver departed at a high rate of speed, leading them on a chase. The vehicle eventually crashed into the woods in Franklin.

Earlier Wednesday, Wescott was arrested in Laconia on a charge of possession of a stolen rental vehicle.

Noah's Ark attraction sues over damage

KY WILLIAMSTOWN. — The owners of Kentucky's Noah's ark attraction are demanding their insurance company bail them out after heavy rains caused nearly \$1 million in property damage.

The Ark Encounter says in a federal lawsuit that rains in 2017 and 2018 caused a landslide on its access road. The Courier Journal reported the attraction's insurance carriers refused to cover the damage.

The 510-foot-long wooden ark has been a popular northern Kentucky attraction since its 2016 opening.

3 arrested, say they were acting out scene

WI MOUNT PLEASANT — Wisconsin authorities arrested three men who claimed to be recreating a scene from a movie when police spotted them inside a Jeep wearing masks and holding a gun.

Mount Pleasant police said they got a report of a man with a

gun Thursday afternoon. When they responded to the area they encountered three men in the Jeep. Two wore masks and another held a replica BB gun.

Police said the men told officers they were recreating a scene from "Belly," a 1998 crime film.

The Journal Times reported police found an unknown amount of money and marijuana in the Jeep.

Oriece Carothers, 21, faces charges of marijuana possession with intent to deliver and disorderly conduct; Kaleaf Carothers, 20, has an outstanding warrant; and Sanjuan Bustamente, 39, faces drug charges.

Beaver has cameo in traffic stop video

AK ANCHORAGE — A police camera caught a beaver's surprise appearance near a traffic stop in Alaska's largest city.

Anchorage police posted the brief video on the department's Facebook page Wednesday showing the creature ambling into the road between two patrol cars. The beaver then backtracks before disappearing from the screen.

Police wrote in the post, "We say it all the time: Rubbernecking is bad."

Teen fatally shot after home hit by paintballs

TX HOUSTON — Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old after a man whose home was splattered with paintballs said he opened fire because he thought someone was shooting at his residence.

Police said Wednesday that the resident shot at a group of people late Tuesday evening. Police said other residents said

they saw multiple people in the front yard before they fled in different vehicles.

Historic tank gets new lemon-lime paint job

WV BLUEFIELD — A Korean War-era tank owned by the West Virginia National Guard has turned bright lemon-lime yellow.

The reason was a mystery until the sponsor of a science fiction club at Bluefield State College owned up to the mistake in a letter to The Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

Jerry Conner said he took a color sample to a local paint supplier, aiming to match the sample with two gallons of fresh paint.

"We were worried when we opened the containers and found something nowhere near our sample," Connor said in the letter. He said they painted the whole tank anyway, assuming it would turn olive drab once it dried. It didn't.

City Manager Dane Rideout said his staff is working with the club to acquire historically accurate paint for the M41 Walker Bulldog.

Police: Man attacked sheriff with tractor

IA GRAND RIVER — A southern Iowa man was charged with attempted murder after allegedly using a tractor to spear a county sheriff's car and push the vehicle more than 100 feet.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety said Decatur County Sheriff Ben Boswell and two deputies were called Thursday afternoon to a family dispute at a home near the tiny town of Grand River.

The first deputy who arrived was confronted by Gerry Greenland, 54, who was driv-

ing a John Deere tractor outfitted with a front-end bale spear. Police allege Greenland drove toward the patrol car but the deputy drove out of the way.

Greenland then allegedly drove toward the sheriff's car, piercing the driver-side door and pushing the car until finally stopping.

Boswell wasn't hurt.

Someone breaks into home, leaves it clean

MA MARLBOROUGH — Whoever broke into a Massachusetts man's home earlier this month didn't take a thing; they did, however, leave the house spotless.

Nate Roman, 44, told The Boston Globe that when he returned to his Marlborough home from work May 15, he could tell a stranger had been there.

Nothing was missing, but Roman noticed that the beds were made, the rugs vacuumed and the toilets scrubbed. They even crafted origami roses on the toilet paper rolls.

He called the experience "weird and creepy."

Fort built by slaves receives designation

TN NASHVILLE — A Civil War fort in Nashville built by slaves has received an international designation for its significance in the history of slavery and blacks.

A news release said the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has named Fort Negley a "Site of Memory" associated with the group's Slave Route Project.

After Union forces occupied Nashville in 1862, more than 2,700 blacks helped build Fort Negley. About 600 to 800 died.

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3-time champ Kerber out at French Open

Associated Press

PARIS — Angelique Kerber won't complete a career Grand Slam this year.

Still hampered by a right ankle injury, the three-time Grand Slam winner lost in the first round of the French Open on Sunday as the clay-court major began with an upset.

The fifth-seeded German lost 6-4, 6-2 to an 18-year-old Roland Garros beginner, Russian Anastasia Potapova, on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Kerber's preparations for Roland Garros, where she never advanced past the quarterfinals, were hampered by the injury she suffered at the Madrid Open last month.

"Of course this is not my excuse and everything," Kerber said. "I tried my best. I know that there is still a little bit of work to do to be really playing matches 100 percent."

The 81st-ranked Potapova sealed the opening set with a crosscourt backhand winner and broke twice at the start of the second. Kerber saved two match points before shanking a forehand wide sealing her fate.

Playing his first match at Roland Garros since 2015, Roger Federer had no problem reaching the second round.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion defeated Lorenzo Sonego 6-2, 6-4, 6-4.

Federer missed the French Open in 2016 because of a back injury and has skipped the event the past two years to focus on Wimbledon. He won the title in Paris 10 years ago to complete a career Grand Slam.

"I missed you, thanks very much for the welcome," Federer said to the crowd after concluding his match. "I was quite tense at the start."

Venus Williams' 22nd appearance at the French Open did not last long.

The 2002 runner-up lost her opening match for the second year in a row, beaten 6-3, 6-3 by ninth-seeded Elina Svitolina in 1 hour, 13 minutes.

Raptors eliminate Bucks to advance to first NBA Finals

Associated Press

TORONTO — Kyle Lowry stole the ball and pushed it ahead, then waited for Kawhi Leonard to arrive before feeding his All-Star teammate for a thunderous one-handed slam over Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo.

"The building exploded after that dunk," Leonard said.

It sure did. Now imagine how it will sound when the NBA Finals come to Toronto for the first time this week.

Leonard had 27 points and 17 rebounds to lead the Raptors into the finals for the first time with a 100-94 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday night.

His big dunk with 6:46 to go in the fourth quarter was the final basket in a game-changing 26-3 run that began late in the third.

"It was kind of a momentum capper," Lowry said. "We were on a run, and why not feed the big dog? Let the big dog eat."

The Raptors overcame a 15-point deficit to win the series in six games and will host the Golden State Warriors in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Thursday.

It will be the two-time defending champions against a Raptors team that will finally bring the NBA Finals outside the U.S. after entering the league in 1995.

"They're one of the greatest teams in history," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said of the Warriors. "It will be a tall task, but we'll try to figure it out."

Pascal Siakam scored 18 points, Lowry had 17 and Fred VanVleet 14 for the Raptors.

Lowry held the game ball and picked up his children after the game, finally getting to the championship round after the Raptors kept falling short against Cleveland.

"It's taken a long time to get here in my career," Lowry said. "I've run into one guy for a while."

Toronto was eliminated by LeBron James and the Cavaliers in three straight postseasons before shaking things up last summer with the acquisition of Leonard, the 2014 NBA Finals MVP who was acquired from San Antonio and has carried the Raptors in this postseason.

"He's the best player in the league and we're happy he's in Toronto," Raptors President Masai Ujiri said.

Asked about Ujiri's compliment, Leonard said he's focused on different goals.

"I just want to win," he said. "I don't care about being the best player. I want to be the best team."

Antetokounmpo had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks, but the NBA's top team in the regular season saw its bid for a first finals berth

in 45 years come to a disappointing end with a fourth consecutive defeat.

"Man, obviously when you're up 2-0, that doesn't mean nothing," Antetokounmpo said. "You've got to learn how to come out and close out games, especially after Game 3. We've got to get better as a team, and we've got to get better individually."

Even Nurse found his team's turnaround hard to believe.

"Beating this team four times in a row is almost mind boggling," Nurse said.

Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said it hurt to see a great season end.

"The roster that was put together for this season, as the season started going, you started feeling like it was special and could do special things, including advancing past tonight, but it didn't happen," Budenholzer said.

Down 76-71 to start the fourth, the Raptors tied it with an 8-2 run while Leonard and Antetokounmpo were both on the bench. Serge Ibaka's dunk with 10:32 to go tied it at 78.

Antetokounmpo returned after a timeout, but Leonard kept sitting. That didn't matter to Toronto, with Siakam's basket giving the Raptors an 80-78 lead, their first lead since it was 6-3.

Toronto made 12 of 27 three-point attempts, including four of eight in the fourth quarter.

Siakam, who missed a pair of free throws late in the fourth quarter of Toronto's double-overtime win in Game 3, hit one to make it 98-94. Leonard grabbed the rebound on the second and was fouled. He made both, putting the Raptors up 100-94 with 3.9 seconds to go.

Malcolm Brogdon and Khriston Middleton each made a pair from long range as the Bucks shot 6 for 9 from three-point range in the first and closed the quarter with 10 unanswered points to lead 31-18. Toronto shot 6 for 19 in the opening quarter, missing six straight twice in the first 12 minutes.

The Bucks extended their lead to 38-23 on a three by Ersan Ilyasova with 7:46 left until half. Toronto cut the gap to 46-43 on a three by VanVleet with 1:07 left in the second, but Eric Bledsoe answered with a three and Antetokounmpo split a pair at the line, giving the Bucks a 50-43 advantage at the intermission.

The lead went back to 15 in the third before Leonard finished the period with a flourish. He had eight points in the final 2:01 and Toronto closed with a 10-0 run, cutting a 15-point deficit to 76-71.

Drake watch: Raptors fan and 'global ambassador' Drake sat in his regular seat adjacent to the Toronto bench. The rapper wore a black hoodie with 'KAWHI ME A RIVER' printed on the back.

Legendary Green Bay QB Starr dies

Associated Press

Bart Starr, the gentlemanly quarterback and catalyst of Vince Lombardi's powerhouse Green Bay Packers teams of the 1960s whose sneak won the famed "Ice Bowl" in 1967, died Sunday. He was 85.

The Packers selected Starr out of the University of Alabama with the 200th pick in the 1956 draft. He led Green Bay to six division titles, five NFL championships and wins in the first two Super Bowls.

The Packers said Starr died in Birmingham, Alabama, where he lived. He had been in failing health since suffering two strokes and a heart attack in 2014.

"A champion on and off the field, Bart epitomized class and was beloved by generations of Packers fans," Packers President Mark Murphy said in a statement. "A clutch player who led his team to five NFL titles, Bart could still fill Lambeau Field with electricity decades later during his many visits."

Until Brett Favre came along, Starr was known as the best Packer ever. The team retired his No. 15 jersey in 1973, making him just the third player to receive that honor. Four years later, he was inducted into the

Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

After losing the 1960 NFL title game in his first playoff appearance, the Packers never lost another playoff game under Starr, going 9-0, including wins over the Kansas City Chiefs and Oakland Raiders in the first two Super Bowls.

Starr's college career wasn't very noteworthy and it wasn't until Lombardi's arrival in Green Bay in 1959 that Starr, living by his motto "desire and dedication are everything," began to blossom.

Lombardi liked Starr's mechanics, his arm strength and especially his decision-making abilities. Under Lombardi's nurturing, Starr became one of the league's top quarterbacks.

"If you work harder than somebody else, chances are you'll beat him though he has more talent than you," Starr once said. He credited Lombardi for showing him "that by working hard and using my mind, I could overcome my weakness to the point where I could be one of the best."

The gentlemanly quarterback's status as a Packers icon was tested by his struggles as the team's head coach. In nine seasons from 1975-83, he won just 41 percent of his games,

going 53-77-3, including 1-1 in the playoffs, part of three decades of futility that followed the glory years.

After football, Starr, became a successful businessman in Birmingham, Ala., not far from his hometown of Montgomery, where he was born on Jan. 9, 1934.

Starr was a four-time Pro Bowl selection and two-time All-Pro. He won NFL titles in 1961, '62, '65, '67 and '68. He was the 1966 NFL MVP and was named to the 1960s All-Decade team. He also was named MVP of the first two Super Bowls.

But the play he was most famous for was a run.

In the NFL championship on Dec. 31, 1967, Starr knifed into the end zone behind guard Jerry Kramer and center Ken Bowman with 16 seconds left to lift the Packers over the Dallas Cowboys 21-17 in what became known as the "Ice Bowl."

When Starr retired following the 1971 season, his career completion percentage of 57.4 was tops in the run-heavy NFL, and his passer rating of 80.5 was second-best ever, behind only Otto Graham.

Starr replaced Dan Devine as Packers head coach in 1975 and would be replaced himself

by former teammate Forrest Gregg in 1984 after failing to lead the franchise to the kind of success he did as a player.

In 1965, Starr and his wife, Cherry, helped co-found Rawhide Boys Ranch in New London, Wisc. a facility designed to help at-risk and troubled boys throughout the state.

The couple dealt with tragedy in 1988 when their son Brett died at 24 due to complications from cocaine addiction. They also had another son, Bart Jr.

"While he may always be best known for his success as the Packers quarterback for 16 years, his true legacy will always be the respectful manner in which he treated every person he met, his humble demeanor and his generous spirit," Starr's family said in a statement.

"His love for all of humanity is well known, and his affection toward the residents of Alabama and of Wisconsin filled him with gratitude. He had hoped to make one last trip to Green Bay to watch the Packers this fall, but he shall forever be there in spirit."

Starr has an NFL award named after him, given annually to a player of outstanding character.

Resurgent Blues eager for chance at Cup

Associated Press

Seeing the famous photo of Bobby Orr scoring the 1970 Stanley Cup-winning goal to beat his St. Louis Blues doesn't bring back bad memories for Scotty Bowman.

"Not really," the legendary coach said. "Because we didn't have a big opportunity to win that series."

Orr and the big, bad Boston Bruins swept Bowman's overmatched, expansion-era Blues in that series. Now 49 years later, Boston is in its third final in nine seasons and St. Louis is back for the first time since 1970, but this Bruins-Blues rematch is a showdown between two of the NHL's best teams since Jan. 1.

Coming off a sweep of Carolina in the Eastern Conference final, the Bruins are

favored in the series that begins Monday in Boston. Goaltender Tuukka Rask is the front-runner to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. Brad Marchand is playing some of the best hockey of his career with 18 points in 17 games, and there's a mix of veterans from the 2011 Stanley Cup-winning team and fresh players eager to get their names etched on the trophy.

"I think as you get older, you appreciate it even more, and you realize how hard it is to get to this point and advance and be thankful and stay in the moment," center Patrice Bergeron said. "But then it's back to work, and there's a lot of work in front of us."

Unlike in 1970, when the Bruins essentially just had to step on the ice to take the final, these Blues won't go away. They woke

up last in the league on Jan. 3 before winning 30 of their final 45 games to roll into the playoffs, where they beat the Winnipeg Jets, Dallas Stars and San Jose Sharks.

Craig Berube, who replaced Mike Yeo as Blues coach in November, said teams would rather avoid those tough times. But they've made his players stronger.

"We were trying to get on the right track," Berube said. "Once we got going in January and February, I knew we had a good hockey team. Once you get in the playoffs, anything can happen. We're here and we did. They believed they were going to make the playoffs, and we're here."

The Blues are still here in large part because of rookie goaltender Jordan Binnington, whose first start in January coincided with the turnaround.

Padres rip Blue Jays with record 7 HRs

Associated Press

TORONTO — In an afternoon full of big hits for the San Diego Padres, it was left to ninth-place batter Austin Hedges to register the biggest.

Hedges connected for a grand slam and the Padres hit a franchise-record seven home runs to romp past the Toronto Blue Jays 19-4 Saturday for their fifth straight win.

After being part of last year's 66-96 Padres team, which gave up 10 or more runs 12 times, including a 20-5 loss against Arizona on July 7, Hedges is just glad things are looking a lot better this season with San Diego four games over .500.

"It's a good feeling because we've been through so many of them," said the fifth-year catcher. "It's a lonely feeling over there. It's tough to go through that together with your boys and come back in the clubhouse and show up the next day expecting to win."

The Padres' run total was the most in the majors this season. They nearly matched the franchise record of 20 runs, done twice and most recently in Montreal in 2001.

Wil Myers and Hunter Renfroe each hit two home runs and Ian Kinsler and Eric Hosmer also homered. The previous team record was six, set in Cincinnati on July 17, 1998.

Hedges drove in five runs. Myers went 2-for-2, drove in four and scored four times, and Renfroe had four hits, scored four and drove in three.

Myers hit the team-record seventh homer in a five-run eighth that included homers by Hosmer and Renfroe off Sam Gaviglio.

"I did not know that," Myers said of the record. "That's pretty cool but it's not surprising with the guys we've got here. We've got a lot of power in this lineup and a lot of guys that can really hit."

Rookie Cal Quantrill (1-2), from nearby Port Hope, Ontario, and the son of former

Blue Jays and Padres pitcher, Paul Quantrill, went six innings to earn his first major league win in his fourth career start. He became just the third Canadian-born pitcher to claim his first career win north of the border.

The 24-year-old right-hander struck out a career-high nine, while surrendering three earned runs on homers by Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Justin Smoak, the only hits Quantrill allowed.

"It was awesome, a ton of fun," he said. "Obviously it's a little easier when the team puts up 19 runs, but it was fantastic. It was everything that I could have hoped for minus a couple pitches."

Toronto, hitting an MLB-low .197 entering the game, has now lost 10 of its last 12 home games and fell to 1-7-1 in home series.

Manager Charlie Montoyo was at a loss to explain his team's home form.

"I don't know why that is," he said. "Hopefully it changes."

Roundup

Yanks hold on, sweep Royals in doubleheader

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chance Adams didn't get to Kauffman Stadium on Saturday until midway through the first game of a day-night doubleheader.

He had an early flight out of Syracuse, N.Y., then caught a connecting flight in Chicago before finally getting to the stadium around 1 p.m.

Adams, called up as the 26th player for the New York Yankees, took advantage of his opportunity in the nightcap.

Adams (1-0) threw four innings to earn his first major league victory as the Yankees held on to beat the Kansas City Royals 6-5 Saturday night, completing a sweep of a doubleheader for their seventh straight win.

After Chad Green threw one inning as the Yankees' opener, Adams allowed three runs and five hits, with a couple of misplayed balls in the outfield leading to two runs in the fourth inning.

Astros 4, Red Sox 3: Carlos Correa hit an RBI single in the ninth inning to give host Houston the win.

After Boston tied it in the top of the inning, Aledmys Diaz led off the bottom half with a double to left off Matt Barnes (2-1). Following walks to Alex Bregman and Michael Brantley, Correa hit a blooper down the right-field line over a five-man infield.

Phillies 7, Brewers 2: Jake Arrieta pitched eight effective innings and Andrew McCutchen homered, leading visiting Philadelphia to its third consecutive win.

Cesar Hernandez, Rhys Hoskins and J.T. Realmuto also connected for the NL East leaders. Hoskins finished with three hits and two RBIs.

Rays 6, Indians 2: Charlie Morton struck out a season-high 10 and Ji-Man Choi and Tommy Pham homered, helping Tampa Bay beat host Cleveland in a game delayed for nearly three hours because of an incorrect weather forecast.

Morton (5-0) extended his unbeaten streak to a career-best 18 starts dating to August, allowing one run in six innings. The right-hander has an 8-0 record with a 3.10 ERA in that stretch.

Twins 8, White Sox 1: Kyle Gibson struck out nine in seven innings, and the host Twins beat the White Sox for their 10th win in 11 games.

Gibson (5-2) gave up five hits and walked none. His only blemish was Jose Abreu's lead-off homer in the fourth inning.

Cubs 8, Reds 6: Addison Russell homered at Wrigley Field for the first time since he was suspended for violating baseball's domestic violence policy, leading the Cubs to a wild victory.

Athletics 6, Mariners 5: Mike Fiers won in his first start at the Coliseum since pitching a no-hitter this month, and the host Athletics handed the Mariners their fifth straight loss.

Mets 5, Tigers 4 (13): Tomas Nido homered against Buck Farmer leading off the 13th in-

ning, Wilson Ramos homered twice and the Mets beat the Tigers for another comeback win during a wild homestand.

Diamondbacks 10, Giants 4: Ketel Marte homered for the second consecutive day, powering visiting Arizona to the win.

Nationals 5, Marlins 0: Patrick Corbin pitched a four-hitter for his second career shutout, helping host Washington to the victory.

Dodgers 7, Pirates 2: Cody Bellinger and Corey Seager both doubled and drove in two runs as visiting Los Angeles won for the eighth time in 10 games.

Orioles 9, Rockies 6: Jonathan Villar and Renato Nunez both homered and finished with three hits to lead visiting Baltimore.

Angels 3, Rangers 2: Kole Calhoun drove in the tying run in the ninth inning with an RBI double and then score the winner on pinch-hitter Jared Walsh's single to left field as host Los Angeles rallied to beat Texas.