

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## F-35 jets could be valuable in battle with Islamic State

*The Washington Post*

The Air Force wants to deploy the stealthy F-35A Joint Strike Fighter in the air campaign against the Islamic State group, citing the increasingly complex operating environment in Syria, but it's not clear that it will be able to do so before the conflict is over.

Gen. Herbert J. "Hawk" Carlisle, commander of Air Combat Command, told reporters in Washington on Friday that the deployment could come in the "not-too-distant future" but added that a deployment to the Middle East is probably a couple of years away, after the F-35A deploys to Europe and the Pacific. The plane would give commanders in the campaign against the Islamic State group a new weapon that can see other airborne aircraft better than any airplane in the U.S. arsenal — a benefit as the U.S.-led coalition increasingly shares airspace with Russian and Syrian jets.

"It brings a lot of assets and a lot of attributes that would aid in the fight there," Carlisle said, citing its advanced sensors and its ability to initiate electronic attacks.

The deployment is not yet imminent, but concrete discussions about it are new. They follow the Air Force declaring in August that the F-35A had reached its initial operational capability, with a single squadron manned and able to carry out basic missions, and come as the Pentagon weighs increas-

ing the U.S. role in the against the Islamic State. The discussions also come as U.S. generals call for increased talks with the Russian military to better "deconflict" air operations and prevent aerial collisions.

Carlisle said that the "fifth-generation" capability of the F-35 and F-22 to detect potential adversaries in the sky makes older jets such as the F-15, F-16 and F/A-18 better when they are networked together. With the Air Force beginning to transition squadrons of jets from older models to the F-35A, it also will need to deploy them to rest and refit other units, Carlisle said.

The discussion comes as the Air Force already has F-22 Raptors over Syria and Iraq, in part so U.S. aircraft avoid collisions with those from other nations, especially Russia.

The United States established a method by which the two countries "deconflict" their operations over Syria in 2015 after Russia began bombing opposition forces there on behalf of the Syrian government, but Russian pilots do not always respond to communications from U.S. pilots.

The Raptor has been kept at or near the top of formations of U.S. aircraft, allowing them to better see the battlefield for other American pilots. With their stealth technology, the F-35 and F-22 also are believed to be less vulnerable to detection from radar used with surface-to-air missile systems, which the Syrian and Russian militaries have deployed.

## Judge won't toss Bergdahl case over Trump comments

*Associated Press*

President Donald Trump's campaign-trail criticism of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, while "problematic," hasn't prevented the soldier from getting a fair trial on charges that he endangered comrades by walking off his post in Afghanistan in 2009, a military judge ruled Friday.

Bergdahl's lawyers had argued that Trump violated their client's due-process rights by repeatedly calling him a "traitor" and that the judge should dismiss charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy. Bergdahl is scheduled for trial in April, and could face life in prison on the latter charge.

The judge, Army Col. Jeffery Nance, wrote in his ruling that Trump's comments were "disturbing and disappointing" but didn't constitute unlawful command influence. Nance agreed with prosecutors' arguments that Trump's comments amounted to campaign-trail rhetoric, and the judge wrote the comments shouldn't harm potential jurors' impartiality.

"The accused was merely the foil for delivering that political message," Nance wrote. "All reasonable members of the public and potential panel members will know that was what he was doing and will not allow the rhetoric to affect their impartiality."

Nance did say, however, that he would allow defense attorneys wide leeway to question potential jurors about Trump. He said they can renew their request to dismiss the charges once they've sought to find out how Trump's comments affect-

ed potential jurors.

Nance wrote: "We have a man who eventually became president of the United States and commander in chief of all the armed forces making conclusive and disparaging comments, while campaigning for election, about a soldier facing potential court-martial. ... The Court recognizes the problematic potential created by these facts."

Bergdahl's lead defense attorney, Eugene Fidell, said that he planned to appeal Nance's ruling and would "pursue the matter vigorously."

White House spokesman Michael Short declined comment.

The defense's motion, filed shortly after Trump was sworn in as president, cites more than 40 instances of Trump's criticism at public appearances and media interviews through August 2016. Defense attorneys argued that it would be hard for potential military jurors to ignore what their commander in chief said.

Prosecutors argued that Trump's comments were campaign rhetoric aimed at actions taken by President Barack Obama's administration to bring Bergdahl home after he was held captive for five years by the Taliban and its allies. Obama's decision in May 2014 to exchange Bergdahl for five Taliban prisoners prompted some Republicans to accuse the president of jeopardizing the nation's safety.

Bergdahl, who is from Idaho, has said he walked off his post to cause alarm and to draw attention to what he saw as problems with his unit.

# Militant resistance stiff in western Mosul

Associated Press

SOUTH OF MOSUL, Iraq — Iraqi forces pushed deeper into western Mosul Saturday amid stiff resistance from entrenched Islamic State fighters, a commander on the scene said.

Special forces Lt. Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi said that his troops are “moving very slowly” and that Islamic State fighters are responding with car bombs, snipers and dozens of armed drones. Hundreds of civilian have fled the conflict zone, he said.

The drones have caused relatively few deaths, but have inflicted dozens of light injuries

that have disrupted the pace of ground operations.

Al-Saadi said he expects the pace to increase after Iraqi forces retake territory and infrastructure on Mosul’s south-western edge — which will allow them to shorten supply lines and link up with forces in the city’s east.

On the edge of a small village south of Mosul, dozens of families gathered against a crude cinder block wall. Many said they were from villages outside Mosul and had been forced to march to the city more than four months ago to serve as human shields.

“We’ve been through ter-

rible times,” said Juri Fathi, a mother of six who was forced to live in a school in Mosul for three months. “I had to burn my children’s clothing just for warmth.”

Groups of men were screened at the site against a database of Islamic State suspects and two prisoners were dragged past the crowd and into an abandoned building.

“We brought them directly from inside Mosul,” said an Iraqi special forces soldier from inside the Humvee that delivered the detainees. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. “They were shooting at us, I saw them with

my own eyes,” he said.

Iraqi forces declared eastern Mosul “fully liberated” in January after officially launching the operation to retake the city in October.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Foreign Minister was in Baghdad on Saturday — the first high-level visit of a Saudi official to the country since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion — to meet with his Iraqi counterpart, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, and Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi.

In a statement issued by the foreign ministry, al-Jaafari said the visit was to discuss cooperation in combating terrorism.

## Navy: Arrest of AWOL sailor, new mom ‘last resort’

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A 24-year-old U.S. Navy sailor who had a baby in August was arrested and remains on a military hold after being accused of deserting her post, court records show.

Ana Lucia Gnecco was arrested Wednesday at her parents’ home in Hollywood, Fla., after failing to report Jan. 14 to her base in Portsmouth, Va., where she is a seaman quartermaster and worked in reception and medical support at the Naval Medical Center.

Her father, Armando Rodriguez, told the Sun Sentinel he

didn’t know she left the Navy earlier than she should have.

“She basically went AWOL; that’s what the Navy is claiming,” he told the newspaper.

The arrest was the last resort, said Christina Johnson, a Navy public affairs officer for the medical center. “She was in contact with her command and with the Navy’s arm that would bring her back to duty. All efforts were made to get her back to work, but she chose to stay there.”

When someone misses a return day by 30 days, “it’s considered desertion,” Johnson said.

She said she couldn’t comment further and didn’t know what discipline Gnecco might face.

Gnecco’s father said the baby could be a reason his daughter didn’t return to her post. “We could assume that having a baby might not go well with serving in the military.”

Rodriguez is hoping the Navy will discharge her.

“I hope that she goes back up there and they have a hearing and she is released,” he said. “There is no point in keeping her.”

Rodriguez said that he and the rest of the family — in-

cluding sisters and her mother — have helped with the baby. The child’s father also lives in Broward County.

Gnecco had a more immediate problem on Thursday when she appeared before Broward County Judge Michael Davis for a bond hearing. She said she’s breast-feeding her daughter and needed a breast pump.

She said she had spoken with a doctor at the jail and was told there was nothing they could do.

Later, the judge told the newspaper his assistant bought a breast pump for \$42.39 and gave it to Gnecco.

## 5 years on, ‘Afghan kill team’ leader gets new day in court

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Five years after his conviction for masterminding the murders of three Afghan civilians in 2010, former Staff Sgt. Calvin Gibbs will get another chance to prove his innocence when he returns to a military courtroom in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., on Tuesday.

The U.S. Army Court of Crim-

inal Appeals ordered a four-day hearing for a court-martial judge to help determine whether the government botched its case and whether Gibbs, who headed the so-called Afghan kill team, should be allowed to enter new evidence.

Phil Stackhouse, Gibbs’ attorney, said in an interview Wednesday that Gibbs will not be among the 15 or so witnesses

who will be called to testify but that he will attend the proceedings. Gibbs, a former soldier at Washington state’s Joint Base Lewis-McChord, is serving a life sentence at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth.

“He’s excited that the truth is finally coming out,” said Stackhouse, adding that he’s “cautiously optimistic” that next week’s hearing will ultimately

lead to a new trial.

“The appellate court could have just said this isn’t newly discovered evidence and what the government did was OK, so it is a good sign that the court is at least engaged and listening and curious,” Stackhouse said.

Gibbs’ team attracted international attention after photographs showed the soldiers posing with Afghan corpses.



## Border wall contracts to be awarded by mid-April

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — U.S. Customs and Border Protection said Friday that it plans to start awarding contracts by mid-April for President Donald Trump's proposed border wall with Mexico, signaling that he is aggressively pursuing plans to erect "a great wall" along the 2,000-mile border.

The agency said it will request bids on or about March 6 and that companies would have to submit "concept papers" to design and build prototypes by March 10, according to FedBizOpps.gov, a website for federal contractors. The field of candidates will be narrowed by March 20, and finalists must submit offers with their proposed costs by March 24.

The president told the Conservative Political Action Conference on Friday that construction will start "very soon" and is "way, way, way ahead of schedule."

The agency's notice gave no details on where the wall would be built first or how many miles would be covered initially. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly has sought employees' opinions during border tours of California, Arizona and Texas.

It's unclear how soon Congress would provide funding and how much. The Government Accountability Office estimates it would cost, on average, \$6.5 million a mile for a fence to keep out people who try to enter on foot, and \$1.8 million a mile for vehicle barriers. There are currently 354 miles of pedestrian fencing and 300 miles of vehicle barriers, much of it built during President George W. Bush's second term.

Republican leaders in Congress have said Trump's wall would cost between \$12 billion and \$15 billion. Trump has suggested \$12 billion.

# White House defends Priebus

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House on Friday defended Chief of Staff Reince Priebus against accusations he breached a government firewall when he asked FBI Director James Comey to publicly dispute media reports that Trump campaign advisers had been frequently in touch with Russian intelligence agents.

President Donald Trump's spokesman, Sean Spicer, argued Priebus had little choice but to seek Comey's assistance in rebutting what Spicer said were inaccurate reports about contacts during last year's presidential campaign. The FBI did not issue the statement requested by Priebus and has given no sign one is forthcoming.

"I don't know what else we were supposed to do," Spicer said.

The Justice Department

has policies in place to limit communications between the White House and the FBI about pending investigations. Trump officials on Friday not only confirmed contacts between Priebus and the FBI but engaged in an extraordinary public airing of those private conversations.

Spicer said it was the FBI that first approached the White House about the veracity of a New York Times story asserting that Trump advisers had contacts with Russian intelligence officials during the presidential campaign.

Spicer said Priebus then asked both Comey and Deputy Director Andrew McCabe if they would condemn the story publicly, which they declined to do.

"The chief of staff said, 'Well, you've put us in a very difficult situation,'" Spicer said. "You've told us that a story that made

some fairly significant accusations was not true. And now you want us to just sit out there.'"

The FBI would not comment on the matter or verify the White House account. The CIA also declined to comment.

The White House also enlisted the help of Republicans on Capitol Hill to talk to reporters about The New York Times story.

Jack Langer, a spokesman for Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said the White House asked Nunes to speak with one reporter.

He said the chairman told the journalist the same thing that he has said publicly many times before — that he had asked but not received any information from intelligence officials that would warrant a committee investigation of any American citizens' contacts with Russian intelligence officials.

## DHS analysts downplay threat to US of nations included in travel ban

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Analysts at the Homeland Security Department's intelligence arm found insufficient evidence that citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries included in President Donald Trump's travel ban pose a terrorism threat to the United States.

A draft document obtained by The Associated Press concludes that citizenship is an "unlikely indicator" of terrorism threats to the United States and that few people from the countries Trump listed in his travel ban have carried out attacks or been involved in terrorism-related activities in the U.S. since Syria's civil war started in 2011.

Trump cited terrorism concerns as the primary reason he signed the sweeping temporary travel ban in late January, which also halted the U.S. refugee program. A federal judge in Washington state blocked the government from carry-

ing out the order earlier this month. Trump said Friday a new edict would be announced soon. The administration has been working on a new version that could withstand legal challenges.

Homeland Security spokeswoman Gillian Christensen on Friday did not dispute the report's authenticity but said it was not a final comprehensive review of the government's intelligence.

"While DHS was asked to draft a comprehensive report on this issue, the document you're referencing was commentary from a single intelligence source versus an official, robust document with thorough interagency sourcing," Christensen said. "The ... report does not include data from other intelligence community sources. It is incomplete."

The Homeland Security report is based on unclassified information from Justice Department press releases on ter-

rorism-related convictions and attackers killed in the act; State Department visa statistics; the 2016 Worldwide Threat Assessment from the U.S. intelligence community; and the State Department Country Reports on Terrorism 2015.

The three-page report challenges Trump's core claims. It said that of 82 people the government determined were inspired by a foreign terrorist group to carry out or try to carry out an attack in the United States, just over half were U.S. citizens born in the United States. The others were from 26 countries, led by Pakistan, Somalia, Bangladesh, Cuba, Ethiopia, Iraq and Uzbekistan. Of these, only Somalia and Iraq were among the seven nations included in the ban.

Of the other five nations, one person each from Iran, Sudan and Yemen also was involved in those terrorism cases, but none from Syria. It did not say if any were Libyan.

# Storm-damaged Calif. roads, dams could cost \$1B to repair

Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — The bill to repair California's crumbling roads, dams and other critical infrastructure hammered by an onslaught of storms this winter could top \$1 billion, including nearly \$600 million alone for damaged roadways that more than doubles what the state budgeted for road-repair emergencies, officials said Friday.

Many communities have drained their emergency budgets and are looking to the state and federal governments for help. But on top of the latest damage, the nation's most populous state is struggling with a \$6 billion annual backlog of repairs for roads, highways and bridges that leaders can't agree on a way to fund.

Winter storms have dumped enough rain and snow on the northern part of the state to end a five-year drought. But with the wet weather comes a host of infrastructure problems.

A section of mountain highway between Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe has buckled, with repairs estimated to cost \$6.5 million. In the Yosemite Valley, only one of three main routes into the national park's major attraction is open because of damage or fear the roads could give out from cracks and seeping water, rangers said.

On central California's rain-soaked coast, a bridge in Big Sur has crumbled beyond repair, blocking passage on the north-south Highway 1 for up to a year. Until it is rebuilt, visitors can drive up to view the rugged coastline, then turn back.

The total cost for responding to flooding, storm damage and repairs statewide in the first two months of 2017 probably will exceed \$1 billion, Gov. Jerry Brown's finance director, Michael Cohen, said Friday. Much of it will be covered by the federal government, he said.

The tally includes \$595 mil-

lion to clean up mudslides and to repair state highways. Costs for evacuations and nonhighway damage, as well as for repairs at Oroville Dam, whose spillways threatened to collapse, have not been precisely tallied, he said.

Early estimates put the fixes at the nation's tallest dam as high as \$200 million.

Several more weeks remain in California's wet season, which brings the potential for more costly infrastructure damage.

The California Department of Transportation, which is responsible for maintaining highways, roads and overpasses, has a reserve fund of \$250 million that's far short of what it would cost to fix recent storm damage.

Storms across the state have wrecked more than 350 roads, shutting down traffic on at least 35 that await rebuilding or shoring up of stretches that washed out, sank or got covered in mud and rocks, officials said.

# Cosby won't face barrage of accusers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — In a major break for Bill Cosby, a judge ruled Friday that just one of the comedian's multitude of other accusers can testify at his trial to bolster charges he drugged and violated a woman more than a decade ago.

The TV star is set to go on trial in June, accused of sexually assaulting former Temple University employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. Prosecutors wanted to put 13 more women on the stand to show that his alleged conduct was part of a distinct pattern of behavior.

Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill disallowed all but one of those women, saying in a one-page ruling that he carefully weighed the possible value of their testimony against the potential prejudice to Cosby.

The one witness who can testify has said the comic drugged and assaulted her in 1996 at a Los Angeles hotel.

Cosby's lawyer had no immediate comment, but the actor, himself, retweeted news stories on the ruling, adding the hashtags "#KeepWatching" and "#PayAttention."

The judge's decision is a setback for prosecutors and means the case will now rest more heavily on Constand's credibility.

"There is an obvious value to the prosecution when you have numerous accusers. That alone adds tremendous weight to the case," said lawyer Joseph McGettigan, a prosecutor in the Penn State sex abuse scandal.

The ruling also could shave weeks off the trial.

Cosby, 79, who is free on \$1 million bail, could get 10 years in prison if convicted. He is expected in court again Monday to ask that the jurors be selected from another county because of the heavy publicity.

# Suspect in Kim's death paid \$90 for 'prank'

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The Indonesian woman who is one of the suspects in the killing of North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un's half brother said she was paid \$90 for what she believed was a prank, an Indonesian official said.

The public poisoning of Kim Jong Nam, which took place Feb. 13 amid crowds of travelers at the airport, appeared to be a well-planned hit. Kim was dead within hours of the attack, in which two women went up behind him and appeared to smear something onto his face.

Siti Aisyah, 25, has said previously that she was duped into the attack, but Malaysian police say she and the other female suspect, a Vietnamese woman who also is in custody, knew what they were doing.

The revelation that VX nerve agent killed Kim has boosted speculation that North Korea had dispatched a hit squad to Malaysia to kill Kim, whose younger half brother is Kim Jong Un.

Malaysia hasn't directly accused the North Korean government of being behind the attack, but officials have said four North Korean men provided the two women with poison. The four fled Malaysia shortly after the killing.

On Saturday, police confirmed that a raid earlier in the week on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur was part of the investigation. Senior police official Abdul Samah Mat, who is handling the investigation, did not specify what authorities found there, but said the items were being tested for traces of any chemicals.

Kim Jong Nam, who had been living abroad for years, was approached by the two women on Feb. 13 as he waited for a flight home to Macau. In grainy surveillance footage, the women appear to rub something onto his face before walking away in separate directions.

Malaysian police said they had been trained to go immediately to the washroom and clean their hands.

Both women seen in the video are in custody.

VX is an extremely powerful poison, with an amount no larger than a few grains of salt enough to kill. An odorless chemical, it can be inhaled, swallowed or absorbed through the skin. Then, in anywhere from a few seconds to a few hours, it can cause a range of symptoms, from blurred vision to a headache. Enough exposure leads to convulsions, paralysis, respiratory failure and death.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Drone causes 1,500 elk to stampede

**WY** JACKSON — Wildlife refuge officials say a man with a drone caused 1,500 elk to stampede half a mile.

The stampede happened Monday at the National Elk Refuge in western Wyoming. Elk and bison often congregate at the refuge to eat feed put out to help them survive the winter.

Disturbing wildlife is a serious offense punishable by a fine up to \$5,000.

Refuge spokeswoman Lori Iverson on Thursday said officials gave the Washington, D.C., man a \$280 ticket after he launched the drone from a highway pullout and flew it over the resting elk herd.

## Victim rebuffs crime, robbers apologize

**WI** MILWAUKEE — A Milwaukee woman held up at gunpoint by two men rebuffed their attempt to rob her and got an apology before they fled.

Kristy Welch was returning home Monday from a ceramics class when the two men approached her while she was still in her car. Welch told them she just had surgery and didn't have any money. That's when the two men apologized and said "God bless you" before taking off.

The encounter was caught on video surveillance.

## Students read King's 'I Have a Dream' speech

**DC** WASHINGTON — District of Columbia students read Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in honor of African-American History Month and King's birthday.

The speech was recited by 100 fifth-graders from Watkins Elementary School. Each student read one line.

King's birthday is Jan. 15, but the reading was moved because of conflicts with the presidential inauguration. This is the 13th annual reading of the speech.

King delivered the speech at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1963 March on Washington.

## Cases dropped after cop accused of lying

**VT** BURLINGTON — Prosecutors are dismissing more than a dozen pending cases that a Burlington police officer investigated after video surfaced that appears to show he lied about smelling marijuana during an arrest for narcotics possession.

Chittenden County prosecutors said 14 pending charges that Christopher Lopez investigated were to be dismissed.

Lopez resigned last week amid multiple probes into whether he falsified a sworn affidavit following an October traffic stop.

Lopez wrote that a marijuana odor was emanating from the car. Body camera footage appears to show him tell another officer he didn't smell marijuana.

## Over \$2M of meth seized; 3 arrested

**OR** PORTLAND — Deputies seized nearly 100 pounds of methamphetamine worth over \$2 million and arrested three people.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office said that investigators served search warrants at the two homes, also seizing nearly 2 pounds of heroin, pills, a handgun and nearly

\$30,000 in cash.

Alfredo Narcisco Pineda, of Portland; Alejandro Lopez Gonzales, of Gresham, Ore.; and Celso Marroquin Benitez, of Portland were booked into jail and face drug and gun charges.

## Women line up for 'she persisted' tattoos

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — So many women showed up at a Minneapolis tattoo parlor for a permanent reminder of female solidarity that it had to turn away some latecomers.

Local women Chelsea Brink, Nora McInerney and Kate O'Reilly organized a fundraiser in which people could get a tattoo of the words "Nevertheless, she persisted," for \$75, Minnesota Public Radio reported. Proceeds go toward Women Winning, a group dedicated to boosting representation of pro-abortion rights women at all levels of political office.

More than 100 women came in for appointments at Brass Knuckle Tattoo Studio during the event.

Their tattoos reference a phrase that Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell said about Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who was formally silenced on the Senate floor earlier this month for reading a letter by Coretta Scott King.

## State cancels hearing for satanic display

**AR** LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas officials have canceled a hearing on a satanic monument proposed near the state Capitol, saying a new law prevents them from considering the display until it's approved by the Legislature.

The secretary of state's office sent a letter to the Satanic Temple saying a bill signed

into law last week prevents the Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission from considering the proposed Baphomet statue. A hearing had been scheduled in May for the monument, which was proposed in response to a Ten Commandments display lawmakers authorized in 2015.

The Temple argued the new law shouldn't apply retroactively to its proposal.

## Too few flushes throw candidate off ballot

**PA** HARRISBURG — A Democratic candidate's run for the Pennsylvania Legislature is down the drain — partly because he used too little water at the house he claimed as his residence.

A state judge threw Frederick Ramirez off the ballot in the race for an open House seat in Philadelphia.

The judge found that low water and electric use at the house Ramirez claimed as his residence showed he really didn't live in the district. From March through January he was billed for 95 gallons of water — which is less than two toilet flushes a month.

## Suspect subdued with help of UPS driver

**AZ** PHOENIX — Phoenix police said a UPS Inc. employee helped them subdue a burglary suspect who was resisting arrest.

KPHO-TV reported that UPS driver Adam Faz said he rounded a corner on his delivery route last week and saw a police officer chasing a suspect and then struggling with him.

Faz said the officer was able to handcuff the man after the UPS driver put his weight on the suspect's back and grabbed his arm.

From wire reports

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# Indians' Lindor adjusts to sudden fame

Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Just this week, Francisco Lindor has given a hitting lesson on national television, modeled for commercial shoots and a magazine cover, even worn a uniform outfitted with electrical sensors as the subject of a sports science experiment.

No player has been more in demand at Cleveland's camp.

No surprise there.

Only 23, Lindor has become a star among stars, the smiling face and young soul of the AL champion Indians. But while baseball fans have fallen head over spikes for him, and although the Indians' young shortstop's profile swells with every sensational, backhanded stop in the hole, Lindor has stayed grounded.

"I'm me," he said Thursday following practice during a brief lull in his crammed schedule.

Lindor has been so coveted during spring training that the Indians' media relations director sent him an itinerary outlining his many obligations. The email's subject line read: "Next Week (BUSY!!)"

Actually, Lindor's life has been a whirlwind since last fall, when he helped the Indians advance to the World Series for

the first time since 1997. They lost in seven games to the Chicago Cubs and are favored to make a return trip this season.

After batting .301, leading the league with 15 sacrifice flies and winning his first Gold Glove in his first full major league season, Lindor hit .310 in the postseason, which was also the first extended look many people had at the kid known as "Frankie" to his teammates.

"Absolutely dynamic player," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "I mean he's really good now, but he's still scratching the surface. As he continues to gain confidence and understanding of the league and what people are trying to do versus him, woof, it's going to keep getting better."

As Cleveland's players went through fielding drills on a cloudless morning with the Arizona sky providing a challenging background, Lindor charged a popup and called off his teammates by screaming, "I got it! I got it!"

He's got it, all right. In bunches.

Lindor is ultra-talented, charismatic and humble. A first-round pick in 2011, he blazed through Cleveland's minor league system and in less than two years has established himself as one of the

game's best middle infielders. He's already Cleveland's most popular player, quickly moving ahead of All-Stars Jason Kipnis, Michael Brantley, Corey Kluber and newly signed Edwin Encarnacion.

But don't think any of it has gone to Lindor's head, which currently sports a curled haircut with highlights as golden as his glove. While stardom beckons, he hasn't changed outwardly, approaching his job with the same boyish enthusiasm he always has.

While he's being pulled in numerous directions, Lindor is fixated on his profession.

"At the end of the day, I've still got a job to do and I've got to separate my job from the other stuff," he said. "What I do on the field comes first because that is my job. That's my pride. I don't get that stuff if I don't perform. So I just focus on the daily basis on my job and I work as hard as I can and then after that is done, then I'll go and do whatever I've got to do — whether it's for the shoes or the signings or whatever it is."

The trappings of stardom can be intoxicating, and Indians manager Terry Francona has seen players succumb to their pull.

However, he's not worried about Lindor falling.

"He's a very intelligent kid," Francona said. "I think he knows what comes first and when you do your job on the field, and you do it like Frankie is doing it, there's probably going to be things that happen because of it. Good things. But they don't happen unless you take care of your job on the field. Even at a young age, he's very aware of that. I've never felt the need to say anything to him about that. And if I did, I would."

One of Lindor's offseason highlights was a trip to New York to receive a "Rising Star" award at a Sports Illustrated gala. Surrounded by some of the most well-known names in sports and entertainment, Lindor was in awe and at ease alongside LeBron James, Michael Phelps, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Peyton Manning and Jay-Z.

"I'm the little kid," he said. "I'm looking around like, 'This is crazy.' It was just awesome."

But he wasn't star struck.

"I've never been that type of person," Lindor said. "I'm not shy. I'll just go up to you and say, 'Hey, what's up? My name is Francisco.'"

Soon, he won't need any introduction.

## Cincinnati's Duvall hopes he can build on 2016 season

Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Adam Duvall is hard at work in the Arizona desert, looking for an encore to his breakout season for the Cincinnati Reds.

For the slugging outfielder, the biggest key is the smallest details.

"You don't try to repeat anything," Duvall said. "You've got to get your work in. You've got to stay focused and try to do the little things right. To go back, that's what gave you success in the first place. You've just got to continue to try to do those things."

Duvall was a pleasant surprise for lowly Cincinnati last year, leading the last-place Reds with 33 homers and 103 RBIs. He made the All-Star team for the first time and was a finalist for the Gold Glove award in left field, won by Pittsburgh's Starling Marte.

It was Duvall's first full year in the outfield, so the defensive recognition was particularly satisfying.

"I put a lot of emphasis on my defense, so it was gratifying for that to kind of pay off," he said.

An 11th-round pick in the 2010 amateur draft, Duvall broke into the majors with San

Francisco in 2014. He homered off Mike Leake for his first hit in his first major league game against Cincinnati.

After batting .192 in 28 games with the Giants, Duvall began the next season back in the minors. He hit 26 homers for Triple-A Sacramento before he was shipped to the Reds along with minor league right-hander Keury Mella for Leake.

Duvall, a Louisville native who played his college ball at Western Kentucky, made a quick impression after he was promoted to Cincinnati, belting a two-run homer in his first plate appearance with the

Reds. He went deep for each of his first three hits with his new club.

"Adam, he has natural ability and he has a very steady routine that he sticks to and can carry over into the game," Reds slugger Joey Votto said, "and I think that that's kind of an underrated attribute for players, the ability to prepare and see that carry over onto the field."

It remains to be seen if Duvall's success in 2016 carries over to this year. He had eight homers and 14 RBIs in 55 games before last season.

# Rookie Grala wins Truck Series opener

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Rookie Kaz Grala won the NASCAR Truck Series season opener Friday night, getting through a massive wreck on the final lap at Daytona International Speedway.

The 18-year-old Grala became the youngest winner in a NASCAR national series at Daytona. He was lucky to even make it to the checkered flag.

Two-time series champion Matt Crafton was leading the 100-lap race when he got turned sideways and went for a wild ride that included several spins and a harrowing flip. Crafton's No. 88 Toyota landed on all four tires, and he was able to walk away unscathed.

"Oh my gosh, someone flipped," Grala said as he watched a replay of the ending.

Grala managed to escape the carnage, and considering it was his first victory in 10 starts in the series, he had no idea what to do next.

"I didn't know what I was doing out

there," he said. "I didn't know how to do a doughnut. I'm Polish, so I figured I could drive backward."

Only 13 of 32 trucks finished on the lead lap, but even that doesn't properly explain all the damage done in a little more than two hours.

NASCAR star Dale Earnhardt Jr. posted a picture on his Twitter page of two sailors shoveling money into a furnace with the caption "quick recap of tonight's action."

More than half the field was involved in accidents, fairly routine at Daytona. Seventeen trucks were involved in a huge wreck on the second lap, knocking out a number of contenders.

But the final pileup was the scariest.

"It was hectic," said Chase Briscoe, who finished third in his first Truck Series start. "This kind of racing will make your hair go white."

Asked how he got through the last-lap melee, he added, "I have no idea. The Lord

blessed us on that one for sure."

Austin Wayne Self was second. John Hunter Nemechek was fourth, just ahead of his dad, Joe.

"We just kept pushing," Self said. "The last couple of laps we got the position we wanted. When all hell broke loose, we got the right spot."

The trucks opener was the first race under NASCAR's new scoring system, a radical redesign that awards points to stage winners in an effort to improve racing by making more laps matter.

The top 10 drivers at the end of Stage 1 and Stage 2 were awarded points on a 10-through-1 scale. Defending series champion Johnny Sauter won the first two stages, but finished 15th.

The third portion of the race was for the overall victory, and although traditional point scoring was applied for that stage, the win was worth 40 points for Grala.

"I'm so happy with the way that played out," Grala said. "I can't even believe it."

# Westbrook back at it in Thunder win

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Russell Westbrook scored 17 points in his 28th triple-double of the season, and his new teammates fit in seamlessly as the Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 110-93 on Friday.

Westbrook also had 18 rebounds and 17 assists for the 65th triple-double of his career.

It was the first game for new Thunder players Taj Gibson and Doug McDermott, acquired Thursday in a trade with the Chicago Bulls. Gibson scored 12 points and McDermott added eight, even though they arrived Thursday night and weren't even available for shootaround on Friday.

Alex Abrines and Andre Roberson each set a career high with 19 points, and Steven Adams added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder.

**Spurs 105, Clippers 97:** Kawhi Leonard scored 21 points despite foul trouble, and San Antonio shook off the rust

from a nine-day layoff to beat host Los Angeles for its third straight win.

Blake Griffin scored 29 points for the Clippers, who have dropped consecutive games to the NBA's two winningest teams since the All-Star break ended. They lost by 10 at Golden State a night earlier. The Spurs have the league's second-best record at 44-13.

Chris Paul added 17 points in his return after missing five weeks with a torn ligament in his left thumb.

**Raptors 107, Celtics 97:** DeMar DeRozan scored a career-high 43 points and Toronto rallied from 17 down to beat visiting Boston.

DeRozan shot 15-for-28 from the floor as he surpassed his 42-point effort against Houston on March 30, 2015. That helped the Raptors overcome the absence of fellow All-Star guard Kyle Lowry, who sat out with a right wrist injury.

**Heat 108, Hawks 90:** Tyler Johnson scored 23 points, and resurgent Miami helped its

playoff hopes by beating host Atlanta.

Miami (26-32) has won 15 of 17 to move to within four games of .500. The Heat were a season-low 19 games under .500 at 11-30 following a loss to Milwaukee on Jan. 13. Miami began the night 10th in the East, 2½ games behind eighth-place Detroit.

**76ers 120, Wizards 112:** Robert Covington had 25 points and 11 rebounds, Dario Saric added 20 points and 11 boards, and depleted Philadelphia beat visiting Washington.

**Pacers 102, Grizzlies 92:** CJ Miles made five three-pointers and scored 17 points, Paul George had nine points and nine rebounds after remaining with Indiana following the trade deadline, helping the host team snap a six-game losing streak with a victory over Memphis.

George was one of the biggest names involved in trade speculation Thursday and Pacers fans showed they were happy he wasn't dealt, giv-

ing the All-Star perhaps the loudest ovation he's received all season during player introductions. George becomes a free agent after the 2017-18 season.

**Jazz 109, Bucks 95:** Gordon Hayward scored 29 points, Derrick Favors added 19 and visiting Utah beat Milwaukee by dominating the paint area in its first game back from the All-Star break.

**Timberwolves 97, Mavericks 84:** Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 18 rebounds, and Andrew Wiggins scored 27 to help host Minnesota defeat Dallas.

**Bulls 128, Suns 121 (OT):** Dwyane Wade scored 23 points, Jimmy Butler added 22 and Chicago rallied to beat visiting Phoenix in overtime.

**Nuggets 129, Nets 109:** Gary Harris scored a career-high 25 as host Denver bounced back from successive losses to hand Brooklyn its 15th straight loss.



# Ducks swap draft pick for Patrick Eaves

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Patrick Eaves was in the middle of a pregame nap when a phone call let him know he was headed right back to Disneyland.

The Anaheim Ducks acquired Eaves from the Dallas Stars on Friday in exchange for a conditional draft pick, adding a veteran goal-scoring forward for the playoff push.

Eaves had just returned to Texas from Orange County on Wednesday after a theme park trip with his wife and children. He'll spend the rest of the year attempting to push the Ducks to another Stanley Cup title.

"Your world gets put upside-down real quick, but I'm excited," Eaves said in a phone interview. "I want to get out there as soon as possible, and fortunately we've got an afternoon game (Saturday at Los

Angeles), so I'll be ready for that."

Eaves has a career-high 21 goals and 16 assists in 59 games this season for the Stars. His 37 points also are already a career-high in his 12 NHL seasons, and he is fourth in the NHL with 11 power-play goals.

Anaheim is in need of goal-scoring threats and veteran tenacity, particularly while Antoine Vermette is under a 10-game suspension. Eaves played with Vermette in Ottawa several seasons ago, and he played on a U.S. national junior team with Ducks center Ryan Kesler.

"I'm really excited about it, just because of the way (the Ducks) are playing and the way they're positioned in the playoff hunt," Eaves said. "It's exciting, and I think all the nerves and everything that I'm experiencing right now will go away once

the games start."

The Ducks began Saturday tied with Edmonton for second place in the Pacific Division, three points behind San Jose.

Eaves fills several obvious needs in Anaheim: His 21 goals are more than every Anaheim player this season except Rickard Rakell, while his 37 points match Jakob Silfverberg for the fourth-most on the Ducks' roster.

The Ducks' power play is in a 2-for-32 slump over the past month, and Eaves has been one of the NHL's most consistent producers with the man advantage.

"I've gotten a lot of good opportunity this year with being on the power play and playing a lot of good minutes 5-on-5," said Eaves, a frequent linemate of stars Jamie Benn and Tyler Seguin. "Fortunately, I haven't

been hit by a puck this year that's done any damage, and I've been getting some good bounces, so all those things together have helped me put up the numbers that I have this year. Hopefully I can continue to pass them on with the Ducks."

Eaves is making \$1 million this season before he hits unrestricted free agency this summer.

The Ducks gave up their rights to a 2017 second-round draft pick acquired in their trade of goalie Frederik Andersen to Toronto last summer.

But the Stars said they will get Anaheim's first-round selection this summer instead if the Ducks reach the Western Conference finals and Eaves plays in 50 percent or more of their games in the first two postseason rounds.

# Capitals edge Oilers, win 13th straight at home

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Justin Williams and Tom Wilson scored as the Washington Capitals beat the Edmonton Oilers 2-1 on Friday night to tie the franchise record with their 13th consecutive home victory.

Williams' game-winner in the third period was his 19th of the season. Washington's streak of home games with five-plus goals ended at 11, but Braden Holtby made 30 saves to pad the team's lead atop the NHL.

Evgeny Kuznetsov didn't have a point but was arguably the Capitals' best player against Edmonton. They have now outscored opponents 64-20 during their home winning streak.

Leon Draisaitl scored his team-leading 23rd goal of the season for Edmonton, which got 24 saves from goaltender Cam Talbot.

The Capitals had their most patchwork lineup of the season with injured regulars Matt Niskanen, Brooks Orpik and T.J. Oshie out along with Andre

Burakovsky, who's expected to be back in mid-to-late March. Washington is the league's healthiest team this season with only 27 man games lost to injury, but four players out at one time meant the NHL debut of rookie forward Riley Barber and season debut of defenseman Aaron Ness.

Oshie's absence, his 10th missed game this season because of an upper-body injury, pushed Brett Connolly on to the first line with Alex Ovechkin and Nicklas Backstrom. But it was the fourth line that jumpstarted the offense with Wilson's fifth goal of the season through traffic 12:22 into the first period.

**Hurricanes 3, Senators 0:** Eddie Lack stopped 34 shots for his ninth career shutout to help host Carolina snap a five-game skid.

Jordan Staal, Elias Lindholm and Viktor Stalberg scored, and Phillip DiGiuseppe had two assists as Carolina, 0-4-1 in its last five, moved out of last place in the Eastern Conference.

Lack (2-3-1) was making just his sixth start of the season due to concussion issues.

Craig Anderson finished with 41 saves for Ottawa, which snapped a three-game road winning streak. The Senators squandered a chance to move into first place in the Atlantic Division.

Ottawa captain Erik Karlsson moved past Kyle Turris into sole possession of second place on the franchise's consecutive games played list with 308.

**Flames 4, Panthers 2:** Chad Johnson made 36 saves during his first start in five games to lead visiting Calgary to its third consecutive victory.

Troy Brouwer, Mikael Backlund, Deryk Engelland and Sam Bennett had the goals for the Flames, who scored three straight in less than five minutes midway through the first period.

Aleksander Barkov and Nick Bjugstad scored for the Panthers. Roberto Luongo stopped 24 shots in his first start in three games.

The Panthers, coming off the first five-game road sweep in franchise history, have lost two in a row.

**Stars 5, Coyotes 2:** Jamie Benn scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period, and host Dallas beat Arizona.

Jordie Benn sent a long pass to his brother at the left side of the net. Jamie Benn took the puck behind the cage and scored on a wraparound before Arizona goalie Louis Domingue could move across to the right.

Radim Vrbata scored in the first period for the Coyotes, and Martin Hanzal in the second on an assist from Vrbata. Domingue stopped 32 shots.

Dallas replied with a goal by Devin Shore in the first period and another by John Klingberg on the power play to tie the game at 2 after two periods.

Lauri Korpikoski and Cody Eakin added third-period goals for Dallas. Kari Lehtonen made 25 saves.

Jamie Benn and Shore each had a goal and an assist. Esa Lindell had two assists.