

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

\$10K offered for info about Marine wanted in killing

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Marshals Service is offering a \$10,000 reward for direct information leading to the capture of a missing Marine corporal wanted for the shooting death of his mother's boyfriend last week.

Officials said Thursday that they believe Cpl. Michael Alexander Brown was near Roanoke, Va., and closed area schools, urging residents to remain indoors following a report the wanted Marine was spotted in the city about 4 a.m., Roanoke Police Chief Tim Jones said.

Brown, 22, is wanted on charges including second-degree murder in the Nov. 9 killing of Rodney Brown, 54, in nearby Hardy, Va.

Jones said Brown might have initially fled to South Carolina after the shooting, but law enforcement officials were convinced he was in the Roanoke area Thursday after they discovered a recreation vehicle linked to him. Jones and other officials said they were uncertain what Brown's motives were for killing the elder Brown, who has been described as the longtime, live-in boyfriend of the Marine's mother.

The Marine Corps upgraded Brown's status this week from absent without leave to deserter after determining that he was unlikely to return to duty, said Capt. Robert Vachon, a Marine spokesman. He was

first listed as AWOL after failing to report for duty Oct. 24 at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where the combat engineer was stationed with the 8th Engineer Support Battalion.

The Marines and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service are supporting the investigation. Other local and federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, are involved in the manhunt.

Jones warned Thursday that Brown was likely moving through the Roanoke area on foot and was believed armed with a "high-capacity" rifle. Brown might be looking for a vehicle to steal, Jones added, urging locals not to leave cars running or to offer rides to any strangers.

"Mr. Brown may be seeking alternative forms of transportation at this time," Jones said. "He is navigationally savvy. He knows how to maneuver around. He's not afraid to change his location. He's not afraid to change his look."

The police chief said law enforcement officials reached out to some Marines who Brown might have known for information, but they believe the suspect is acting alone. Jones added family members have urged Brown to surrender.

"We have reason to believe he continues to be armed and dangerous, and if he is confronted or pushed into a position where he feels he has no other alternative, he may use force," Jones said.

Police knew detained veteran was US citizen

The Washington Post

Six years after his combat service in Afghanistan, Jilmar Ramos-Gomez sat in an immigrant detention center in Michigan, contemplating how a U.S. citizen and war veteran could get sucked into a Kafkaesque deportation void.

It started with an off-duty police captain watching the evening news featuring Ramos-Gomez's arrest, speculating if the veteran, Michigan born and bred, was in the country illegally.

Those suspicions triggered a decision by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain him for three days, despite immediate evidence that proved Ramos-Gomez was a citizen, including police reviewing his passport the day of his arrest.

Nearly a year later, the Grand Rapids city commission on Tuesday unanimously agreed to award Ramos-Gomez \$190,000 in a settlement over the wrongful detainment, his family's attorney Richard Kessler told *The Washington Post*.

The city did not admit fault in the settlement. But the amount indicates "they know they did something wrong," Kessler said Thursday.

The incident was another thread in a national debate on whether police departments should work with federal immigration authorities. Advocates of sanctuary cities say doing so makes victims and witnesses fearful of cooperation with police.

Kessler and civil rights groups said authorities targeted Ramos-Gomez for his Latino origins and believe the circumstances surrounding his arrest stemmed from post-traumatic stress due to his service in Afghanistan. He served as a tank

crewman there in 2013, earning a combat action ribbon.

"He fought on the battlefield and came back scarred. And instead of honoring him, ICE tried to deport him," Miriam Aukerman, the senior staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, told *The Post*.

Emails and texts between Grand Rapids police and ICE officials, obtained and published by the ACLU, reveal a barrage of miscues, miscommunication and avoidance of evidence that could have stopped ICE's involvement from the very beginning.

Ramos-Gomez, now 28, was arrested for trespassing in a secure area of Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital on Nov. 21. He set a fire and pulled an alarm.

He was not a patient at the hospital, Kessler said, but he was struggling with post-traumatic stress at the time and accessed a helipad on the roof.

Body-cam video shows police immediately knew he was a U.S. citizen. He had his passport with him during the arrest, and the video shows an officer holding it open while taking notes.

A department policy enacted in August, in response to fallout from this and other incidents, allows checks on immigration status only in relevant investigations and when approved by the chief. The measure was added to "foster trust" between police and immigrant communities.

While Aukerman was heartened by the settlement, she said the incident revealed larger issues within the department and the very nature of how police work with federal immigration agents.

Iconic F-4 Phantom nears end of service

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC

Stars and Stripes

It epitomized U.S. air power during the Cold War, was used extensively by the U.S. in Vietnam and was still in active service decades later. But now, the iconic F-4 Phantom II fighter-bomber is flying into the sunset.

Only a few dozen Phantoms remain in active service around the world out of 5,195 built during a 20-year production run that started in the 1950s. The American ones, flown by the Air Force, Navy and Marines, are all gone, many of them having been shot down in their final role as target-practice drones. Those still in use by foreign air forces are slated for retirement in the near future.

With a top speed exceeding Mach 2.2, the supersonic, long-range fighter-bomber is still remembered fondly, particularly by those who flew it.

The F-4 was, “in the hands of a talented pilot and weapons systems operator ... formidable

and nearly indestructible,” said retired Air Force Gen. Ronald Keys, who flew Phantoms in Vietnam in 1969-70.

The plane was a “true multi-role platform” that “played a big part” in numerous conflicts, said Alan Warnes, an editor and writer with the U.K.-based Air Forces Monthly publication.

“In Vietnam the F-4C was the U.S. Air Force’s primary air defense cover ... At the height of the Cold War in Europe, the Phantom was everywhere — there were over 1,000” serving the West German, British and U.S. air forces, Warnes said.

Phantoms also were used extensively by the Israelis in several wars with Arab states until replaced by F-15s and F-16s in the 1980s. They performed very well against their Soviet-equipped Arab foes.

Soviet-built MiG-21s were the Phantom’s main foe throughout the Cold War. Compared to the diminutive MiG, which could carry 4,400 pounds of ordnance, the Phantom was able to

load a whopping 18,000 pounds of munitions, including bombs, air-to-ground and air-to-air missiles, on nine underwing hardpoints. One of the more flattering nicknames given to the Phantom over the years was “the world’s leading distributor of MiG parts.”

The Phantom was officially retired from squadron duty in the U.S. in 1996, five years after it flew combat missions in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. But it found a second life, with hundreds of the fighter-bombers being converted into full-scale target drones that were used to train pilots in air-to-air combat and test munitions.

The last conversion rolled off the production line in 2013.

Three years later, the Air Force held a final flight ceremony for the Phantom at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, marking the end of nearly 60 years of U.S. service.

Today, Greece, Turkey, Iran, South Korea and Japan are the last operators of the aircraft.

With the exception of Iran, all of the countries that still fly Phantoms are actively looking to replace them with more up-to-date airframes.

Even in Iran, which Washington sold 225 F-4s to in the 1970s, the fleet of still-airworthy Phantoms is expected to shrink in the next few years due to increasing maintenance problems as the planes grow older. The U.S. blocked deliveries of spare parts and maintenance support to Iran for the planes after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, but about 50 of Iran’s Phantoms are still flying, largely because the Iranians have cannibalized parts from other planes, and smuggled in or reverse-engineered others.

Even in its heyday, the F-4 had its issues, including “cockpit visibility, engines that smoked (excessively), not the best turning machine, first-generation radar technology,” said Keys, who flew the Phantom out of Da Nang Air Base in Vietnam.

Boneyard keeps military planes for parts, possible reuse

Arizona Daily Star

TUCSON, Ariz. — As boneyards go, this place is pretty lively.

Before many Tucsonans have even started their morning commute, a pair of aircraft mechanics are already crouched over the open cockpit of an F-18 fighter jet, disarming the ejector seat and removing the explosives.

Nearby, a towing crew pulls a Navy P-3 anti-submarine aircraft over to the “flush farm” to be drained of its fuel. Then they hook up to a different F-18 and haul it to the “wash rack” for perhaps the last thorough cleaning it will ever get.

Meanwhile, about a mile away, a small army of specialty painters fans out to spray protective coating on row after row of mothballed C-130

transport planes. Welcome to a typical morning at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, Tucson’s most famous parking lot with roughly \$34 billion worth of military might.

The people who work here generally refer to the place by its acronym, or “A-marg” as they call it. Most everyone else — here and around the globe — knows it as the airplane graveyard, or simply the boneyard.

But that nickname only tells part of the story.

Though the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base is the final destination for most of the warplanes that end up there, some do return to the sky.

In May, AMARG restored a B-52 bomber to active duty after more than a decade in storage. Now workers at the fa-

cility are preparing dozens of retired F-16 fighter jets to fly again, this time as full-sized, “drone” aerial targets piloted by remote control.

They also help get surplus military machines ready for delivery to U.S. allies, like the six helicopters sent to Greece earlier this year and five more to be sold to Israel.

“Any day that you come here, there’s a really wide variety of things we could be working on,” said Air Force Col. Jennifer Barnard, now in her third year as group commander.

Arguably the boneyard’s most important mission is to serve as a giant, open-air parts warehouse for the U.S. military and others.

During the past fiscal year alone, AMARG “reclaimed” 5,744 different parts from the aircraft in its collection, saving

taxpayers an estimated \$405.9 million in replacement costs.

And as the only facility of its kind in the nation, the boneyard is often the only place to find the parts needed for certain types of older aircraft.

Barnard said simple, high-priority orders can be filled the same day, but larger, hard-to-reach parts can take weeks or months to harvest and deliver.

“We’ve done special cuts on aircraft, where we’ll cut a piece of an airplane and send it to somebody who needs it,” she said.

One of the C-130s that services the science stations in Antarctica sports a tail section that once soaked up the sun in Tucson.

“That’s kind of why we get looked at as an air power reservoir,” Barnard said.

Hill: US-Kurdish partnership still strong

Associated Press

ERBIL, Iraq — A senior U.S. coalition commander said Friday the partnership with Syrian Kurdish forces remains strong and focused on fighting Islamic State despite an expanding Turkish incursion on areas of Kurdish control.

The U.S.-Syrian Kurdish relationship, which dates back to 2014, was strained after President Donald Trump last month ordered American troops out of northern Syria, making way for a Turkish invasion of Kurdish-held towns and villages along a stretch of the border.

On Friday, reports said U.S. forces completed their withdrawal from Kobani, a border region where the partnership against ISIS was cemented in 2014, and that Russians moved in to replace them.

The commander's comments reflect how troops on the ground have painted the mission in broad terms. They say they are staying to fight alongside Kurdish forces against Islamic State, as well as deny ISIS the oil fields as a source of revenue. They also have sought to show support for the Kurdish fighters.

Trump has described the mission as focused to secure oil fields and infrastructure.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Eric T. Hill told The

Associated Press on Friday that ISIS militants remain "a global threat" and that the partnership with the Kurds and international action is still needed against it.

"So, I don't think the work is complete. We still have to pursue them and eliminate them everywhere we can find them," he said from Baghdad.

Hill said ISIS militants are trying to regroup and find new financing, are still interacting with supporters on social media and continue to plot attacks through affiliates around the world. Syria and Iraq, he said, remain "the center point for all Daesh operations," he added, using the Arabic acronym for ISIS. "This is where Daesh lives and where they coordinate their acts of terror."

Kurdish and American forces are now operating in a region that is more complicated and crowded with troops since the Turks began their attack on northeast Syria in early October, aimed at pushing the Kurdish fighters away from the border.

Turkish forces have consolidated control over a stretch of the border running 70 miles wide and 20 miles deep into Syria. They have also kept up pressure outside that area, fighting with Kurdish forces on the edges.

Syrian government forces and their Rus-

sian allies have moved into other parts of the border under a Russian-Turkish deal.

U.S. officials emphasize that they will not fight Turkey, a NATO ally.

But Hill underscored that the U.S. was standing by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces. "We have been working with (the SDF) for a long time and we continue to train and work with them now," Hill said. "So I think the partnership is strong."

He said the SDF are "the lead on the ground" in fighting ISIS. "They know the land, they know the people, and they know the players. They are the best force to fight Daesh," he said.

While ISIS has lost its territorial control in Iraq and Syria, its militants continue to wage insurgent attacks.

Hill said his troops continue to train, advise and equip the Kurdish-led forces. The SDF is guarding the oil fields while the U.S. is providing them help in doing so, he said.

Both sides have sought to show the U.S.-Kurdish partnership never waned. One American commando who works closely with the SDF said at no point was there any drop in communication between the two sides, even as U.S. forces were pulling out from border areas ahead of the Turkish invasion.

Syria's Assad: 'Resistance' will force US troops out

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian President Bashar Assad said in remarks broadcast Friday that the American presence in Syria will lead to armed "resistance" that will eventually force the U.S. troops to leave his country.

Assad spoke in an interview with Russia24 TV and Rossiya Segodnya news agency, saying Americans should remember the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and that "Syria will not be an exception."

U.S. officials said this week that Washington will leave about 600 troops in Syria to fight Islamic State. That followed President Donald Trump's decision last month to withdraw the bulk of roughly

1,000 American troops from Syria, drawing bipartisan condemnation.

Earlier this month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Trump that he intended to carry out an operation to clear the Turkey-Syria border of Syrian Kurdish fighters who fought side-by-side with U.S. troops in beating back ISIS fighters in northeast Syria.

After Turkey began an invasion on Oct. 9, capturing dozens of Syrian towns and villages and displacing tens of thousands of people, Kurdish fighters then turned to the Syrian government for protection.

Assad subsequently sent troops to areas near the Turkish border, under an agreement reached between Russia and Turkey.

Taliban: Promised prisoner swap failed to materialize

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Three Taliban prisoners who were to be freed in exchange for an American and an Australian national, both kidnapped in 2016, are still in custody in Bagram prison, north of the capital Kabul, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Friday.

The three Taliban prisoners did not show up at an exchange site that had been agreed upon with the U.S., though Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said they would be freed.

Mujahid had no explanation for the no-show.

The three Taliban prisoners included Anas Haqqani, the younger brother of the Taliban's deputy chief Sirajuddin Haqqani, who leads the fearsome Haqqani militant

network. They were to be exchanged for American University of Afghanistan professors, American Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks.

Mujahid said the professors are still in Taliban custody.

The prisoner exchange was seen as a door to restarting the talks. U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has crisscrossed the region in recent weeks meeting with Washington's NATO allies, as well as Russia, China, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

President Ghani has demanded his government be included in talks with the Taliban, who have refused, saying the Afghan government is an American puppet.

Ghani is now in the middle of a controversial contest for his job as president.

Former Ukraine envoy testifies at hearing

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former U.S. Ukraine Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch provided chilling detail Friday of the threat she felt upon suddenly being ousted from her post and learning President Donald Trump had denounced her in his phone call with Ukraine's president.

In that July call, Trump assailed her as "bad news" and said she was "going to go through some things."

In an extraordinary moment at the hearing, Trump went after her again as she spoke, tweeting that everywhere she served had "turned bad." He emphasized that as president he had the "absolute right" to appoint his own ambassadors.

Rather than distract from the career diplomat's somber but powerful testimony, Trump's interference could provide more evidence against him in the probe.

"It's very intimidating," Yovanovitch said when Trump's new tweet was shown on a screen in the hearing room. "I can't speak to what the president is trying to do, but I think the effect is to be intimidated."

Democrats strongly agreed.

"I want you to know that some of us here take witness intimidation very, very seriously," said Rep. Adam Schiff, Intelligence Committee chairman who displayed Trump's attack.

During the second day of public hearings in the impeachment inquiry, Yovanovitch described a "smear campaign" against her by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, and others, including the president's son, Donald Trump Jr., before her firing.

She told the lawmakers her sudden removal had played into the hands of "shady interests the world over" with dangerous intentions toward the United States.

She recalled that as she had read the White House's rough transcript of Trump's conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, another person said, "The color drained from my face."

She said quietly, "Even now words fail me."

Her removal is one of several events at the center of the impeachment effort.

"These events should concern everyone in this room," the diplomat testified

in opening remarks. "Shady interests the world over have learned how little it takes to remove an American ambassador who does not give them what they want."

The daughter of immigrants who fled the former Soviet Union and Nazi German, she described a 33-year career, including three tours as an ambassador to some of the world's tougher postings, before arriving in Ukraine in 2016. She was forced out in May 2019.

She denied the accusations against her, including that she favored Democrat Hillary Clinton over Trump in the 2016 election and that she circulated a "Do Not Prosecute" list to former top prosecutor in Ukraine, Sergiy Lutsenko, which she called a "fabrication."

Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the panel, opened the day's hearing saying she was "too tough on corruption for some, and her principled stance made her enemies."

It became clear, he said, "President Trump wanted her gone."

The top Republican on the panel, Rep. Devin Nunes of California, bemoaned the hearings as a "daylong TV spectacle."

Trump associate Stone found guilty at trial

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Roger Stone, a longtime friend and ally of President Donald Trump, was found guilty Friday of witness tampering and lying to Congress about his pursuit of Russian-hacked emails damaging to Hillary Clinton's 2016 election bid.

Stone was convicted of all seven counts in a federal indictment that accused him of

lying to Congress, tampering with a witness and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election. He is the sixth Trump aide or adviser to be convicted of charges brought as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

Stone has denied wrongdoing and consistently criticized the

case against him as politically motivated. He did not take the stand during the trial, and his lawyers did not call any witnesses in his defense.

Stone, 67, showed no visible reaction as the verdict was read aloud, count by count. He's scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 6. He could face up to 20 years.

Another former Trump campaign aide, Michael Caputo,

was removed by the courtroom security officers after he turned his back on the jury after the verdict was read.

Stone smirked at reporters as he left the courtroom, holding hands with his wife. As he walked out of the courthouse, Stone was asked if he had any comment on the verdict and he replied, "None whatsoever" before he hopped into a waiting SUV with his wife.

Republican Gov. Bevin concedes in Kentucky race

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Republican Gov. Matt Bevin conceded to Democratic archrival Andy Beshear on Thursday, putting an end to Kentucky's bitterly fought governor's race and setting the stage for divided government in a GOP stronghold.

Bevin, an ally of President Donald Trump, made the dra-

matic announcement outside his statehouse office on the same day election officials across Kentucky double-checked vote totals at the governor's request. Bevin, trailing by several thousand votes, acknowledged the recanvass wouldn't change the outcome.

"We're going to have a change in the governorship based on the vote of the people," Bevin

said at the news conference.

Promising Kentuckians that "we won't let you down," Beshear said later in the day that he's ready to help build the "next chapter" of Kentucky's future.

Looking ahead to dealing with a GOP-led legislature, the governor-elect urged policymakers to find common ground and to "civilly disagree" when

they can't.

"If we can work together on the areas that we agree on and we can cut down on the rhetoric in the areas that we don't, there is a significant amount that we can get done," he said. "I believe that the areas that are so important for Kentucky, for instance the health and the education of our people, aren't partisan at all."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Court rules man can get 'IM GOD' license plate

KY FRANKFORT — A federal court is allowing a Kentucky man to personalize a license plate with the phrase "IM GOD" after a three-year legal battle over the custom engraving.

Court documents show Ben Hart, a self-identified atheist, set out to get the Kentucky plate in 2016. But Hart's request was denied by the state transportation department on the basis it violated antidiscrimination guidelines. News outlets report similar plates had been approved before, including "TRY-GOD" and "NOGOD."

Kentucky's American Civil Liberties Union and the Freedom From Religion Foundation got involved to help Hart challenge the decision. In an opinion Wednesday by a U.S. District Court in Frankfort, the judge ruled "vanity plates" are private speech protected by the First Amendment and that the state had violated Hart's rights by denying him the plate.

Man who bought tiger rug gets 1 day in jail

PA PHILADELPHIA — A New Jersey man who illegally bought a tiger skin rug years after being told it was a crime to do so has been sentenced to one day in jail.

The U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania said Wednesday that Loren Varga, 62, was also sentenced to two years' of supervised release and is required to pay a \$1,500 fine.

Varga had traveled across state lines to buy the tiger rug, which authorities say he knew was from an endangered species.

The Franklin Township man pleaded guilty in July to violating the Endangered Species Act

and the Lacey Act, which bans illegal wildlife trafficking.

Authorities said Varga years ago had tried to buy a similar rug but was warned by federal wildlife officials it was illegal.

Police: Homeless man, his dog both stabbed

NY NEW YORK — New York City police said a homeless man and his dog were both stabbed during an argument in a Manhattan subway station.

Both survived the attack before dawn Wednesday on the station platform at 14th Street and Sixth Avenue.

The man was treated at Bellevue Hospital and the dog at Manhattan's Animal Medical Center.

The dispute started after the man awoke from sleep on a platform bench. The issue was unclear.

Police are seeking the suspect they say stabbed both the dog owner and the animal in their legs.

Felon accused of joyride in sheriff's stolen SUV

CA SOUTH LAKE TAHOE — The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office said a felon stole a patrol vehicle from the parking lot of a substation in South Lake Tahoe and took it on a joyride before he was captured 50 miles away.

Sheriff's Sgt. Anthony Principe said Jacob Wolfe, 30, was arrested wearing a sheriff's baseball cap Wednesday in Placerville. He said the fully loaded SUV went missing during a patrol shift change.

Wolfe was apprehended shortly after Placerville police disabled one of the SUV's tires with a spike strip on U.S. Highway 50.

He was being held on \$74,000 bail on suspicion of vehicle theft, felon in possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition, evading police and impersonating an officer.

Men with hammers rob jewelry store while open

PA WASHINGTON — Police said two men armed with hammers robbed a Pennsylvania jewelry store while employees were helping customers that included young children.

KDKA-TV reported employees told police the men went into Kay Jewelers at the Tanger Outlets on Wednesday evening. They told everyone to get on the ground.

Police said they smashed jewelry cases with hammers, stealing the jewelry inside.

Police said seven customers were in the store, including three children. No customers were injured. It was not clear how much was stolen.

Suspect in art heist freed from prison

MA BOSTON — A man who was considered a suspect in the heist of about \$500 million worth of artwork from a Boston museum has been released from prison.

The Boston Globe reported that David Turner was freed on Wednesday after serving 21 years for his role in the 1999 planned armed robbery of an armored car.

According to court records, FBI agents told Turner he was a suspect in the 1990 heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and could receive leniency if he returned the stolen masterpieces. Turner said he knew nothing about the theft.

The art, including works by Rembrandt and Vermeer, has never been recovered.

Turner, 52, will remain on probation for three more years.

Man proposes to his girlfriend while surfing

HI HONOLULU — A Hawaii man was surfing with his girlfriend when — instead of hanging 10 — he knelt down on one knee on his board and proposed.

Hawaii News Now reported that Lauren Oiye said yes just before Chris Garth dropped the ring in the ocean.

Multiple photographers nearby captured the Sunday moment.

Luckily, he had a spare.

Garth said he knew it could go wrong, so he used a stand-in while they were out in the water. The real ring was on shore at Queen's Beach in Waikiki, where the two met years before.

Iconic Sky Bar candy being made again

MA SUDBURY — The Sky Bar, the multi-flavored chocolate bar divided into four sections, is back on the market after a yearlong hiatus.

The Boston Globe reported that production of the confection has resumed at a suburban gourmet shop less than a year after the owner bought rights to the brand in an online auction.

The Sky Bar made its debut in 1938 but was discontinued last year when the New England Confectionery Co., also known as Necco, went out of business.

Louise Mawhinney, owner of Duck Soup in Sudbury, bought the rights to the Sky Bar in January.

The candy bar, divided into caramel, vanilla, peanut and fudge sections, is available in the store and online for \$1.98.

From wire reports

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Brawl results in suspension for Garrett

Associated Press

CLEVELAND—The Browns were just seconds away from a season-changing win when Myles Garrett lost his composure in a moment of rage rarely seen on an NFL field.

Garrett tore off Pittsburgh quarterback Mason Rudolph's helmet, wildly swung it and hit the QB in the head, a shocking act that resulted in a lengthy suspension for Cleveland's star defensive end and perhaps cost the Browns any chance of making the playoffs.

Garrett's outburst came with 8 seconds left in Cleveland's 21-7 win over the rival Steelers on Thursday night, a game that will not be remembered for anything that happened in the first 59 minutes.

Garrett was suspended for at least the rest of the regular season and postseason on Friday, while Steelers center Maurkice Pouncey was suspended three games for punching and kicking Garrett. Browns defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi was also suspended for one game.

"I lost my cool and I regret it," Garrett said after the game.

"It's going to come back to hurt our team. The guys who jumped into the scrum, I appreciate my team having my back, but it never should have gotten to that point.

"It's on me."

The league said Garrett will have to meet with Commissioner Roger Goodell before his reinstatement is considered.

The Steelers and Browns were also each fined \$250,000.

Players from both sidelines spilled on the field during the melee, which began after Garrett wrestled Rudolph to the ground well after he completed a short pass on a meaningless play. Garrett, Pouncey and Browns defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi were ejected.

Rudolph got his hand on Garrett's helmet first as the players grappled on the ground, but Garrett escalated the brawl after he got back on his feet. He yanked the helmet off Rudolph and slammed it into the top of the quarterback's head.

Rudolph threw his arms in the air in disbelief after the impact, and Pouncey retaliated by punching and kicking Garrett.

"I thought it was pretty cowardly and bush league,"

Rudolph said. "I'm not going to back down from any bully. I felt like I had a bone to pick with him. I appreciate the line always having my back, but I was angry."

Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield called Garrett's actions "inexcusable" and Fox commentator Troy Aikman said they were "barbaric."

Mayfield said he didn't speak with Garrett, but he expects his teammate to be accountable.

"This is a physical, violent game and there's moments if you don't keep your cool, bad things can happen and he knows that. It's inexcusable and he knows that," Mayfield said. "There's no other way around it, he's going to own up to it and he's going to handle it and this locker room is going to have to come together because this is going to be a soap opera on the outside much like the media has portrayed us to be for the whole season."

The incident overshadowed a win that put Cleveland back in the playoff picture and breathed some life into a season that had been slipping away.

Rudolph, a second-year player who took over for the injured

Ben Roethlisberger in Week 2, has already missed time this season with a concussion after he was knocked unconscious from a helmet-to-helmet hit by Baltimore Ravens safety Earl Thomas.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin refused to discuss the disturbing end-game situation.

Several Pittsburgh players were eager to give their views on what happened.

"I don't know how he got to the point that it's OK to use a helmet as a weapon," said Steelers defensive tackle Cameron Heyward. "I know we play a sport that's violent, but it should never have gotten handled like that. That dumb stuff shouldn't be allowed."

"For someone to use a helmet as a weapon is uncalled for. I know you've got to ask me the question, but he's got to answer for that."

Before the ugly ending, Mayfield threw two touchdown passes and scored on a 1-yard plunge as Cleveland held on to defeat the banged-up Steelers for just the fourth time in 10 years and improved to 2-0 in the AFC North for the first time.

Military academy athletes can now go pro

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Mark Esper has opened the door for athletes at the nation's military academies to play professional sports after they graduate, and delay their active-duty service.

Esper signed a memo last Friday laying out the new guidelines, which says the athletes must get approval from the defense secretary, and it requires them to eventually fulfill their military obligation or repay the costs of their education.

The memo, obtained by The Associated Press, came at the insistence of President Donald Trump, who directed the Pentagon in June to come up with a way to allow athletes to play professional sports immediately upon graduation. Trump gave the Pentagon four months to develop the new policy.

He issued the order in June, saying that athletes graduating from the academies

and Reserve Officers' Training Corps should be able to defer their military service obligations due to the "short window of time" they have to "take advantage of their athletic talents during which playing professional sports is realistically possible."

In the new memo, Esper says that military service secretaries can nominate an athlete for a waiver after determining there "is a strong expectation that a Military Service Academy cadet or midshipman's future professional sports employment will provide the DoD with significant favorable media exposure likely to enhance national level recruiting or public affairs missions."

If approved by the defense secretary, the athlete must agree to return to the military and serve their enlistment time, which is usually five years. While in the pro sports job, the athlete's waiver would

be reviewed every year.

If the athletes can't pass required medical standards when it is time to rejoin the military, then they are "encouraged" to serve in a civilian post within the department for no less than five years, according to Esper's memo. If they choose not to do that they would be subject to repayment of their school expenses.

It wasn't clear Thursday what impact Esper's new policy will have on the fate of Noah Song, a pitcher from the U.S. Naval Academy. Song, 22, was the fourth-round draft pick this year of the Boston Red Sox, so he is not covered by the new memo. The right-hander was going to pitch for the minor league team in Lowell during the summer before reporting for duty to train as a flight officer.

Song is seeking a waiver but there has been no decision yet. The Navy declined to provide any other details.

College basketball roundup

No. 3 Spartans hold off No. 12 Pirates

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — No. 3 Michigan State and No. 12 Seton Hall put on a mid-November show worthy of March Madness.

It was showdown of two of college basketball's best teams and a showcase of two of the nation's marquee players.

Of course, the eventual hero was a freshman who had failed to score a point in his first two games.

That's college basketball, though.

Freshman Malik Hall hit a layup with 26 seconds to play and scored all 17 of his points in the second half as Michigan State overcame a late five-point deficit to beat Seton Hall 76-73 Thursday night.

"For a Nov. 14 college basket-

ball game, the atmosphere was great," Seton Hall coach Kevin Willard said. "It was two high-level teams, with high-level players going at it. It was a lot of fun."

Both Willard and Tom Izzo of Michigan State are going to like what they saw from their preseason All-Americans fighting adversity. Myles Powell of Seton Hall (2-1) had a high ankle sprain and Cassius Winston of Michigan State (2-1) played his second game following the tragic death of his brother, Zachary, last weekend.

Winston scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half for the Spartans (2-1). Powell scored 37 points in a game most felt he would miss.

No. 15 Florida 66, Towson 60: Freshman Scottie Lewis scored 15 points in his first

start, and the host Gators escaped with a victory over the Tigers.

Graduate transfer Kerry Blackshear Jr. had 13 points and 13 rebounds in his third game with his new team as Florida (2-1) bounced back from a dispiriting home loss to Florida State. Andrew Nembhard had 11 points and nine assists for the Gators.

The Gators were 18-point favorites but had to rely on free throws from Lewis and Nembhard in the final minutes to secure the win.

"I thought it was a high-level game," Towson coach Pat Skerry said. "Credit to Florida, we knew they were a terrific team. Extremely well-coached, they defend, they get good players, they were organized."

No. 18 Saint Mary's 81,

Long Beach State 63: At Moraga, Calif., Tommy Kuhse had a career-high 20 points and eight assists and the Gaels bounced back three days after losing their home opener with a win over the 49ers.

The blowout comes after coach Randy Bennett's team won their first two games by two points before losing 61-59 to Winthrop on Monday.

No. 19 Arizona 87, San Jose State 39: Zeke Nnaji scored 26 points, made all eight of his shots and grabbed 11 rebounds, helping the host Wildcats trounce the Spartans.

Arizona (3-0) dominated a third straight opponent to open the season, shutting down the Spartans (1-2) defensively from the opening tip.

Angels' Trout, Dodgers' Bellinger win MVP awards

Associated Press

NEW YORK — It had never been so difficult for Mike Trout to arrive at the ballpark, get his mind and body ready, and perform at the level baseball fans have come to expect.

And still, nobody did it better in the American League.

Trout overcame injury and tragedy to win his third AL MVP award Thursday night, getting 17 of 30 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Alex Bregman of the Houston Astros was second, and that duo combined for all the first- and second-place votes. Trout also won the award in 2014 and '16.

"This year was probably the toughest year," Trout said.

Dodgers outfielder Cody Bellinger made it a Southern California sweep, beating out the Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich for the NL prize. Bellinger got 19 of 30 first-place votes, Yelich got 10, and Washington's Anthony Rendon

got one while finishing third. Yelich won the award last year.

Trout had season-ending foot surgery in September while the Angels languished to a fourth-place finish. The outfielder played just 134 games but still set a career high with 45 homers. He batted .291, led the majors with a .438 on-base percentage and drove in 104 runs.

The 28-year-old shined even following the death of close friend and teammate Tyler Skaggs on July 1. Trout smashed a 454-foot homer wearing Skaggs' No. 45 in the team's first game back, when LA pitchers threw a combined no-hitter.

After often deferring to veterans as a young star, Trout put himself into a leadership role following Skaggs' death.

Trout is the 10th three-time MVP and joins an elite group: Barry Bonds, Yogi Berra, Roy Campanella, Joe DiMaggio, Jimmie Foxx, Mickey Mantle, Stan Musial, Albert Pujols, Alex Rodriguez and Mike

Schmidt. Bonds is the only player with more than three MVPs — he won seven. Only Musial was younger when he won his third.

Trout also has a record-tying four second-place finishes. He's been the winner or runner-up in seven of his eight full seasons.

Skaggs was found dead in his hotel room before the start of a series against the Texas Rangers. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office said the 27-year-old died after choking on his vomit with a toxic mix of alcohol and the painkillers fentanyl and oxycodone in his body. MLB is cooperating with a federal investigation after Eric Kay, a 24-year employee of the Angels' PR department, told the Drug Enforcement Agency he had provided opioids to Skaggs and used them with the pitcher for years, according to ESPN.

The 24-year-old Bellinger and his loose, left-handed swing launched 47 home runs with a

.305 average, 115 RBIs and a 1.035 OPS.

He was the best player on the NL's top team in the regular season, propelling Los Angeles to 106 wins. He's the 10th different Dodgers player to win MVP and first since Clayton Kershaw in 2014.

Bellinger teared up after learning he'd been chosen, saying it was the first time he had cried since the death of his first dog, Angel the golden retriever. He was especially emotional after hugging his father — former big leaguer Clay Bellinger.

"He was just there for me every single day," Cody Bellinger said.

It was clear by midseason that Bellinger and Yelich were the favorites for the NL prize. Yelich had better offensive numbers, including a league-leading .329 average and a major league-best 1.100 OPS, but his season was cut short in September when he broke his right kneecap on a foul ball.

NHL roundup

Kucherov, Lightning hammer Rangers

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Nikita Kucherov had a goal and three assists, Steven Stamkos scored his 399th career goal and added two assists, and the Tampa Bay Lightning routed the New York Rangers 9-3 on Thursday night.

Tampa Bay's nine goals tied a team record. Five scores came on the power play, which also matched the franchise mark.

Kucherov had a goal and a pair of assists as Tampa Bay scored four times in the opening seven minutes. Stamkos got his second goal in 10 games on the power play during a four-goal second that made it 8-1.

Alex Killorn scored two power-play goals and picked up an assist, and Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 20 shots to tie Ben Bishop for the most wins by a Tampa Bay goalie with 131.

The Lightning, who hadn't played since Saturday when they completed back-to-back wins over Buffalo in Stockholm, also got goals from Luke

Schenn, Ondrej Palat, Pat Maroon, Kevin Shattenkirk and Yannick Gourde. Victor Hedman had three assists and Gourde recorded two assists.

Jets 4, Panthers 3: Mark Scheifele scored late in the third period to lift visiting Winnipeg over Florida.

Adam Lowry, Nikolaj Ehlers and Josh Morrissey also scored for the Jets. Patrik Laine had three assists, including his 200th career point. Laurent Brossoit stopped 33 shots.

Hurricanes 5, Sabres 4 (OT): Dougie Hamilton scored in overtime and visiting Carolina overcame a late blown lead to beat Buffalo.

Hamilton capped a back-and-forth game that featured three goals in the final 6:25 of regulation. After Buffalo's Johan Larsson tied it with 41 seconds left in the third period, Hamilton scored 2:32 into the extra session on a slap shot from the right circle after Ryan Dzingel drove to the net and left the puck for Hamilton.

Wild 3, Coyotes 2: Jordan Greenway deflected in a goal with 7:49 remaining, and host Minnesota beat Arizona.

Zach Parise had a goal and an assist and Kevin Fiala scored for the fourth time in six games for Minnesota, which had just finished a four-game West Coast Swing. The Wild were tied for an NHL-low 13 points entering the day amid a road-heavy early schedule. They are 4-1-1 at home.

Oilers 6, Avalanche 2: Connor McDavid had three goals and three assists and Leon Draisaitl had five assists — career highs for points in a game for both players — as host Edmonton routed Colorado.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins had two goals and Zack Kassian also scored for the Oilers (13-6-2), who have won three of four.

Stars 4, Canucks 2: Tyler Seguin had a goal and an assist and visiting Dallas beat Vancouver for its sixth win in seven games.

Justin Dowling, Alexander

Radulov and Blake Comeau also scored for Dallas (10-8-2). Joe Pavelski and Miro Heiskanen each added two assists. The Stars, who beat the Flames 3-1 Wednesday night in Calgary, are 6-0-1 in their last seven games.

Sharks 5, Ducks 3: Brent Burns scored on the power play and Evander Kane had a short-handed goal in the third period, helping San Jose beat Anaheim for its fifth straight win.

Tomas Hertl scored twice for the Sharks, who added a road victory to four previous home wins.

Kings 3, Red Wings 2 (OT): Alex Iafallo scored 23 seconds into overtime and host Los Angeles beat Detroit.

Kings forward Adrian Kempe scored with 1:48 remaining in the third period to tie the game at 2-all, and Iafallo got a shot into an open net after Drew Doughty's pass caromed off the boards. The Kings won consecutive games for the second time this season.

NBA roundup

Holiday, Pelicans spoil season debut of Clippers' Paul

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Jrue Holiday scored 36 points and stole the ball from Paul George three times in the final minutes to spoil George's season debut and lead the New Orleans Pelicans to a 132-127 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday night.

George was playing for the first time since signing as a free agent with the Clippers because he'd been recovering from shoulder surgery last spring. He did not appear rusty, scoring 33 points in 24 minutes, only to be done in by late turnovers at the hands of Holiday, who finished with six steals, including one on Lou

Williams' attempted bounce pass in the final seconds to seal the victory.

Derrick Favors had 20 points and a career-best 20 rebounds in the first 20-20 game of his 10-year career. Frank Jackson added 23 points in a reserve role.

The Clippers played without Kawhi Leonard, who was being rested for the third time this season to ease stress on his sore knee after playing a night earlier in a loss at Houston. But the Pelicans were hardly sympathetic with starters Brandon Ingram (right knee) and Lonzo Ball (groin) sidelined, as well.

J.J. Reddick scored 19 and hit two free throws with 11.4

seconds left to help wrap up just New Orleans' third victory in 11 games this season.

Williams scored 31 points and Rodney McGruder 20 for the Clippers, who've dropped two straight.

Heat 108, Cavaliers 97: Rookie Kendrick Nunn scored 23 points, Bam Adebayo had 16 points and 15 rebounds, and visiting Miami beat Cleveland.

Nicks 106, Mavericks 103: Marcus Morris made a tiebreaking three-pointer with 13.2 seconds remaining to delight a Madison Square Garden crowd that booed Kristaps Porzingis all night, and New York beat Dallas.

Bucks 124, Bulls 115: Gi-

annis Antetokounmpo had 38 points and 15 rebounds, Eric Bledsoe added a season-high 31 points and eight assists and host Milwaukee withstood another historic effort by Chicago rookie Coby White.

Suns 128, Hawks 112: Kelly Oubre Jr. scored a season-high 30 points, Devin Booker added 27 and host Phoenix beat Atlanta.

Phoenix (7-4) is off to its best start through 11 games since 2009, when it started 9-2.

Nuggets 101, Nets 93: Nikola Jokic had 18 points and 10 rebounds, Mason Plumlee provided a boost off the bench as host Denver wore down Brooklyn.