

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Taliban attack Afghan provincial capital

*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban launched a multipronged attack in attempts to overrun a provincial capital in Afghanistan on Friday, hiding inside people's homes before slipping into city streets overnight and setting off daylong clashes with U.S.-backed Afghan forces trying to push them back.

At least 14 Afghan policemen were killed and 20 were wounded in the assault on Ghazni, the capital of a province with the same name, provincial police chief Farid Ahmad Mashal told The Associated Press.

The attack began about 2 a.m. with intense gunbattles raging and fires burning in several shops in the city's residential areas, Mashal said. Fighting continued throughout the day and by midafternoon, the Taliban had set the local TV building on fire.

Taliban fighters also destroyed the telecommunications tower, located just outside the city, cutting all cellphone and land-line access to Ghazni, according to Ali Akbar Kasemi, a lawmaker from the city.

Afghan troops on the ground called in airstrikes to try to quash the offensive.

As evening approached, fighting focused mainly in three directions into the city, said Nasrat Rahimi, deputy spokesman for the Interior Ministry. The Taliban were hiding in people's homes, making it difficult for security forces to flush them out.

The city was on lockdown as residents reported sporadic bursts of gunfire. Taliban fighters had hunkered down in elevated positions inside Ghazni from where they

were shooting, some residents said earlier, speaking on condition of anonymity over fear for their safety.

People were staying indoors and all shops in the city remained closed, they said. The highway from Kabul to Afghanistan's southern provinces also was closed, as it runs through Ghazni.

An Afghan military helicopter crash landed in the city during the daytime fighting, and four Afghan soldiers aboard were injured, one critically, said Mohammad Radmanish, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense.

The Taliban claimed they had downed the "enemy" helicopter in Ghazni, but Radmanish said it was not immediately clear whether the helicopter had been hit or had crash landed due to other reasons.

Lt. Col. Martin O'Donnell, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said American forces and U.S. attack helicopters flew in overnight to assist Afghan troops in Ghazni.

"U.S. forces responded with close-air support and conducted one drone strike," he said.

Later, as fighting continued throughout the day, O'Donnell said U.S. forces returned American attack helicopters and fighter jets to the area after they had been pulled out.

"It is a show of presence," he said.

The brazen assault by the Taliban, who have been gaining more ground after their annual spring offensive and who have shrugged off the government's latest offers of a cease-fire and negotiations, underscore

the difficulties Afghan forces face in battling the relentless insurgency on their own in efforts to end the nearly 17-year war.

The blitz assault on Ghazni forced Afghan forces to conduct house-to-house searches, looking for Taliban fighters, which was slowing the operation down. An investigation also was underway to determine how the insurgents had managed to infiltrate so deep into the city, barely 75 miles south of the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Baz Mohammad Hemat, the administrator of the Ghazni city hospital, said two wounded civilians were also brought into the hospital. He was worried more wounded could be out there as the city was shut down and ambulances were not being sent out.

Mashal, the police chief, said there were more than 100 other casualties but he could not give a breakdown of the dead and wounded. Most of the casualties were Taliban, he said, and many of their bodies remained on the streets.

In one location, bodies of 39 Taliban fighters were recovered from under a bridge on the southern edge of the city, he said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed that parts of Ghazni had been seized and that Taliban fighters had killed scores of people. He also told the AP over the phone that Taliban anti-aircraft fire downed the Afghan army helicopter.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a Taliban attack Thursday night in western Herat province left six policemen dead in the district of Obe, said the governor's spokesman there, Gelani Farhad.

## Estonia halts NATO air drills after missile mishap

*Associated Press*

HELSINKI—Estonia's defense minister has ordered a halt to NATO air exercises in Estonia pending an investigation after a missile was fired accidentally over the Baltic country's airspace by a Spanish fighter jet on a military exercise this week.

The air-to-air missile that was launched erroneously Tuesday over southern Estonia has not been found, but no people were reported killed or injured by the misfiring,

Defense Minister Juri Luik said Thursday.

"The Spanish defense minister has apologized and expressed deep regret," Luik said at a news conference in the Estonian capital of Tallinn, adding that the commander of the Spanish Armed Forces apologized as well.

Estonian Prime Minister Juri Ratas spoke with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday, expressing Estonia's concern over the "serious incident."

The AMRAAM-type missile has a range of up to 62 miles. It could have crashed into a remote nature reserve in the eastern Jõgeva region, not far from Estonia's border with Russia, or could have triggered its built-in self-destruct mode and exploded in midair, Luik said.

The Eurofighter Typhoon jet belonging to the Spanish Air Force was part of NATO's Baltic air-policing mission based in Lithuania and was carrying air-to-air missiles containing up to 22 pounds of explosives.

## USS Essex Marine thought to be overboard near the Philippines

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Marine embarked aboard the USS Essex is believed to have gone overboard Friday morning in waters near the Philippines, according to a statement by the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Navy, Marine Corps and Philippine ships and aircraft were searching for the servicemember, who was reported overboard from the amphibious-assault ship at 9:40 a.m. At the time, the Essex was “conducting routine operations in the Sulu Sea,” according to the statement.

Search-and-rescue efforts began immediately after the incident was reported, according to the statement. Officials did not release the Marine’s name, but said his or her family has been notified.

“It is an all-hands effort to find our missing Marine,” said Navy Capt. Gerald Olin, commander of Amphibious Squadron One and the on-scene commander of the search-and-rescue efforts. “All of our sailors, Marines and available assets aboard the USS Essex have been and will continue to be involved in this incredibly important search-and-rescue operation.”

Crewmembers conducted several searches inside the vessel, while aircraft embarked on the Essex have been used “round-the-clock” to search the Sulu Sea and Surigao Strait from above, the statement said.

The Navy also sent P-8 Poseidon surveillance aircraft to expand the search area with the help of Philippine Coast Guard vessels. Altogether, the search-and-rescue efforts stretch about 3,000 nautical miles, according to the statement.

Col. Chandler Nelms, commander of the 13th MEU, said servicemembers “remain committed to searching for and finding our Marine.”

## Kid Ink brings hip-hop to troops in Bahrain desert

BY JASON BEHNKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

MANAMA, Bahrain — Kid Ink is on a small stage in Bahrain on a hot, humid Thursday evening. The crowd, comprising a couple hundred servicemembers and their families, sits lethargically, sweating in the nearly 100-degree desert heat as he takes the stage.

By his third song, the audience is on its feet, dancing, the oppressive heat mostly forgotten.

Bahrain was Kid Ink’s sixth and final show of his Armed Forces Entertainment tour of Southwest Asia. After spending time with the troops throughout the region, he brought away a new appreciation for what servicemembers do.

“Especially a bunch of young kids that do these crazy jobs that I probably would have never been able to do at 21 or had the focus to do at 21,” Kid Ink said in an interview with American Forces Radio Bahrain. “It was already hard enough for me to keep a job at Gap at 21.”

Although he wasn’t “fixing engines or blowing up mines” when he was younger, at 15 he was already producing beats with his friends. Now, at 32, he’s sold more than 12 million singles, has recorded songs with superstars

like Usher and Chris Brown, and has toured the world with some of the biggest names in hip-hop.

Kid Ink knows how music can be an escape from everyday life. He says he came on this tour because he wanted to give the people dealing with the stresses of missing family and working long days in the desert heat a short escape from the realities of being deployed.

“It’s definitely a great experience for them, it’s a great experience for me, I think we’ll all live with it forever, and you know it’s just dope. I couldn’t deny this opportunity at all,” he said.

If it wasn’t for his mom forcing him to learn piano and sing in the church choir, he may never have gotten the chance to touch millions of people with his music, he said. The piano lessons taught him the patience to stick with music and pursue it as a career.

“It just all was God’s plan, you know, I feel like,” he said. “I think it was probably a 10-year grind before I really felt like I had a job in music and could make it a career.”

His work ethic was on full display as he moved about the stage for nearly an hour. By the end of the show, both he and the audience were drenched in sweat. It took a few songs to get the fans moving, but just like with his career, he put in the work and pulled it off.

## Kan. governor’s demand pushes rival out of recount

*Associated Press*

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach said Thursday that he will remove himself from the further counting of votes while his Republican primary battle with Gov. Jeff Colyer hangs in the balance, describing it as a “symbolic” step in response to a public demand from Colyer.

The governor publicly accused Kobach, the state’s top elections official, of giving county election officials information about the handling of yet-uncounted ballots “inconsistent with Kansas law.” He demanded in a letter to Kobach that Kobach stop advising county officials and have the state’s attorney general do it instead.

The close contest between the embattled

governor and a conservative lightning rod took another acrimonious turn as Kobach’s already-tiny lead shrank from 191 votes to just 121 out of 311,000 ballots cast, after two counties reported discrepancies between their tallies and what Kobach’s office reported on its website.

Kobach needled Colyer in a Fox Business Network appearance Thursday evening, saying it would be “pointless” to remove himself from the process because the state’s 105 counties handle the counting of ballots, but he might do so just to make Colyer “feel good.”

But a little more than an hour later, questioned on CNN, Kobach said: “I said, ‘Of course, if he wants me to, I would,’ and he has said, ‘OK, I do want you to,’ so I will.”

The counting is not complete because state law says mail-in ballots that are post-marked Tuesday can be accepted by the counties as late as Friday. And county officials still must review perhaps several thousand provisional ballots, given to voters at the polls when their eligibility is in question. They have until Aug. 20 to finish.

In the letter, Colyer questioned whether Kobach was advising counties not to count some mail-in ballots, including those with missing or unreadable postmarks, even if they arrived by Friday. He also said he heard reports that some unaffiliated voters — who by law can declare affiliation at the polls to vote in primaries — were given provisional ballots instead of the regular ballots they were due.

# Lifestyle spurs exodus of women from Air Force

*San Antonio Express-News*

SAN ANTONIO — Maj. Bri Peterson and her husband, Grant, awaken before dawn on work days to care for their young son before they head off in different directions from their home in New Braunfels, Texas.

Bri, a T-1 instructor pilot, commutes to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, where she is the 12th Training Squadron's staff director.

Grant drives to a camera exchange store in San Antonio. Bri brings their toddler, 18-month-old Gavin, to an on-base day care center.

Bri's career is on the rise, while Grant's is in a holding pattern.

When Bri gets orders to move to a new base, Grant loses his job. He once was cut loose from a store in Mississippi because he took three weeks off for their honeymoon. Now she sees him about four hours per day during the week — and her son less than that.

They get one day per week together — Sunday.

Their routine reflects the type of stressful lifestyle that is causing an exodus of women from the Air Force, which is trying a range of solutions to reduce the attrition. A Rand Corp. study found that women leave the service earlier than men because of conflicts that tear at their families and personal lives.

The study found a significant drop-off in the number of women serving as the years pass. Twenty percent of second lieutenants are women, but many leave the service before they can advance up the ladder, reducing their ranks to only about 14 percent of the lieutenant colonels and colonels. About half of that number will make one-star general, meaning that nine in every 10 general officers will be men.

Furthermore, half of all male officers serving in nonflying jobs remain in the Air Force through 10 years, while 37 percent of women do. For flying-rated jobs, 63 percent of male-rated officers remain in the Air Force after 13 years, while 39 percent of women in that field are still in uniform.

Veteran pilots, who cannot leave the service until completing a decadelong service commitment, are exiting in droves, leaving the Air Force with a shortage of 2,000 pilots. Many head for lucrative jobs as commercial airline pilots.

## Making changes

Research examining gender differences in retention has put a spotlight on issues important to women — marital and family status, work-family balance and frequency of deployments, and permanent change of station, called PCS, that force civilian spouses to scramble for a new job.

Frequently, dual-military couples end up working at different bases hundreds or thousands of miles apart.

Changes have been made. The Air Force extended maternity leave from six paid weeks to 12 two years ago as part of a sweeping Pentagon directive. Under the new policy, it also deferred fitness tests and deployments for a year after giving birth. Those tests had been required six months after delivery.

Rand made a host of recommendations, one of which would reduce the frequency of permanent changes of station. Others call for considering a couple's parental status in deployment decisions, expanding childcare and providing greater career flexibility. One idea would allow airmen to work in technical specialties rather than move up the ranks into managerial jobs.

Retired Maj. Gen. Susan Pamerleau, a former commander of the Air Force Personnel Center on Randolph and former Bexar County sheriff, cautioned that any deviation from the way people progress in the military's "up-or-out" career track, including allowing some to work exclusively in technical jobs, could cost the service good leaders.

"There's no way to just come to a halt and say, 'OK, I'm not going any farther but now I can stay for as long as I want,'" said Pamerleau, the fourth woman in the active-duty Air Force to become a two-star general.

"There are two things it can do," she continued. "It can stagnate the opportunity for others to move up. And the second part is it has the potential to limit the numbers of ways to be considered for senior leadership positions."

Gen. David Goldfein, the Air Force chief of staff, said efforts are underway "to look at outdated policies that drive women away from serving and eroding readiness," such as reducing strict pregnancy limitations for flying and offering career intermission programs to keep experienced airmen. The Air Force also is studying uniforms and equipment to ensure they're appropriately designed for all airmen.

Women have long had to use equipment designed for men.

"To me, this is a joint warfighting imperative," Goldfein said. "We must retain our most talented officers and NCOs so we have the diverse leadership required to find creative solutions to complex challenges."

One of the latest innovations: a tan- or sand-colored breastfeeding T-shirt women can use with their utility uniforms.

## Recurring challenges

Like many women in the Air Force, Bri Peterson, 35, grapples with problems that

seem to defy solution — the uprooting of her family every few years for a new assignment, the ordeal of finding on-base child care, resolving occasional conflicts between work and family, and watching her husband launch yet another job search.

"It's a struggle we're going to face every time I get orders, that he's going to have to leave whatever job he's in and find a new job," she said.

Day care is another headache. Before moving to Randolph, the couple enrolled Gavin in one of the base Child Development Centers. Almost a year passed before they got an offer in May.

"Fortunately, my mom is retired, so she was able to come down and take care of our son for us," Peterson said.

A private breastfeeding place at work also would be helpful, which was noted in the study.

Finally, the biggest challenge is whenever Grant loses his job. It happens every time they move and will be a recurring feature of their lives as long as Bri is in the service. They could get a new assignment as early as next year, forcing him to quit the camera exchange store and start over.

"He's very supportive of my career, and he knows it's something that has to happen until I separate from the military," said Bri, who has more than 2,600 flying hours in the C-17 cargo plane, the T-1 training jet and other aircraft. "He's got the experience in order to be the next-level manager in running multiple stores, but because we move around so much, that's not a position he's going to get hired to do until we stop moving."

Peterson and two fellow pilots in her wing, Maj. Lindsay Andrew and Lt. Col. Allison Patak, said they plan to stay in the service until they retire, despite the challenges.

They said they want Air Force careers, not jobs in the civilian world. The inflection point for pilots, who have a 10-year service commitment, comes after 12 or 13 years in the ranks.

"That particular time frame, in which the women leave at about double the rate of men, there's a lot of things that happen," said Andrew, 36, of Marion. "For pilots, it is the first time that we are allowed out of our pilot commitment, so the 10-to 12-year mark is when a lot of women leave."

"The Reserves offer a lot of opportunity and a lot more flexibility than the active-duty does; so a lot of it is outside opportunity. And then on top of that is the military lifestyle is not very conducive to raising a family, and it is the prime childbearing, child-rearing years as well; so there are a lot of outside influences, and it just happens to all be at that same time frame."

# Winds expected as Calif. battles blazes

Associated Press

LAKE ELSINORE, Calif. — More than a thousand firefighters battled to keep a raging Southern California forest fire from reaching foothill neighborhoods Friday before the expected return of blustery winds that drove the flames to new ferocity a day earlier.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency late Thursday for Orange and Riverside counties as the fire carved its way along ridges in the Cleveland National Forest.

Some hillsides were allowed to burn under the watchful eyes of firefighters — to reduce fuel and make it harder for flames to jump roadways into communities when gusts pick up.

The arson blaze south of Los Angeles gained renewed strength Thursday afternoon, coming within yards of homes. Aircraft turned hillsides red with retardant as homeowners sprayed their houses with water from garden hoses.

Hundreds more firefighters joined the effort, bringing the total to 1,200. The fire has blackened 16 square miles of timber and brush and is only 5 percent contained. More than 20,000 people have been evacuated.

Brown's proclamation said thousands of homes were threatened by the fire in the foothills above Lake Elsinore and nearby communities and ordered state agencies to help local governments.

A resident of Holy Jim Canyon in the forest was scheduled for a court hearing Friday on charges that he deliberately set the fire.

Forrest Clark, 51, is charged with arson and other crimes and could face life in prison if convicted. It wasn't immediately known if he had a lawyer.

Michael Milligan, chief of the Holy Jim Volunteer Fire Department, has told The Orange County Register that Clark had a decadelong feud with neighbors and sent him threatening emails last week, includ-

ing one that said, "this place will burn." Ironically, his cabin was the only one in the canyon to survive the flames, the newspaper reported.

As flames raged closer to foothill homes on Thursday, some residents ignoring evacuation orders stood in driveways or on top of roofs and used garden hoses to wet down their property as smoke billowed around them.

Firefighters fought a desperate battle as huge flames came within yards of some homes, feeding on dense, dry chaparral and propelled by 20-mph gusts. They want to encircle the fire before it can devour neighborhoods and take lives.

"Our main focus this afternoon was getting everyone out safely," said Thanh Nguyen, a spokesman for the crews battling the Holy Fire.

Wind speeds and temperatures dropped as night fell but gusty winds were possible again Friday afternoon, the National Weather Service warned.

## Judge halts deportation, threatens Sessions with contempt

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Thursday halted a deportation in progress and threatened to hold Attorney General Jeff Sessions in contempt if the mother and daughter weren't returned to the U.S.

U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan of Washington learned in court that the two plaintiffs in a lawsuit before him were being removed from the U.S. and confirmed later that they were on a plane headed to Central America. He said any delay in bringing them back would be intolerable.

If they fail to comply, the judge said, Sessions, Homeland Security Secretary

Kirstjen Nielsen and other senior Homeland Security officials would have to convince him not to hold them in contempt of court.

The Department of Homeland Security was bringing the pair back to the U.S. on Thursday after the plane landed in El Salvador. The mother and daughter did not disembark in the Central American country.

"This is pretty outrageous," Sullivan said in court, according to The Washington Post. "That someone seeking justice in U.S. court is spirited away while her attorneys are arguing for justice for her?"

"I'm not happy about this at all," the judge said, according to the Post. "This is

not acceptable."

The woman — identified in court as Carmen — is a plaintiff in a lawsuit filed this week against the administration by the American Civil Liberties Union over efforts to prevent immigrants from seeking asylum because of domestic and gang violence in their home countries. The lawsuit asks the judge to invalidate Sessions' June 11 decision to restrict the kinds of cases that qualify for asylum.

The judge imposed a halt Thursday on deporting Carmen, her daughter and six other plaintiffs. The Justice Department declined to comment on the judge's threat of contempt.

## DC prepares for white-supremacist rally, counterprotest

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — District leaders are preparing for what could be a contentious and trying day Sunday when the organizer of last year's deadly white-supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., holds a gathering with up to 400 supporters in Lafayette Square across from the White House.

As many as 1,500 counterprotesters are expected at Lafayette Square and more at two nearby parks, setting up a possible volatile showdown that District and federal law enforcement officials say they are pre-

pared to confront.

Unlike in Charlottesville, where police allowed the opposing factions to clash in what turned into a bloody melee, Washington, D.C., Police Chief Peter Newsham said Thursday that the goal "will be to keep the two groups separate. ... When they are in the same area at the same time, it leads to violent confrontations. Our goal is to prevent that from happening."

Though speeches at the rally aren't scheduled to begin until 5:30 p.m., some counterprotesters plan to start hours ear-

lier. Police warn that carrying firearms — even if licensed in the District — is prohibited within 1,000 feet of a First Amendment activity. The law allows officials to make that restriction to protect large gatherings.

Authorities want to avoid a repeat of Aug. 12, 2017, when violent clashes broke out in Charlottesville on a day that ended with the death of counterdemonstrator Heather Heyer. She was killed when a man who police say identified himself as a Nazi drove a car into a crowd.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man bites suspect's nose in self-defense

**AK** ANCHORAGE — An Alaska man used his teeth to defend himself and his property.

Anchorage police said the man bit off part of the nose of a suspect who attempted to steal the man's bicycle.

Police just after 5 a.m. Wednesday received a report of an assault. A man and his wife were sleeping in their motor home when they heard a sound on the roof. The man went outside and confronted a 38-year-old suspect taking a bike from a rack on the motor home.

The suspect attacked, stabbing the motor home owner with a sharp, pointed instrument and biting him on the arm. The motor home owner bit back. Police said he removed "a large chunk" of the suspect's nose. Both men were treated at a hospital. Police have a warrant for the suspect's arrest.

### Twin sisters advance in primary elections

**MI** KENTWOOD — Twin sisters from different political parties are a step closer to public office in western Michigan.

Monica Sparks, a Democrat, and her Republican sister, Jessica Ann Tyson, won their parties' nominations Tuesday during the Michigan primary election. They now will advance to the November election for seats on the Kent County Board of Commissioners. It's possible that Sparks and Tyson could serve together because they're running in different districts in the Grand Rapids area.

Sparks said she decided to run for office when her sister declared her candidacy. They said they were adopted into a family that taught them to pay attention to public affairs.

### College reprinting diplomas over typo

**CO** GRAND JUNCTION — A Colorado university is offering to reprint up to 9,200 diplomas after the departing editor of the school newspaper found a big typo.

Alec Williams was checking to make sure his name was spelled correctly on his Colorado Mesa University diploma when he noticed it said "Coard of Trustees" instead of "Board of Trustees" in Old English font.

Williams told The Daily Sentinel he laughed, but then got frustrated because he had \$30,000 in student loans and a diploma with a typo.

CMU President Tim Foster says the university is sending corrected diplomas to 2018 graduates and will offer them to graduates as far back as 2012.

They cost \$5 each, so the university could spend nearly \$46,000.

Foster said CMU designs its diplomas, "so this mistake is all ours."

### Waders find barrel with bone inside

**MD** WEST OCEAN CITY — Officials say a couple wading in the water off a Maryland beach bumped into a wooden barrel containing a bone and burned personal effects.

The Worcester County Sheriff tweeted Tuesday that the couple were wading in the water off Homer Gudelsky Park in West Ocean City when they stumbled across what they thought was a suitcase.

The sheriff's office tweeted Thursday that the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined it was an animal bone that was recovered from the barrel, not human remains.

News outlets report the bar-

rel was deteriorating so quickly, the sheriff's office decided to dig out the contents instead of removing the barrel from the water.

### Police: Officer uses stun gun on suspect, 11

**OH** CINCINNATI — A Cincinnati police officer shocked an 11-year-old girl who police say was stealing from a supermarket.

Police said the incident happened about 9:30 p.m. Monday at a Kroger in Cincinnati. Authorities said the officer suspected the girl was using a backpack to shoplift when he approached her. Police said the girl resisted and fled before she was shocked with a stun gun.

The girl was taken to Cincinnati Children's Hospital and was released to a guardian.

Police have charged the girl with theft and obstruction of justice.

Cincinnati Police Chief Eliot Isaac has opened an investigation. According to the department's policy, Tasers can be used on people who are at least 7.

### Teen recovering after being pushed off bridge

**WA** LONGVIEW — A high school student is recovering after being pushed off a bridge at Moulton Falls Regional Park in southern Washington.

Jordan Holgerson's mother, Genelle, told the Daily News that the 16-year-old suffered five cracked ribs and internal injuries after falling 60 feet from the bridge Tuesday.

She also hurt her esophagus and trachea and got air trapped in the lining of her lungs.

The mother said they feel lucky that the Kalama student will not have permanent injuries.

A video of the incident shows the teen standing on an open side of the railing in a swimsuit. Bystanders were waiting for her to jump and when she hesitated, a woman is seen in the video pushing the teen off.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office is investigating.

### Rabid groundhog attacks dog near home

**ME** BUCKSPORT — Police in Maine say a groundhog that attacked a dog has tested positive for rabies.

The Bangor Daily News reports the groundhog charged at a dog near its owner's home in Bucksport last week. Maine Centers for Disease Control biologist Eris Kilham said the animal's carcass tested positive for rabies a day later.

The dog received a booster shot and is currently in a 45-day quarantine. Bucksport veterinarian Shawna McArdle is confident the dog will be OK.

### Police: Man brought son, 2, on burglary

**VA** NEWPORT NEWS — Police say a man in Virginia brought along an unlikely companion as he committed a string of late-night crimes: his 2-year-old son.

WAVY-TV reported Monday that the child was not injured. But Lundy Riley, 29, has been arrested on charges that include robbery, burglary and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Police in Newport News said Riley tried to break into an auto repair shop about 3 a.m. Sunday. Riley then went to a 7-Eleven across the street and is accused of trying to rob the clerk of her car keys.

Police said Lundy then assaulted a man in an unsuccessful attempt to get his car keys.

From wire reports

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Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# NFL players continue anthem protests

Associated Press

Player demonstrations took place during the national anthem at several early NFL preseason games Thursday night.

In Philadelphia, Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins and cornerback De’Vante Bausby raised their fists during the anthem, and defensive end Chris Long placed his arm around Jenkins’ shoulder. Jenkins had stopped his demonstration last December.

Defensive end Michael Bennett walked out of the tunnel during the anthem and walked toward the bench while it played. It appeared all the Steelers stood.

“Everybody is waiting for what the league is going to do,” Jenkins said. “We won’t let it stop what we stand for. I was very encouraged last year with the direction and that obviously took a different turn.

“I think it’s important to utilize the platform as we can because for whatever reason, we have framed this demon-

stration in a negative light, and often players have to defend why we feel the need to fight for everyday Americans, and in actuality we’re doing the right thing.”

At Miami, Dolphins receivers Kenny Stills and Albert Wilson and defensive end Robert Quinn protested during the anthem. Stills and Wilson knelt behind teammates lined up standing along the sideline. Quinn stood and raised his right fist. There were no apparent protests by the Buccaneers.

“As a black man in this world, I’ve got an obligation to raise awareness,” Quinn said. “If no one wants to live in unity, that’s why we’re in the situation we’re in.”

Stills knelt during the anthem during the 2016-17 seasons and has been vocal discussing social injustice issues that inspired the protest movement by NFL players.

Former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, a leader of the movement, tweeted support

for Stills and Wilson.

“My brother @kstill continued his protest of systemic oppression tonight by taking a knee,” the tweet said. “Albert Wilson joined him in protest. Stay strong brothers!”

And in Seattle, three Seahawks players ran into the team’s locker room prior to the playing of “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Defensive linemen Branden Jackson and Quinton Jefferson, and offensive lineman Duane Brown left the field following team introductions and before the start of the anthem. They returned to the sideline immediately after it concluded. All three were among a group of Seattle players that sat during the anthem last season.

Brown and Jefferson said they intend to continue the action all season. Seattle coach Pete Carroll said the team discussed the topic and decided to support individual decisions. Brown said he didn’t believe there had been much progress made from the demonstrations

of last season.

“Everyone was clear on my decision and understands and supports it,” Brown said. “We all have different realities in this country and they understand my perspective. We’re all on good terms.”

In Jacksonville, four Jaguars remained in the locker room during the national anthem, and team officials said it would be up to the players to explain why they weren’t on the field. Cornerback Jalen Ramsey, linebacker Telvin Smith, and running backs Leonard Fournette and T.J. Yeldon joined teammates on the sideline after the anthem.

“As a man, I got certain beliefs,” said Smith, who wore “Salute the Service” cleats. “You know what I mean? This is not going to become a distraction, and Jacksonville’s not going to become a distraction for this team. I got beliefs. I did what I did. I don’t know if it’s going to be every week, can’t answer if it’s going to be every week.”

## Rookies Mayfield, Barkley shine as Browns top Giants

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — If first indications are accurate, the Cleveland Browns and New York Giants hit it right in taking Baker Mayfield and Saquon Barkley with the top two picks in the NFL Draft.

Mayfield threw two touchdowns in two-plus quarters and Barkley ripped off a dazzling 39-yard run on the opening play from scrimmage as the Browns beat the Giants 20-10 on Thursday night.

“I’m aware that it was the first game and in that respect, it’s not so bad,” Mayfield said after showing why the Browns made him the top pick.

Replacing starting quarterback Tyrod Taylor late in the first quarter, Mayfield hit 11 of 20 passes for 212 yards, didn’t turn the ball over and converted two fourth-down plays with his feet.

“I thought he did some good things out there,” Cleveland coach Hue Jackson said. “I’m honestly not surprised by anything Baker does. This was his first opportunity and he’ll grow from it.”

The Heisman Trophy winner from Oklahoma found tight end David Njoku on a 10-yard TD pass to cap a 14-play, 72-yard drive on his second series. He finished his debut with a completion on a 54-yard slant and run to fellow rookie Antonio Callaway.

Taylor, expected to be coach Jackson’s starter as Mayfield learns this season, hit all five of his passes in two series, including a 36-yard touchdown pass to Njoku, a New Jersey native.

Barkley electrified the fans at MetLife Stadium, taking a handoff from Eli Manning on his first NFL touch and turning on the jets on a 39-yard jaunt

down the sideline in front of the Giants’ bench. It set up a 42-yard field goal by Aldrick Rosas.

“I loved his first run,” Giants coach Pat Shurmur said of the Penn State halfback. “If only they all could be like that. You could see, it wasn’t too big for him.”

Barkley scoffed at the idea he made something out of nothing on the play. There was a hole, he said.

“Everybody talks about the speed difference in the NFL, but to see you still have that burst and you can get to that line of scrimmage like that and create space; I just have to find a way to gain even more yards than that,” said Barkley, who finished with 43 yards on five carries.

Jalen Simmons scored on 5-yard, third-quarter run for the Giants’ other score. It came

three plays after C.J. Board fumbled a punt return and Zak DeOssie recovered at the Browns 16.

Manning played two series and hit 4 of 7 passes for 26 yards. Star receiver Odell Beckham Jr., returning from major ankle surgery, dressed but was held out by Pat Shurmur, who is trying to rebuild the Giants after a 3-13 season.

The Browns went 0-16 last season after winning their four preseason games.

**Callaway:** The troubled fourth-round pick played despite being cited for marijuana possession and driving with a suspended license. Police also found bullets and a gun part in his car this week. He had three catches for 87 yards, including a diving 24-yarder that the Browns successfully challenged after it was ruled incomplete on the field.

# Woodland atop PGA Championship field

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Gary Woodland fell in love with Bellerive when he first played it a month ago. It's a big golf course that would play into the hands of a power player. It would be soft from the stifling heat and humidity of summer, allowing him to be aggressive.

Woodland delivered his best performance in a major Thursday at the PGA Championship.

All because of his putter.

Once he settled down while playing before so many family members and friends, the Kansas-bred Woodland ran off seven birdies and made five putts from 15 feet or longer for a 6-under 64, giving him a one-shot lead over Rickie Fowler in an opening round that otherwise went as advertised.

Keep it in the fairway, and low scores were available.

Woodland led 47 players who broke par, with 15 players separated by three shots at the top. Tiger Woods was not among them because he was in thick grass and at the bottom of a pond early on before rallying to salvage a 70.

"If you can ball-strike your way around this golf course, you'll walk off thinking it's pretty simple," Jason Day said after a 67. "If you struggle a little bit off the tee, then it obviously makes it harder."

Fowler missed only three fairways and putted for birdie on all but two holes for his 65 in the morning.

Woodland is built like a player who grips and rips it, but the grip that mattered the most was on his putter. After starting work at the British Open with European-based putting specialist Phil Kenyon, Wood-

land decided to put an oversized grip on his putter Tuesday at Bellerive.

The stroke suddenly felt easy. It looked easy.

He holed a 15-foot par putt on No. 5 — "It's the first time I'd seen a putt go in," he said — and Woodland was on his way. Even sweeter was playing in front of 100 faces he recognized from home in Kansas — playing in Missouri, of all places.

"This is as close as I'll ever play to home," he said. "So it's nice to have the support."

Fowler played in the morning, when the greens were slightly smoother, and made five birdies over his last 11 holes for a 65. It was an important start for Fowler, who turns 30 this year and already is regarded as among the best without a major. The closest he has come to such a trophy is celebrating those won by his friends.

"It's not something I necessarily worry about," Fowler said. "Keep putting ourselves in position, get in contention ... we have had plenty of runner-ups. Jack (Nicklaus) had a lot of runner-ups. We'll just keep beating down that door."

Two-time major champion Zach Johnson and Brandon Stone of South Africa were at 66.

Dustin Johnson reached 5 under until a few wild drives on the back nine cost him. The world's No. 1 player had to settle for a 67, along with Jason Day, Justin Rose and eight other players.

It was more of a struggle for Woods, drenched in so much sweat that he changed shirts after 12 shots — that was only two holes and a tee shot. He was 3 over through seven holes before clawing his way back to even par.

## NFL preseason roundup

### Luck back on field for Colts for first time in over a year

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Andrew Luck returned to game action for the first time since the final week of the 2016 season, leading Indianapolis on a pair of field-goal drives in just over a quarter. The Colts won 19-17.

Luck completed 6 of 9 passes for 64 yards, most of that coming on the opening drive when he hit 5 of 7. Luck completed passes to five receivers and threw from a clean pocket on most of his dropbacks, even with starting left tackle Anthony Castonzo not playing.

It had been nearly 600 days since Luck was last on the field, when he threw for 321 yards in a 24-20 win over Jacksonville on Jan. 1, 2017. For one night, Luck looked like his pre-surgery form.

**Panthers 28, Bills 23:** At Orchard Park, N.Y., Buffalo receiver Kelvin Benjamin's feud with former teammate quarterback Cam Newton continued

before and during Carolina's preseason-opening win.

First, the two exchanged words on the field about 90 minutes before kickoff. Then they each played key roles in touchdown drives in the first quarter.

Benjamin caught four passes for 59 yards, including a 28-yard touchdown reception from Nathan Peterman on Buffalo's first possession. Newton responded on the next possession, completing 4 of 5 attempts for 67 yards as part of an 85-yard drive capped by Christian McCaffrey's 2-yard run.

**Steelers 31, Eagles 14:** Pittsburgh's Landry Jones and Josh Dobbs each tossed touchdown passes in their team's win, and host Philadelphia rested several starters, including quarterbacks Carson Wentz and Nick Foles. The Eagles' Nate Sudfeld threw a pair of touchdown passes and two interceptions.

**Bengals 30, Bears 27:**

Andy Dalton made a solid debut in host Cincinnati's revamped offense, throwing for a pair of touchdowns.

**Saints 24, Jaguars 20:** At Jacksonville, Fla., Blake Bortles completed 6 of 9 passes for 53 yards and scored on a short bootleg, a significant improvement from the way his preseason started a year ago.

**Buccaneers 26, Dolphins 24:** Visiting Tampa Bay kicker Chandler Catanzaro made a 26-yard field goal with 23 seconds left to cap a 67-yard drive and give his team the win.

**Patriots 26, Redskins 17:** At Foxborough, Mass., Colt McCoy outplayed Brian Hoyer in a scrimmage of backup quarterbacks, while Tom Brady and Alex Smith stayed on the sidelines.

On the day the Patriots reportedly sweetened Brady's contract with \$5 million in incentives, the reigning NFL MVP sat out the team's exhibition season opener. So did

his Washington counterpart, Smith, who was traded to the nation's capital in the offseason and received a four-year, \$94 million extension.

**Ravens 33, Rams 7:** At Baltimore, Joe Flacco threw a touchdown pass on his only series of the game and rookie quarterback Lamar Jackson ran for a score.

**Packers 31, Titans 17:** Marcus Mariota looked sharp orchestrating yet another new offensive system for visiting Tennessee.

**Texans 17, Chiefs 10:** Patrick Mahomes finished 5-for-7 for 33 yards on two drives for host Kansas City as Houston sat many of its stars.

**49ers 24, Cowboys 21:** Dak Prescott made the most of his brief appearance in the preseason opener for visiting Dallas by throwing a 30-yard touchdown pass to rookie Michael Gallup before San Francisco rallied with two late touchdowns.

# Betts hits for cycle in loss to Toronto

Associated Press

TORONTO — Mookie Betts has circled a few potential cycles in his young career, not surprising considering his rare combination of power and speed.

Boston's AL MVP contender finally knocked that milestone off his list with his final swing Thursday night.

Betts homered in the ninth inning to complete his first career cycle during the Toronto Blue Jays' 8-5 win over the Red Sox.

Betts is the 21st Red Sox player to hit for the cycle and the first in the major leagues this season. He singled and scored in the first inning, tripled in the second and doubled in the fourth against starter Ryan Borucki. After walking in the sixth, Betts hit a one-out drive off Ken Giles in the ninth for his 27th homer of the season.

Betts has come up one leg short of the cycle eight times in his career, including twice needing a home run.

"I've had some opportunities before and to finally succeed is a good feeling," said Betts, who has reached base in 25 of his past 42 plate appearances against Toronto.

The 25-year-old Betts is the first Boston player to hit for the cycle since Brock Holt in 2015. Betts, Holt and Leon Culberson in 1943 are the only Red Sox to cycle from the leadoff spot.

The AL MVP candidate was 4-for-4 to raise his major league-best average to .347 with 59 RBIs and a 1.102 OPS. He celebrated his no-doubt homer by lifting a fist and smiling at Boston's dugout.

"You expect greatness with him every night," manager Alex Cora said. "That was cool to see."

Boston (81-35) lost for the

first time in seven games but still has the best record in baseball.

Randal Grichuk hit a tie-breaking two-run homer in the fifth inning and Teoscar Hernandez added a solo shot to help Toronto avoid a three-game sweep.

Red Sox slugger J.D. Martinez hit his major league-leading 35th home run, a solo drive in the fifth.

Boston starter Rick Porcello (14-5) allowed seven runs and six hits in four innings. Porcello lost for the first time since a July 13 home defeat to the Blue Jays, a game in which he allowed a season-worst eight earned runs.

"We've got to take a look at that," Cora said. "That's the second one in a row against them. Breaking balls, fastballs, changeups, they were on him. Location wasn't great, we saw it from the get go, but still. They

put some good at-bats against him and that's the second game in a row they've done that."

The right-hander is 1-2 with a 9.15 ERA in four starts against Toronto this season.

"I don't know what it is about their lineup," Porcello said. "They do a nice job against me. They make me get into the strike zone, they draw some walks, and then they do damage. I've got to figure something out against these guys to overcome that."

Borucki (2-2) allowed four runs and a career-worst nine hits in five innings but won his second straight start.

"He really battled," manager John Gibbons said. "There aren't a lot of outs in that lineup and they are hot right now."

Borucki pitched eight shutout innings to beat the Mariners for his first major league win in his previous outing.

## MLB roundup

# Stanton hits 28th homer as Yanks overpower Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Giancarlo Stanton hit the hardest homer ever measured by Major League Baseball's Statcast system, Neil Walker hit two more home runs and the New York Yankees beat the Texas Rangers 7-3 on Thursday night.

Stanton's 28th homer was measured at 121.7 mph, the fastest long ball tracked by Statcast since the system was introduced in 2015. Miguel Andujar and Aaron Hicks also went deep, helping the Yankees win their fourth straight since a five-game skid that included a four-game sweep at AL East-leading Boston.

J.A. Happ (12-6) pitched six effective innings in his return from hand, foot and mouth disease. Happ was acquired from Toronto last month and has won both his starts with New York. He allowed three runs,

four hits, a walk and struck out nine Thursday.

**Mariners 8, Astros 6:** Mitch Haniger homered while his team jumped on Justin Verlander (11-7) for six runs in two innings, and visiting Seattle beat Houston.

Haniger, Denard Span and Jean Segura combined for 10 hits and seven RBIs with a homer each off Verlander. Verlander was ejected for arguing a balk call after setting a season high for runs allowed and missing a chance for his 200th career victory.

**Indians 5, Twins 4:** Michael Brantley's ninth-inning single gave host Cleveland its second straight walk-off victory over Minnesota.

Brantley grounded a 2-1 pitch off Addison Reed (1-6) past the diving Miguel Sano at first base to score Greg Allen. Francisco Lindor's three-run homer in the ninth inning Wednesday

gave Cleveland a 5-2 victory. Brantley's hit set off another celebration as he was mobbed by his teammates.

**Padres 8, Brewers 4:** Hunter Renfroe hit a go-ahead grand slam in the ninth inning, his fourth straight game with a home run, and visiting San Diego rallied to beat Milwaukee.

Down 4-2 entering the ninth, San Diego came back against relievers Corey Knebel (2-3) and Joakim Soria.

**Nationals 6, Braves 3:** Gio Gonzalez (7-8) pitched seven strong innings for his first victory since May 28 to help host Washington split a four-game series with Atlanta.

Gonzalez snapped a personal seven-game losing streak and had gone 11 consecutive starts without a victory. He allowed three hits and one walk while striking out three. Nick Markakis' solo homer to lead off the

second was the lone run he allowed.

**Rays 5, Orioles 4:** Jake Bauers drove in two of his three runs with a go-ahead, two-run single in the seventh inning and host Tampa Bay beat Baltimore.

Bauers' decisive hit off Cody Carroll (0-1) came in the Rays' franchise record-tying sixth consecutive one-run game. Baltimore took a 4-3 lead earlier in the seventh when Renato Nunez hit a solo homer off Yonny Chirinos (1-4). Sergio Romo worked the ninth to get his 14th save.

**Pirates 10, Giants 5:** David Freese hit his 100th career home run, Elias Diaz and Josh Bell went deep on consecutive pitches and visiting Pittsburgh beat San Francisco.

Ivan Nova (7-6) allowed two runs in six innings to continue a stellar stretch on the road for Pittsburgh's starters.