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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Think tank: MEU on Okinawa not critical

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit could leave Okinawa, Japan, without sacrificing its value as a security provider in the Asia-Pacific region, a Japanese think tank said following a study of alternatives to building a new runway opposed by the island's governor.

It's a point of view speakers from the New Diplomacy Initiative, a Tokyo-based think tank, conceded during a news conference Friday wasn't likely to sway the security establishment.

However, the academics, journalists and a former government defense official argued that plans to build a new runway for Marine aircraft are so unpopular on Okinawa that they risk straining the broader U.S.-Japan security agreement.

Earlier this month, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Japanese Defense Minister Tomomi

Inada each said in Tokyo that a new runway built over Oura Bay in rural Henoko is the only way forward in realigning U.S. forces in the region amid increasing tensions with both China and North Korea.

The runway would help relocate Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, which is in what has become a densely populated part of central Okinawa.

Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga won election by a substantial majority in 2014 by campaigning to have the replacement for Futenma moved off-island, but courts have ruled in favor of the Japanese federal government's arguments to move forward with construction.

On Friday, the think tank officials argued that the runway wouldn't be necessary if the MEU, which includes thousands of Marines in a mix of ground, air and logistics roles, were moved entirely.

"When it comes to the U.S. and China, I think the naval and Air Force presence is

most important," said Akihito Sado, a professor at Chukyo University.

Sado views Kadena Air Base as the most critical part of defense for Japan, which is particularly wary of China's claim on the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands and increases in nearby Chinese military maneuvers.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military has often stated that Okinawa's valuable strategic location allows fighter aircraft based at Kadena to arrive in Taiwan very quickly in the event of an invasion from mainland China.

Sado asserted that the runway topic is pushing longstanding issues over the U.S. military presence, which covers a significant portion of the island of 1.4 million people, to a boiling point. That could lead to popular protests extending to Kadena and the entire U.S. presence.

"We believe that would be a much more serious threat to the U.S.-Japan security ar-

rangement," Sado said.

They did acknowledge the Marines' contributions to humanitarian assistance in the region, which has included critical roles in regional disaster relief. Okinawa could act as a "disaster relief hub" for Marines, with Japan picking up the tab for high-speed vessels to bring the Marines there when necessary.

In a region full of countries contesting island sovereignty, the MEU is the only U.S. force in the region capable of staging an amphibious invasion. Japan has plans for an amphibious brigade, but its numbers pale in comparison with China's.

Furthermore, Japan is just beginning to practice joint operations with its service branches, meaning it will likely be some time before the brigade is combat-ready.

The group did not offer a place for its proposed MEU relocation, though one member suggested Guam, Australia or California as possibilities.

2nd Cavalry Regiment heading to eastern Poland

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — The U.S. Army is preparing to deploy a battalion-size battle group to eastern Poland, some 100 miles from the Russian border.

This mission is part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence initiative in Poland to reassure and protect eastern European nations nervous about Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

"When the U.S. is serious about something, we put money on it and people on it," said Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, the U.S. Army Europe's commander. "We need

to transition from assurance to deterrence. A big part of this is our enhanced forward presence to Poland."

The battle group will consist of about 1,000 soldiers from the Army's 2nd Cavalry Regiment and 350 personnel from Romania and Britain.

"Our goal is to create a cohesive team and to learn from each other to fulfill NATO's mission of deterrence," said Lt. Col. Steven Gventer, commander of the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment. "We will assure our allies that if, heaven forbid, they were attacked, we would defend them. And deter any potential threat from our enemies."

The regiment will deploy a

variety of Stryker vehicles, including the Infantry Carrier, Mortar Carrier and Medical Evacuation vehicles, in addition to howitzers.

Romania will be contributing an air defense artillery battery and a military police company, while Britain is providing a reconnaissance company. Once in Poland, these soldiers will integrate with the Polish 15th Mechanized Brigade.

"Ideally, this will deter our enemies by adjusting their planning. They will see that NATO would be too costly to attack," Hodges said.

Russia, which denies it presents a threat to adjacent nations, has protested the NATO build-

up near its isolated western enclave of Kaliningrad, which borders Poland and Lithuania.

Russian officials have claimed NATO forces arrayed in the area give the alliance a first-strike capability against the small district. In response, Moscow moved nuclear-capable Iskander-M missiles into Kaliningrad in October.

The current six-month mission will begin March 25 with a 560-mile road march from Grafenwoehr, Germany, to Orzysz, Poland. The convoys will take two routes, one through the Czech Republic and the other traveling through northern Germany.

Shulkin may eliminate controversial rule

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin on Sunday proposed eliminating a controversial policy that limits veterans from receiving private-sector health care.

Speaking to hundreds of people at the Disabled American Veterans annual conference in Arlington, Va., Shulkin laid out his top 10 priorities for the Department of Veterans Affairs. It was his first public address since becoming VA secretary.

High on Shulkin's list was redesigning the Veterans Choice Program into what he called "Choice 2.0." His plan would include removing the rule that

allows veterans to go outside the VA for health care if they had to wait more than 30 days for an appointment or live more than 40 miles from a VA facility. Some veterans and lawmakers have criticized the 40-mile, 30-day rule for limiting veterans' health care choices, and Shulkin called the program "extremely complex and bureaucratic."

President Donald Trump issued a plan for VA reform during his campaign that he said would ensure every veteran could choose between the VA or private-sector care. Shulkin said Sunday that he wanted a system with less "red tape."

"We want to be thoughtful about how we propose what the new choice program will look

like, and do that in conjunction with Congress, and to make sure we are fulfilling the president's promise and commitment that he has made to the country's veterans," Shulkin told *Stars and Stripes*.

Before he can propose Choice 2.0, Congress first must eliminate the expiration date for the original Veterans Choice Program, Shulkin said.

"We want to make sure we continue the current program so veterans don't experience any gap in care," he said.

The program was created as a temporary measure in 2014 after it was discovered veterans were suffering long waits for health care at some VA facilities. It was funded with \$10

billion and given an expiration date of Aug. 7, 2017.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., introduced legislation last month to do away with the expiration date. The lawmakers estimated that by August the choice program would still have approximately \$1 billion in funding.

"If Congress doesn't act, we will see a significant amount of resources be removed," Shulkin said.

Shulkin has previously attempted to ease concerns that the VA would move completely to the private sector. He did so again Sunday, saying the private sector does not have the "military cultural competency" that the VA provides.

Military wives protest lifting of federal transgender guidelines

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — President Donald Trump's decision to let states determine whether to uphold certain protections for transgender students hurts U.S. military families with transgender kids, who don't get to choose their next duty station, said two U.S. military wives.

Jessica Girven and Amanda Brewer — both mothers of openly transgender children — are speaking out against the Trump administration's lifting of federal guidelines that instructed public schools to allow transgender students to use the bathroom and locker rooms of their gender identity.

Girven's daughter attends a military school in Germany; Brewer's daughter is enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia. Their respective schools are currently very supportive, the women said, but they worry that without the backing of federal guidance, a permanent change-of-station move to a more conservative state or a change in school ad-

ministration could upend that support.

"For military members who don't have a say in what state they get sent to, it is an insult to our children," Girven said.

The children of servicemembers have access to Department of Defense Education Activity Schools at most bases overseas, but in the states, the DODEA operates schools in only seven states. Texas, home to more U.S. military personnel than every other state except California, sued the federal government last year in an attempt to block the guidelines nationwide. The DODEA does not operate any schools in Texas.

"It's not a states' rights issue when you have federal employees defending this country," Girven said. "It forces people to decide between serving their country or protecting their children."

DODEA spokeswoman Elaine Kanellis said Friday that principals, educators and staff "will work collaboratively with parents and students on a case-by-case basis to address concerns and identify solutions."

Missing Navy civilian died in Japanese alps

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

A Navy civilian who went missing last week while skiing the Japanese alps was killed in an avalanche, search-and-rescue teams told the victim's family over the weekend.

Mathew Healy, a physician assistant who worked on Okinawa, was last seen around noon Monday at the Happo-one ski resort in Nagano prefecture.

Healy's wife, Brooke, said in a message posted Sunday to the GoFundMe page where people donated more than \$60,000 for search efforts that she was devastated to report her husband wouldn't be returning home.

"The search and rescue teams have determined that he perished in an avalanche, and due to the extreme conditions, we will be unable to recover him until Japan's long winter season has passed," she wrote.

Searchers ended their efforts Saturday after consulting with Healy's family, a Japanese police spokesman said.

Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez,

commander of U.S. Forces Japan, expressed condolences on behalf of the U.S. military in the country.

"Mathew was a dedicated husband, father, a member of the U.S. Navy medical community, and an Army Reservist," he said in a statement Sunday. "We are incredibly grateful to the volunteers and Japanese Police and search and rescue personnel who worked for days in difficult, dangerous conditions to find him. They have our unending gratitude."

In her message, Brooke Healy said she was still in shock and couldn't comprehend the loss of her husband, whom she called her best friend and an amazing father. She thanked family, friends and supporters for an "amazing outpouring of love, support, and donations."

"Please know that we are grateful for every single one of you, and we will be back in touch as soon as we are able to process this devastating loss," she wrote.

Democrats face divisions after DNC vote

Associated Press

ATLANTA — When Tom Perez stepped to the stage as the newly elected Democratic national chairman, his first official act was to invite his vanquished rival to join him as deputy chairman.

Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison accepted on the spot, and two men stood together, smiling like a national ticket at a presidential nominating convention.

Members of the Democratic National Committee cheered wildly at their gathering in Atlanta on Saturday, forgetting the competitive race that took two rounds of voting — unprecedented in recent memory for either major party. They picked Perez, a former labor secretary backed by former President Barack Obama, over Ellison,

backed by liberal Sen. Bernie Sanders, of Vermont.

Yet piercing the cheers were boos, yells and expletives from some young Ellison supporters in the gallery, some of them in tears. Reaction wasn't enthusiastic among the liberal groups that had embraced Sanders' presidential campaign and have intensified their efforts since the election of Republican President Donald Trump.

The reaction Saturday — and the unusual campaign that preceded it — underscores the challenges Perez and Democrats face as they look to recover from a disastrous electoral slide that was obscured by Obama's two national victories but laid bare by Hillary Clinton's stinging loss to Trump.

Now, besides Trump occupy-

ing the Oval Office, Republicans control Congress and about two-thirds of statehouses, and they're one Senate confirmation vote away from a conservative majority on the Supreme Court.

Perez and Ellison have agreed to capitalize on the widespread opposition to Trump while rebuilding moribund state and local party organizations.

"We are all in this together," Perez said. Repeating a line he's used for weeks while campaigning for the post, he praised public demonstrations against Trump as a statement from "millions of Americans" that "Donald Trump does not represent our values."

But it was Ellison who tapped so much of that anti-Trump energy. Sanders released a statement congratulating Perez yet

warned "it is imperative that Tom understands that the same-old, same-old is not working."

Jim Dean, chair of Democracy for America, called Perez's election "incredibly disappointing" and said the "resistance will persist ... with or without the leadership of the Democratic National Committee." Dan Kantor, leader of the Working Families Party, said Democrats "missed an opportunity."

The son of Dominican immigrants, Perez comes to the job with a liberal record as a civil rights attorney and backer of organized labor. In the chairman's race, he carried the establishment label as a Maryland resident who's spent years in the Washington orbit, working in the Justice Department and as an Obama Cabinet secretary.

Police suspect DWI in La. parade crash

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Authorities on Sunday identified the man who allegedly plowed into a crowd enjoying a Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans while intoxicated.

The New Orleans Police Department issued a statement identifying the man as Neilson Rizzuto, 25. Online jail records showed Rizzuto was arrested on a number of charges and was being held at the city's jail.

The accident came Saturday during one of the busiest nights of Mardi Gras when thousands of people throng the streets of Mid-City to watch the elaborate floats and clamor to catch beads and trinkets tossed from riders.

"We suspect that that subject was highly intoxicated," Police Superintendent Michael Harrison said on Saturday evening.

Harrison was asked by the media if terrorism was suspected. While he didn't say "no," he did say it looks like a case of DWI.

Twenty-one people were hospitalized after the crash, with

five victims taken to the trauma center in guarded condition. However, their conditions did not seem to be life-threatening, said Dr. Jeff Elder, city emergency services director.

The victims range in age from as young as 3 or 4 to adults in their 30s and 40s, Elder said.

A New Orleans police officer was injured. Harrison said the officer, who was on duty, was undergoing tests to determine the extent of her injuries.

As police and city officials assessed the accident scene, people streamed home as plastic bags that used to hold trinkets and discarded beads littered the ground.

Saturday night's parade was put on by the Krewe of Endymion, which is known for its long, elaborate floats and the big party it hosts at the Superdome after the parade.

One woman at the scene told The New Orleans Advocate that a silver truck whisked closely by her as she was walking through the intersection.

Carrie Kinsella said, "I felt a rush; it was so fast."

Ali's son detained at Florida airport, asked about religion

Associated Press

Muhammad Ali's son, who bears the boxing great's name, was detained by immigration officials at a Florida airport and questioned about his ancestry and religion, a family friend said Saturday.

Ali Jr., 44, who confirmed his Muslim faith, was detained about two hours, despite telling officials he's Ali's son and a U.S. citizen, said Chris Mancini, a family friend and attorney.

Returning from a Black History Month event in Jamaica, Muhammad Ali Jr. and his mother, Khalilah Camacho Ali, were pulled aside and separated from each other on Feb. 7 at the immigration checkpoint at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, said Mancini.

Camacho Ali was released a short time later after showing a photo of herself with her ex-husband, the former heavyweight boxing champion, Mancini said. But Ali Jr. was not carrying a photo of his world-famous father.

It was the first time Ali Jr. and his mother have ever been asked if they're Muslim when re-entering the U.S., Mancini said.

"From the way they were treated, from what was said to them, they can come up with no other rational explanation except they fell into a profiling program run by customs, which is designed to obtain information from anyone who says they're a Muslim," Mancini said in a phone interview. "It's quite clear that what triggered his detention was his Arabic name and his religion."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Daniel Hetlage confirmed Saturday evening that Ali Jr. was held for questioning by customs officers, but said "it wasn't because he's a Muslim, and it wasn't because of his Arabic-sounding name."

During his detention, Ali Jr. was asked repeatedly about his lineage and his name, "as if that was a pre-programmed question that was part of a profile," Mancini said.

Ali Jr. and his mother have been frequent global travelers. The family connects their treatment to President Donald Trump's efforts to restrict immigration after calling during his campaign for a ban on Muslims entering the U.S.

Indonesia, Australia to form closer economic, naval ties

Associated Press

SYDNEY — Indonesian and Australian leaders on Sunday committed to free trade and closer naval cooperation as they urged countries in the Asia-Pacific region with competing territorial claims to obey international law.

Indonesian President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo arrived in Sydney on Saturday on his first visit to Australia as his nation’s leader. He and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said they had agreed to finalize a free trade agreement this year.

Jokowi said the first issue for Indonesia was the removal of all Australian barriers to the import of Indonesian palm oil and paper. Before the deal is finalized, Turnbull announced that Indonesia agreed to reduce tariffs on Australian sugar and ease restrictions on Australian cattle imports.

Australia in return will remove all tariffs from Indonesian pesticides and herbicides, he said.

The two leaders also witnessed the signing of an agreement on maritime cooperation that includes strengthening maritime security and border protection as well as combating crime and improving efficiency of shipping.

“We have vested interests in the peace and stability in our region’s seas and oceans, so we both strongly encourage the countries in our region to resolve disputes in accordance with international law which is

the foundation for stability and prosperity,” Turnbull said.

Indonesia does not have a territorial dispute with China in the South China Sea, but there have been tensions because China’s so-called nine-dash line representing its claim to most of the sea appears to overlap with Indonesia’s exclusive economic zone extending from the Natuna Islands.

Beijing has described the area as a traditional Chinese fishing ground, although it is nearly 1,250 miles from the Chinese mainland. There were three known incidents between Chinese fishing vessels and Indonesian government ships last year.

Jokowi is not regarded as pro-Australia as his predecessor, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Turnbull took the unusual step of inviting Jokowi to a private dinner at his Sydney Harbor-side mansion on Saturday as a gesture of the close ties between Indonesia’s 250 million people and Australia’s population of 24 million.

The relationship has been fractious in the past.

Military cooperation on language training was suspended last month after an Indonesian officer saw as derogatory references to Indonesia’s state ideology, Pancasila, in training materials used at a special forces base in the west Australian city of Perth.

Turnbull said Sunday that he and Jokowi had agreed to fully restore defense cooperation.

DOD looks to widen ability to combat militants in Somalia

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon wants to expand the military’s ability to battle al-Qaida-linked militants in Somalia, potentially putting U.S. forces closer to the fight against a stubborn extremist group that has plotted attacks against America, senior U.S. officials said.

The recommendations sent to the White House would allow U.S. special operations forces to increase assistance to the Somali National Army in the struggle against al-Shabab militants in the fragile Horn of Africa nation, the officials said. They said the proposal would give the military greater flexibility to launch airstrikes against extremists that appear to be a threat.

Beefing up the military effort in Somalia fits with President Donald Trump’s broader request for a Pentagon plan to accelerate the U.S.-led battle against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria and to defeat other extremist groups, including al-Qaida and its affiliates. U.S. concerns about al-Shabab escalated in recent years as young Americans from Somali communities traveled to train-

ing camps in Somalia, raising fears they might return to the U.S. and conduct terrorist attacks.

Somalia was one of the seven predominantly Muslim countries included in Trump’s travel ban last month. The executive order has since been suspended by federal courts.

Somalia is “our most perplexing challenge,” Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, the head of U.S. Africa Command, told The Associated Press.

The U.S. is “trying to take a look at Somalia from a fresh perspective in the way ahead,” he said, describing the need to weaken the decade-old al-Shabab insurgency so that the African nation’s military forces can defeat it.

Waldhauser declined to provide details of the new options that have been proposed.

Other officials said elements include giving U.S. special operations forces greater ability to accompany local troops on military operations against al-Shabab and easing restrictions on when the U.S. can conduct airstrikes against the group. The officials weren’t authorized to publicly discuss the confidential review and spoke on condition of anonymity

Police commandos capture 2 neighborhoods in Mosul

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi militarized police captured two neighborhoods on the western side of Mosul on Sunday amid fierce clashes with Islamic State militants as thousands of people continued to flee the battle to government-controlled areas, security officials said.

Iraqi forces, backed by aerial support by the U.S.-led international coalition, launched a new push last week to drive Islamic State militants from Mosul’s west, capturing so far the city’s international air-

port and an adjacent military base. Iraqi authorities declared Mosul’s eastern half “fully liberated” from the Sunni militants in January, three months after launching the operation to take back Iraq’s second-largest city.

At dawn Sunday, the Federal Police Commandos Division moved into the Tayaran neighborhood amid fierce clashes, Maj. Gen. Haider al-Maturi told The Associated Press from Baghdad. Al-Maturi said the neighborhood is now under their “full control.”

Al-Maturi said Islamic State militants

deployed at least 10 suicide car bombs, but nine of them were blown up before reaching their targets. The 10th killed two policemen and wounded five. Al-Maturi added that his forces arrested two militants — an Iraqi and a foreigner who speaks Russian.

Farther west, Iraqi special forces captured the Mamun neighborhood by early Sunday afternoon, Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil, of the special forces, said. Fadhil said Islamic State militants attacked the advancing troops with more than 15 suicide car bombs, but all were blown up before hitting the troops.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

1 held in high-speed chase with baby in car

MD OAKLAND — Three people, including a baby, were taken to a hospital following a 12-mile high-speed chase in Oakland.

The Cumberland Times-News reported the pursuit began about 6:30 p.m. Friday when deputies tried to stop a car driven by Corey Austin James Bircher and he sped away.

Officers chased after him for roughly 12 miles and at times reached speeds of 90 mph. The sheriff's office said Bircher struck deputies' cars several times during the chase, and a deputy was injured.

Bircher is being charged with driving on a suspended license, attempting to elude a police officer, assault and other charges.

FBI: Man in Wal-Mart vest robbed bank

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Federal agents are searching for a man they say robbed a northeast Albuquerque bank while wearing a Wal-Mart vest.

The FBI said Friday the man hit the bank Tuesday while sporting a blue Wal-Mart vest and a black rag on his head. Agents said he gave a demand note to a BBVA Compass Bank teller and made verbal threats before leaving with an undisclosed amount of money.

Man apologizes in note for his 'anger isusesh'

CO CARBONDALE — Police in western Colorado said a man battered somebody else's pickup with a baseball bat and then left a note acknowledging he had anger issues.

Police said the note read, "Sorryy anger isusesesh."

The pickup's owner found the damage and the note when he returned from snowmobiling. Two witnesses told police another snowmobiler apparently thought the pickup had parked too close to his vehicle.

Police said they arrested a 53-year-old man.

Smell spurs arrest over credit cards, licenses

TN MOUNT JULIET — Authorities say two Georgia men were arrested with drugs, fraudulent credit cards and driver's licenses after police smelled marijuana coming from a car parked at a shopping mall just outside Nashville, Tenn.

WSMV-TV reported that Mount Juliet police said an officer was patrolling the parking lot at Providence Marketplace about 4:10 p.m. on Feb. 18 when he smelled marijuana coming from a car. Police arrested Dominique Holmes, 29, after searching the car and finding marijuana, pills, credit cards with different names and driver's licenses from Texas, Oklahoma, Alabama and California.

Police also arrested Gregory Grant, 26.

Officials: Elderly driver injured pedestrian, fled

NJ FORT LEE — Authorities said an 83-year-old driver struck and seriously injured a pedestrian before fleeing the scene.

Bergen County prosecutors said Hans Jochimsen is charged with leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident resulting in serious bodily injury.

The accident occurred when a 57-year-old New York City man was struck as he crossed Lemoine Avenue in Fort Lee.

The man was taken to a hospital and was in critical but stable condition.

Drug arrest made in lot near sheriff's office

SC YORK — South Carolina deputies arrested a North Carolina man on drug charges in a parking lot outside the sheriff's office.

The State newspaper reported that deputies who handle security at the building housing the York County Sheriff's office noticed something unusual in a parking lot on Friday.

Marvin Brown, commander of the York County Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit, said Kevin Michael Tracey, 40, of Charlotte, was charged with felony methamphetamine possession.

Deputies called in a dog-equipped drug unit to investigate. Brown said the dog detected something on the driver's side door and deputies found a syringe filled with drugs.

Ark attraction adds biblical truth exhibit

KY WILLIAMSTOWN — Kentucky's massive biblical attraction, the Ark Encounter, is opening a new exhibit that promotes the message of the Bible.

The 510-foot wooden ark modeled after the biblical story of Noah opened in July.

The new exhibit is called "Why The Bible Is True." A news release from the Ark Encounter says the new exhibit comprises 11 scenes on the bow end of the ark.

The group that built the ark, Answers in Genesis, promotes a literal interpretation of the Bible's Old Testament and has attracted controversy with an assertion that the earth is about 6,000 years old.

Vehicle strikes officer, shoplifting suspect

AZ SIERRA VISTA — Sierra Vista authorities said a police officer and a shoplifting suspect were injured when struck by a vehicle during a foot pursuit.

City spokesman Adam Curtis said the officer was released from a hospital after treatment of unspecified injuries following the Friday night incident. Police Cpl. Tim Wachtel said the female suspect was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries.

Officials said the male officer made contact with the suspect shortly before 7 p.m. and she ran off and he pursued her onto Fry Boulevard.

Officials said there was a brief struggle before the officer and the suspect were struck by an eastbound vehicle.

\$150K car missing after a test drive

FL BOCA RATON — A Maserati is missing after police say a man conned a salesman during a test drive.

Boca Raton police said Michael McGilvary II, 45, went to a dealership to test drive a \$150,000 Maserati GranTurismo.

He and a salesman drove to a marina so McGilvary could supposedly show his girlfriend the car. They walked down the dock, then McGilvary told the salesman he would get his girlfriend. When he didn't return after 30 minutes, the salesman searched for McGilvary. The valet told him McGilvary had driven off.

McGilvary was arrested Wednesday on auto theft charges, but the car wasn't found.

From wire reports

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Brigham Young hands Gonzaga first loss

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Top-ranked Gonzaga's quest for an undefeated season ended under a barrage of baskets by BYU's Eric Mika on Saturday night.

Mika had 29 points and 11 rebounds, and BYU upset Gonzaga 79-71. It was the Cougars' first victory ever over a No. 1 team, after four losses, and spoiled the Bulldogs' perfect record in their last regular season game.

The sophomore center made 10 of 14 shots from the floor and 9 of 13 free throws. His biggest basket put BYU ahead 73-71 with a minute left in the game.

Gonzaga lost the ball on its next two possessions, and then Corbin Kaufusi had a putback and Mika hit two free throws to put the game out of reach.

Gonzaga ended a string of 15 consecutive games where it didn't trail in the second half.

"They haven't had anyone have a lead on them in the second half for quite a while," BYU coach Dave Rose said. "I thought that would be a really big emotional thing for us, and an emotional thing for them to have

to respond.

"You beat the No. 1 team on the road the last weekend of the season, it's good for a lot of reasons," Rose added.

The Cougars rallied from an early 16-point deficit, and Mika said the team never wavered in its belief it could win.

"I think all of us did and that was a big thing," Mika said. "I don't think a lot of teams, especially in our conference, believe 100 percent that they're going to come in and do that."

The Cougars scored 44 points in the second half and made nine three-pointers to just three for Gonzaga.

Nigel Williams-Goss scored 19 points for Gonzaga (29-1, 17-1 West Coast), which was seeking to become the first team since Kentucky in 2014-15 to finish the regular season without a loss.

"Obviously, it didn't go as we hoped," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "We missed a lot of free throws and turned the ball over too much to be able to win a close game like that."

Gonzaga missed 13 of its 29 free throws and had 16 turnovers but still led most of the game.

"The season isn't over," Gonzaga guard Jordan Mathews said. "It is a great season. We'd love to be 30-0, but we are 29-1."

T.J. Haws added 17 points and Elijah Bryant 14 for BYU (21-10, 12-6).

The last team to finish the entire season undefeated was Indiana in 1975-76.

Gonzaga came out fired up and jumped to an 18-2 lead in the first five minutes, making 7 of 10 shots.

The Zags cooled off, and three consecutive three-pointers by BYU's Haws cut Gonzaga's lead to 26-22.

Mika's basket cut Gonzaga's lead to one point before the Bulldogs closed with a 10-5 run to take a 41-35 lead at halftime.

Zach Collins' putback gave Gonzaga a 58-46 lead midway through the second.

A technical foul on Gonzaga helped BYU cut its deficit to 58-53 and seemed to spark the Cougars. A pair of three-pointers by Nick Emery cut Gonzaga's lead to one, and Mika's basket gave the Cougars their first lead at 61-60.

The teams traded baskets until Mika put the Cougars ahead for good.

No. 5 UCLA gets big win over No. 4 Arizona

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — An awesome offense has carried UCLA to a terrific season. The Bruins turned to rebounding and defense for what may have been their most impressive win yet.

Thomas Welsh scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half and No. 5 UCLA dominated the offensive boards to beat No. 4 Arizona 77-72 in a Pac-12 showdown Saturday night.

"That's what Tommy does," UCLA coach Steve Alford said. "Tommy can rebound the ball and Tommy can shoot the ball about as well as any center in the country. ... Obviously, there's a lot of guys on our team get a lot of recognition and Tom is due some recognition because he's a special player."

The Bruins (26-3, 13-3) won their seventh in a row and snapped Arizona's 21-game home court winning streak. The Wildcats (26-4, 15-2) dropped into a tie with Oregon for first place in the Pac-12

heading into the final week of the regular season. The Ducks hold the tiebreaker by beating Arizona in the teams' only meeting.

No. 2 Villanova 79, No. 23 Creighton 63: Eric Paschall scored a season-high 19 points and Josh Hart added 16 to help the host Wildcats wrap up their fourth straight Big East regular-season title.

No. 3 Kansas 77, Texas 67: Josh Jackson scored 18 points and Frank Mason III added 16 to help the visiting Jayhawks beat the Longhorns and win their 13th consecutive Big 12 regular-season title outright.

No. 5 Oregon 75, Stanford 73: Jordan Bell scored on a putback with 14 seconds left to give the visiting Ducks a rare Bay Area sweep.

No. 8 North Carolina 85, Pittsburgh 67: Justin Jackson scored 23 points, Joel Berry added 19 and the visiting Tar Heels continued their march to the Atlantic Coast Conference regular season title.

Iowa St. 72, No. 9 Baylor 69: Deonte Burton scored 22 points, including a crucial 3 with 1:17 left, and he host Cyclones won their fifth straight.

Miami 55, No. 10 Duke 50: Bruce Brown scored 25 points, and the host Hurricanes held the Blue Devils a staggering 32 points below their season average.

No. 11 Kentucky 76, No. 13 Florida 66: At Lexington, Ky., Malik Monk scored 30 of his 33 points in the second half and Bam Adebayo added 18 points with 15 rebounds as the Wildcats took over the Southeastern Conference lead.

No. 12 West Virginia 61, TCU 60: Daxter Miles Jr. made a free throw with 4.8 seconds left for the visiting Mountaineers.

Michigan 82, No. 14 Purdue 70: Moe Wagner scored 22 of his 24 points in the first half for the host Wolverines.

No. 17 SMU 69, UConn 61: Shake Milton had 20 points and seven rebounds to lead the visiting Mustangs.

No. 18 Virginia 70, N.C. State 55: Freshman Kyle Guy scored 19 points to help the visiting Cavaliers end a four-game losing streak.

No. 19 Florida St. 76, Clemson 74: Xavier Rathan-Mayes scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half, including the go-ahead basket with 1:22 left, to lift the visiting Seminoles.

No. 20 Saint Mary's 70, Santa Clara 56: At Moraga, Calif., Jock Landale scored 17 points and the Gaels beat the Broncos in the West Coast Conference regular-season finale for both teams.

Iowa 83, No. 24 Maryland 69: Freshman Jordan Bohannon scored a career-high 24 points, hitting eight of 10 three-pointers, to help the visiting Hawkeyes breeze past the fading Terrapins.

No. 25 Wichita St. 86, Missouri St. 67: Landry Shamet scored a career-best 23 points as the visiting Shockers clinched at least a share of the Missouri Valley Conference title for a fourth straight season.

Reed wins crash-filled Xfinity opener

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Ryan Reed picked up the second Xfinity Series victory of his career — both at Daytona International Speedway — by winning the wreck-filled season-opener Saturday.

Reed held off Austin Dillon and Kasey Kahne in a two-lap overtime shootout to win in a Ford for Roush Fenway Racing. Reed's only other career victory came in this race in 2015, and he was celebrated for overcoming a diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes to become a race-winning driver.

Reed had initially been told upon diagnosis that he'd not be able to race.

"Man, I thought about it this morning. I've had so many people come up to me and tell me how amazing that last win, my first win, was for certain people," Reed said. "Everyone knows, a lot of people know, that I have Type 1 diabetes, and to see what that win meant to people it drove me to get back to Victory Lane."

Roush was winless last year in both the Xfinity and Cup Series, but Reed's victory

ensures him a spot in the Xfinity Series playoffs.

"At the end of last year, I told everyone we had a lot of momentum and I said we're going to go to Speedweeks ready to go and here we are," Reed said. "So many good things are happening right now."

Kahne finished second in a Chevrolet for JR Motorsports, which had five cars in the field and a rough day because of all the accidents.

Dillon was third in a Chevrolet for Richard Childress Racing, and Brad Keselowski was fourth in a Team Penske Ford. Scott Lagasse was sixth and the highest finishing Toyota driver. "A race like this, you just feel good to survive," said Keselowski.

A multicar accident with 17 laps remaining cost Elliott Sadler the victory, but it wasn't a total loss. Sadler, one of the JR Motorsports drivers, won the first two stages of NASCAR's new format and was in contention for the win until the accident.

He wound up in the garage because his car was too damaged to be repaired on pit road. Sadler finished 24th.

The first 30-lap stage was marred by two long stoppages, including one to fix the damaged fence at Daytona. Although the segment was only 30 laps, two multi-car accidents ate up more than 47 minutes in red-flag time.

Reigning series champion Daniel Suarez chastised his fellow drivers for being too aggressive too early in the race.

"I feel like we were racing too hard. It's too early," he said. "I just feel like it's a long race and we should be a little bit more smart."

Darrell Wallace Jr. also thought the drivers would be more conservative and try to make it through the opening stages.

"We kind of figured that it would be different, but I thought everybody would still be somewhat smart and mindful of not tearing up your equipment early and let's go after it with three to go," Wallace said. "But there are different mentalities out there and that's what causes chaos."

When the second segment began, only 22 of 40 cars were on the lead lap, and 12 were listed as too damaged to continue the race.

Ravens safety Elam is arrested for drugs

Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Baltimore Ravens safety Matt Elam faces marijuana, oxycodone and reckless driving charges after being arrested in Miami Beach.

Miami-Dade County jail records show Elam was arrested Sunday. He was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana with the intent to deliver or sell and possession of a controlled substance, oxycodone. He was being held on \$15,500 bail.

Miami Beach police spokesman Ernesto Rodriguez said details of his arrest were not immediately available.

The Ravens already announced they would not re-sign Elam, 25, when his contract expires next month. They reiterated that in a statement Sunday. A first round draft pick out of Florida in 2013, Elam has just one career interception. He played nine games last season, making one tackle.

Transgender wrestler wins title

CYPRESS, Texas — A 17-year-old transgender boy completed an undefeated season Saturday by winning a controversial Texas state girls wrestling title in an event clouded by criticism from those who believe the testosterone he's taking as he

transitions from female to male created an unfair advantage.

The family of Mack Beggs has said he would rather be wrestling boys, but state policy calls for students to wrestle against the gender listed on their birth certificates. So the junior from Euless Trinity beat Chelsea Sanchez 12-2 in the 110-pound weight class to improve to 57-0 and earn the championship.

Beggs was dogged throughout the tournament by questions about whether his testosterone treatments made him too strong to wrestle fairly against girls.

Shiffrin extends Cup lead

CRANS MONTANA, Switzerland — A stunning slalom run from Mikaela Shiffrin saw her clinch a first Alpine combined win Sunday to extend her advantage in the overall standings.

Shiffrin was seventh after the super-G portion and she knew she could make it up in her favorite discipline.

And so it proved as Shiffrin blew away her rivals on the final third of the course to finish 0.7 seconds above Federica Brignone and 0.85 seconds ahead of Ilka Stuhec, who is the American's closest challenger for the overall title.

QB Mayfield charged with resisting arrest

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield has been arrested and charged with public intoxication, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Mayfield, a Heisman Trophy finalist last year, was booked into the Washington County Jail after first walking, then running away and being tackled by an officer following an altercation near Fayetteville's Dickson Street early Saturday, police said.

A preliminary police report said an intoxicated Mayfield "was yelling profanities and causing a scene" while the officer questioned another man. After Mayfield was tackled, he refused to put his arms behind his back and was eventually forced into handcuffs before being arrested.

Recruit first openly gay player

TUCSON, Ariz. — University of Arizona recruit My-King Johnson is set to become the first active openly gay scholarship player in major-college football history.

The 6-foot-4, 225-pound defensive end said he was gay to Arizona defensive line coach Vincent Amey during the recruiting process.

Penguins beat Flyers 4-2 at Heinz Field

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The pomp. The circumstance. The spectacle. Sidney Crosby's used to all of it. So the message the Pittsburgh Penguins captain and the rest of the veterans sent to their teammates making their first appearances in an NHL Stadium Series game was pretty simple.

Yeah, this is pretty cool. Just don't forget to do your job.

"You need to understand as much as you want to take it all, [these are] important points and playing Philadelphia, it's going to be an intense game," Crosby said.

One that allowed Crosby to close one chapter in his career while inching closer to first-place Washington in the process. Crosby picked up his league-leading 34th goal in the same venue where his career took an abrupt turn five years ago as the Penguins pulled away late for a 4-2 victory Saturday night at blustery Heinz Field.

The two-time MVP was at the peak of his powers and the league's leading scorer heading into the 2011 Winter Classic when a hit to the head by Washington's Dave Steckel changed the arc of Crosby's career. He spent the better part of two calendar years recovering, though he hardly wanted to talk about it in his return to Heinz Field, saying he simply hoped for a better ending this time around.

"I think it was just special at any point to be able to play outside and score, but especially here and given what happened

before," Crosby said.

Matt Cullen, Nick Bonino and Chad Ruhwedel also scored for Pittsburgh, which thrilled the capacity crowd at the home of the NFL's Steelers by capitalizing on some shaky goaltending by Michal Neuvirth. Jake Guentzel picked up two assists while Matt Murray made 35 saves as the Penguins drew within five points of Metropolitan Division-leading Washington.

Jakub Voracek and Shayne Gostisbehere scored for Philadelphia, but Neuvirth stopped just 25 of 29 shots as the Flyers dropped to 0-3 in outdoor games. Even worse, Philadelphia failed to pick up any ground as it tries to stay within shouting distance of one of the two wild-card spots in the Eastern Conference.

"Obviously that stretch we're on right now, it's very difficult," Flyers defenseman Mark Streit said. "We've got to turn the corner here, move forward and win hockey games. There's no time left."

Blue Jackets 7, Islanders 0: Josh Anderson and Nick Foligno each scored twice, sending host Columbus to a romp.

The high-energy Blue Jackets didn't show any rust in their first game back following their five-day break, unlike many teams that have struggled coming out of the bye week this season.

Kings 4, Ducks 1: Jonathan Quick made 32 saves in his return from a groin injury and Tyler Toffoli scored two of host Los Angeles' four third-period goals.

Quick missed 59 games after injuring the groin in the first period of the season opener Oct. 12 against San Jose.

Rangers 4, Devils 3 (OT): Mika Zibanejad scored 1:16 into overtime and New York rallied to beat host New Jersey.

Chris Kreider, Oscar Lindberg and Adam Clendening also scored for the Rangers.

Predators 5, Capitals 2: Filip Forsberg scored the winning goal and had two assists as host Nashville scored three in the second period in beating Washington.

Forsberg missed becoming the first in NHL history with a hat trick in three consecutive games.

Canadiens 3, Maple Leafs 2 (OT): Andrew Shaw scored 1:06 into overtime and Montreal beat host Toronto for the 14th consecutive time.

Sharks 4, Canucks 1: Patrick Marleau scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period and Martin Jones made 35 saves, helping San Jose beat undermanned host Vancouver.

The Canucks were without five players because of the mumps, or symptoms associated with the highly contagious virus.

Avalanche 5, Sabres 3: Gabriel Landeskog had two goals and an assist, and Jeremy Smith made 34 saves in his first NHL win as lowly host Colorado beat Buffalo for its second victory in 10 games.

Bulls cruise past James-less Cavaliers

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Dwyane Wade scored 20 points and Jimmy Butler recorded a triple-double, leading the Chicago Bulls to a 117-99 victory Saturday night over the Cleveland Cavaliers, who played without LeBron James.

James missed the game with strep throat, and coach Tyrone Lue said he wasn't sure how long the Cavaliers would be without the four-time MVP. Cleveland struggled as it often does without its star — they are 4-19 without him since he returned to Cleveland in 2014, including 0-4 this season.

Chicago has won all three games against Cleveland this season. It took advantage of James' absence to win its fourth

straight overall.

Heat 113, Pacers 95: Hassan Whiteside scored 22 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, Dion Waiters added 22 points and red-hot Miami pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat visiting Indiana.

It was the 16th win in the last 18 games for the surging Heat, who moved within 1½ games of idle Detroit for the No. 8 spot in the Eastern Conference.

Knicks 110, 76ers 109: Carmelo Anthony made a jumper with 0.3 seconds left to give host New York a victory over Philadelphia 76ers.

The Knicks blew a 17-point lead and fell behind by one when Jahlil Okafor scored with 9 seconds remaining. But Anthony dribbled left after a

timeout, pulling up over Robert Covington to cap his 37-point performance.

Magic 105, Hawks 86: Terrence Ross scored 24 points, Nikola Vucevic had 16 points and 14 rebounds and Orlando beat visiting Atlanta to snap a two-game skid.

Ross played his second game with Orlando after coming over from Toronto in a trade for Serge Ibaka and gave Orlando the shooting touch it has lacked all season. He hit 10 of 15 from the field, including 4 of 7 from three-point range.

Mavericks 96, Pelicans 83: Harrison Barnes scored 19 points and Dirk Nowitzki had 18 points and nine rebounds as host Dallas ended a three-game losing streak by beating

New Orleans.

The Pelicans fell to 0-2 since trading for DeMarcus Cousins and pairing him with Anthony Davis.

Warriors 112, Nets 95: Stephen Curry scored 27 points on a night Kevin Durant missed his first game of the season with a hand injury, and Golden State beat visiting Brooklyn to clinch a playoff berth.

Rockets 142, Timberwolves 130: James Harden had 24 points and 10 assists to lead host Houston to a victory over Minnesota as both teams set season scoring highs.

Hornets 99, Kings 85: Frank Kaminsky had 23 points and 13 rebounds and Charlotte beat host Sacramento to end a five-game losing streak.