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JOHN GIBBINS U-T

Construction is under way on a stretch of secondary border fencing (left) near the site of the original border wall prototypes (right), which Customs and Border Protection say will be taken down.

BORDER WALL PROTOTYPES HEADED FOR DEMOLITION

Work under way on nearby secondary barrier; more active-duty troops headed to area

BY STAFF AND U-T NEWS SERVICES

President Donald Trump's border wall prototypes will be demolished, according to a Customs and Border Protection spokesman, to make way for newly begun construction of a secondary barrier.

Construction crews have already replaced most of one layer of fencing along 14 miles of the San Diego-Tijuana border and started work on the secondary fence this week.

The stretch of old secondary barrier being replaced is a little over a mile shorter than the primary fence. The replacement secondary barrier will run the full length of the primary one.

The eight prototypes, which Trump visited about a year ago, stand

DEMOCRATS DISCUSS SECURITY DURING PORT OF ENTRY TOUR

■ A10 • Four local Democrats and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer visit San Ysidro facility.

between the end of the old secondary fence and where construction crews have put up the first panels of 30-foot tall bollards — concrete-filled steel posts placed close together — where the additional mile or so of barrier will go.

The agency doesn't yet know when the prototypes will come down.

"That's always been the plan," the CBP spokesman said. "They just don't serve a purpose anymore."

The bits of wall, four made of con-

crete and four of other materials, cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000 each.

They taught the agency a lot through the tests conducted, the CBP spokesman said.

The replacement barrier construction project is expected to last until early 2020.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is preparing to increase the number of active-duty troops along the border to about 6,000 by the start of next month, a return to the peak force size deployed shortly after the mission began last fall, a senior U.S. defense official said Friday.

About 1,000 additional personnel will join the roughly 5,000 already operating on the border, amid orders to

SEE BORDER • A10

SHOWDOWN ON AID DELIVERY TURNS DEADLY IN VENEZUELA

Government forces fire on protesters after road closure

BY NICHOLAS CASEY, ANATOLY KURMANAEV & ERNESTO LONDOÑO

CÚCUTA, Colombia

The political showdown over the delivery of aid to Venezuela turned deadly Friday when its security forces fired on protesters near the country's Brazilian border, killing two and wounding a dozen in a confrontation that could signal a more violent and destabilizing struggle over who can claim to be the country's legitimate leader.

A critical moment looms today, when Venezuela's opposition, led by Juan Guaidó,

vows to deliver tons of donated humanitarian aid from abroad, against the orders of President Nicolás Maduro.

The protesters killed Friday, members of the Pemón indigenous group, opposed Maduro's decision, saying the population needs the food and medication. They were shot after closing a road to prevent security forces from passing. Outraged fellow protesters were reported to have seized a Venezuelan national guard commander and his deputies in retaliation.

The bloodshed came as the presidents of Chile, Colombia and Paraguay flew to the Colombian border town of Cúcuta in a display of anti-Maduro resolve — and were joined by Guaidó, who defied

SEE VENEZUELA • A10

USE OF DNA SCIENCE SPARKS ETHICAL DEBATE

Firm's technology being used in ethnic tracking in China

BY BRITTANY MEILING, LORI WEISBERG & BRADLEY J. FIKES

New reports that China is using DNA science developed in San Diego County for widespread ethnic surveillance raise ethical questions about who is responsible for how that technology is used.

The New York Times reported Thursday that Chi-

nese authorities are building a DNA database of the country's Uighur minority, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group blamed for a series of terrorist attacks in northwestern China.

Since 2016, there have been regular reports of authorities taking blood samples in the Xinjiang region, where ethnic tensions have been rising. The situation has evolved into a Muslim crackdown in China, with nearly one million Uighurs and other minorities reportedly held in "re-education" camps bent on making

SEE DNA • A6

'FINALLY A PADRE,' MACHADO JOINS HIS TEAM IN ARIZONA

All-Star infielder says meeting with GM Preller was key

BY KEVIN ACEE

PEORIA, Ariz.

Manny Machado pulled the cap with the interlocking "SD" over his head and slowly buttoned the jersey with "Padres" on the front and his name and No. 13 on the back.

"Oh man," he sighed as he sat down. "It's finally over."

Then loud and clear, into the microphone placed in

front of him on the dais, he expressed a sentiment to which the entirety of a fan base could relate.

"Finally a Padre," he said. A long wait with a big payoff and more to come was the theme on this day, which could most aptly be described using another grandiose word.

"This is an historic day for the Padres franchise," general manager A.J. Preller said.

The Padres on Friday introduced their latest and what they hope will be their greatest star.

SEE MACHADO • A8



K.C. ALFRED U-T

The Padres introduce Manny Machado at a news conference in Peoria, Ariz., on Friday. Later he joined his teammates for batting practice and some catch.

STRAPPED FOR CASH, SANDAG PUSHES ON

Board unanimously backs new plan for local transportation

BY JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH

The San Diego region is headed for a sharp U-turn when it comes to its vision for transportation.

The San Diego Association of Government's 21-member board of elected officials from around the county voted unanimously on Friday to push forward with a bold and somewhat chancy proposal — despite the fact the agency is facing a multibillion-dollar revenue shortfall.

SANDAG's new executive director, Hasan Ikhrata, who was hired away from a similar agency in Los Angeles, promised the payoff will be worth the risk, with a draft blueprint delivered to officials by the end of the year.

"I will guarantee you today that we're going to put in

SEE SANDAG • A6

ARTHUR SMITH • 1923-2019

WWII VET'S HONOR FLIGHT TRIP INSPIRED STARTUP OF LOCAL CHAPTER

BY JOHN WILKENS

Arthur Smith thought it might be a scam. Were people really giving World War II vets free "thank you" trips to Washington D.C.?

They were. Smith took the trip in 2010 with his son, Dave, and they were so moved by the experience the younger Smith came

back to San Diego and started an Honor Flight chapter here that's ferried more than 1,300 vets to the nation's capital in the past eight years.

"Arthur Smith was the reason we exist today," said Julie Brightwell, chair of Honor Flight San Diego.

Smith died Sunday at Las Villas Del Norte senior



living facility in Escondido. He was 95. Like a lot of World War II vets, Smith didn't talk much about his combat experience after he came home, but that doesn't mean he didn't remember.

He fought with the Marines on Guam and was forever haunted by what happened one night while he was on guard duty.

A Japanese soldier sneaking through the bushes tried to slit his throat. Smith fought back and killed him. In the soldier's bag, they found 11 grenades. "You saved the

camp," the commander told Smith, and as a reward gave him the soldier's samurai sword.

Smith's son grew up seeing that sword in the family home, but he didn't know all that much about his father's service until they went on the Honor Flight together in 2010.

SEE SMITH • A7



HOME + GARDEN

FIT FOR LIVING

Three local athletes show how they use their surroundings to support their fitness needs. E1

U-T INDEX

Comics	C5	Editorial	B6	Movies	E4	Scores	D6
Crossword	F8	Horoscope	F8	Obituaries	B5	Television	E3
Dear Abby	F8	Letters	B6	Stocks	C3	Weather	A12



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