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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Army general loses star over affair

The Washington Post

The Army has demoted the former commander of the 1st Infantry Division for having “an inappropriate relationship” with a junior officer, the latest in a string of episodes in which Army generals have landed in trouble for personal misconduct.

Wayne Grigsby Jr., who also served as the commander of Fort Riley, Kan., was reprimanded and demoted from major general to brigadier general after investigators found that he had called and texted a female captain more than 850 times over 10 months and was spending time at her home, according to Army documents obtained by The Washington Post.

Grigsby is the sixth general in the past year whom the Army has punished for sexual misconduct or improper interactions with women. Although Army leaders have been reluctant to talk publicly about the issue, the service in December appointed

a three-star general to lead a review of its general-officer corps.

The Army abruptly relieved Grigsby of command last September, citing a “loss of confidence” in his ability to lead. But officials provided no other details and kept the outcome of the investigation a secret for six months.

Grigsby received a formal reprimand from the Army in April. He is scheduled to retire Aug. 1. Although he and the unidentified female captain both declined to talk to investigators, Grigsby submitted a letter to the Army accepting responsibility for “my inappropriate behavior.”

In a statement to The Post, Grigsby said he was “embarrassed and disappointed in myself” but did not elaborate on his conduct. He apologized for causing “pain” to his family and the Army.

Documents show that the Army and Pentagon inspectors general received a flurry of complaints last year from soldiers at

Fort Riley who suspected that Grigsby was having an affair and that it was affecting his ability to lead.

One anonymous complainant noted Grigsby’s wife was aware of his relationship with the female captain, had moved out of their quarters at Fort Riley and had “posted messages regarding cheating on Twitter,” according to a report by the Army inspector general completed in December.

Grigsby’s chief of staff and command sergeant major confronted him and “told him flat out that there was a very serious perception out there; ‘people are talking about it, you need to stop,’” according to the report.

Others told investigators the relationship distracted Grigsby from his unit’s deployment to Iraq. One soldier said it “was affecting careers. He did not want it to get to the point where it was affecting lives,” the report stated.

Adultery is illegal under military law.

Canadian sniper in Iraq hits target more than 2 miles away

The Washington Post

A Canadian sniper shot an Islamic State fighter from nearly 2.2 miles away in Iraq, the Toronto-based Globe and Mail newspaper reported Thursday.

The shot, according to the report, happened within the past month. In a statement following publication of the Globe and Mail article, the Canadian Special Operations Command confirmed that one of its soldiers from the elite Joint Task Force 2 hit a human target from 3,540 meters (3,871 yards) away. The statement did not say exactly where the event took place.

“For operational security reasons and to preserve the safety of our personnel and our Coalition partners, we will not discuss precise details on when and how this incident took place,” the statement said. “The [Special Operations Task Force] provides its expertise to Iraqi security force to detect, identify and defeat Daesh activities from well behind the Iraqi security force front line in Mosul,” it added, using an Arabic acronym for ISIS.

If true, the shot — or multiple shots — would join the macabre ranks of the lon-

gest sniper kills in history.

The Globe and Mail said the shooter used a McMillan Tac-50 rifle. The U.S.-made rifle, chambered in .50 caliber, is known in the Canadian armed forces as the C15 Long Range Sniper Weapon and was responsible for multiple record-breaking shots during Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan in 2002. The weapon has a maximum effective range of about 4,000 yards and weighs roughly 26 pounds.

The Tac-50 is billed as being able to shoot a 0.5-inch bullet group at 100 yards. Meaning at 3,871 yards, its grouping size would be about 20 inches. For the soldier to hit his target 3,871 yards away, he would need to account for every atmospheric factor available. Wind speed, temperature, barometric pressure, the bullet’s yaw and the rotation of the Earth all would need to be considered before pulling the trigger. These variables, once harnessed from devices such as a handheld weather meter and potentially range-finding equipment on the gun, then would be processed through a ballistics calculator that would let the shooter make the necessary adjustments on the rifle’s scope.

Evan McAllister, a former Marine sergeant who served multiple deployments as a sniper in Ramadi, Iraq, and in Afghanistan’s Helmand province, said little is known about the capabilities of a unit like Joint Task Force 2. The unit likely was operating with an array of systems to help make the shot, he said.

“While the shot was possible with the outstanding ballistic properties of a match .50 projectile, a conventional rifle scope would make seeing the target at that range almost impossible, and it may be likely that the sniper team had some form of assistance either from an extremely advanced rifle scope or an overhead drone,” McAllister said. “There is also a chance that the sniper couldn’t exactly see the target or the impacts, but a spotter with an advanced optical device was able to verbally walk the sniper onto the target and correct his aim.”

The Canadian military maintains a robust special operations presence in Iraq in lieu of conducting airstrikes on behalf of the U.S.-led coalition. Much like their American counterparts, the units provide assistance for Iraqi forces and have been filmed on the front lines.

AF to extend hazard pay for special ops

By TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force will extend hazard duty incentive payments to special operators even when those airmen are not on the battlefield, the service announced Thursday.

The increased pay is part of an effort to retain airmen in critical fields. Airmen who are eligible could see up to an additional \$615 a month in their pay, said Col. Pat Ryder, an Air Force spokesman.

Under the previous rules, those special operators, including joint tactical air controllers and pararescue, lost hazard pay after an injury or a required ro-

‘These folks go through a lot of training to become qualified. This is a way to continue to honor that despite what position they are in.’

Maj. Bryan Lewis
Air Force spokesman

tation to a staff position removed them from combat deployment.

Special operations airmen have been continuously deployed during the last several years to direct overhead airstrikes in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria and provide combat rescue when needed.

“It’s a stressed career field,”

said Maj. Bryan Lewis, an Air Force spokesman.

The payment extension, called the “Battlefield Airmen Incentive Pay,” will start as a pilot program in the fall and run for three years, Lewis said. It will affect up to 3,100 airmen in the following seven fields: combat controller, pararescue, tac-

tical air control party, special operations — weather, combat rescue officer, special tactics officer and air liaison officer.

By extending the hazard pay, Ryder said the Air Force is trying to provide incentives to airmen with those specialized jobs to accept assignments with headquarters or as instructors, which would keep them in the service longer as the Air Force works to prevent further personnel shortages like those it has experienced with pilots.

“These folks go through a lot of training to become qualified,” said Maj. Bryan Lewis, an Air Force spokesman. “This is a way to continue to honor that despite what position they are in.”

Pentagon: Top financier for Islamic State killed in airstrike

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A blacklisted top Islamic State financier was killed last week in an airstrike by the U.S.-led, anti-ISIS coalition inside one of the group’s final strongholds along the Euphrates River in eastern Syria, the Pentagon said Friday.

Syrian native Fawaz Muhammad Jubayr al-Rawi was described by U.S. officials as an ISIS finance emir who used his financial business to fund terrorism, including the payment of foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria, in a statement released by the Operation Inherent Resolve coalition. Al-Rawi was killed June 16 in an attack targeting him in Abu Kamal, a city near Syria’s border with Iraq that has been controlled by the terrorist group since 2014, according to the statement.

Al-Rawi and his company, Hanifa Currency Exchange, were sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department in December 2016 for supporting ISIS. It was the first time the United States directly sanctioned ISIS’ financial operations, according to a Treasury Department statement at the time.

The United States believes al-Rawi opened his money services business in Abu Kamal in 2010 and used the company to exchange currency between Syria and Turkey. When ISIS entered Abu Kamal, he facilitated the group’s weapons and ammunition buys in the area through established

contacts, according to the Treasury Department.

The Pentagon said he then pledged loyalty to ISIS and began helping the group store and move money to fund its vast network of foreign fighters who, at the time, had been flocking to fight for the group in Iraq and Syria. He additionally provided his personally owned farm near Abu Kamal for senior ISIS leaders, including commanders and fighters, to hold weekly meetings, the Pentagon said.

Killing al-Rawi should “disrupt ISIS’s financial networks” and “restrict the terror group’s ability to move resources and export terrorism,” the coalition statement read.

Al-Rawi was one of many top ISIS leaders who are believed to be living and operating in the Euphrates River Valley south of Raqqa, ISIS’ self-proclaimed capital, which is under siege by U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces. U.S. officials have said most of ISIS’ leadership fled to other cities along the river, including Deir al-Zour, Mayadin and Abu Khamal.

Coalition airstrikes have killed at least four high-ranking ISIS leaders in that area in recent months, including al-Rawi.

“That is still ISIS-held territory,” said Army Col. Ryan Dillon, spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition. “We know they have resources, particularly financial resources, in and around there. We will continue to strike in these areas when we have targets. ISIS has no sanctuary wherever they hold ground.”

Bergdahl judge rejects motion on duration

Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — A military judge has refused to rule that Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl’s capture by the Taliban ended his unauthorized absence hours after he left his post in Afghanistan in 2009.

Bergdahl’s lawyers said that they needed a ruling on the duration so they could advise him on how to enter a plea to the desertion charge. Bergdahl was held captive by the Taliban and its allies for five years.

The judge, Army Col. Jeffery Nance, said in a ruling Thursday that the length of Bergdahl’s unauthorized absence should be decided at trial in October.

Nance also said Thursday that he won’t allow Bergdahl’s lawyers to ask potential jurors whether they voted for President Donald Trump as the defense seeks signs of bias against their client.

Report: Men tortured in secret Yemen prisons

Associated Press

MUKALLA, Yemen — Hundreds of men swept up in the hunt for al-Qaida militants have disappeared into a secret network of prisons in southern Yemen where abuse is routine and torture extreme — including the “grill,” in which the victim is tied to a spit like a roast and spun in a circle of fire, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Senior American defense officials acknowledged Wednesday that U.S. forces have been involved in interrogations of detainees in Yemen but denied any participation in or knowledge of human rights abuses. Interrogating detainees who have been abused could violate international law, which prohibits complicity in torture.

The AP documented at least 18 clandestine lockups across southern Yemen run by the United Arab Emirates or by Yemeni forces created and trained by the Gulf nation, drawing on accounts from former detainees, families of prisoners, civil rights lawyers and Yemeni military officials. All are either hidden or off limits to Yemen’s government, which has been getting Emirati help in its civil war with rebels during the past two years.

The secret prisons are inside military bases, ports, an airport, private villas and even a nightclub. Some detainees have been flown to an Emirati base across the Red Sea in Eritrea, according to Yemen Interior Minister Hussein Arab and others.

Several U.S. defense officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the topic, told AP that American forces do participate in interrogations of detainees at locations in Yemen, provide questions for others to ask, and receive transcripts of interrogations from Emirati allies. They said U.S. senior military leaders were aware of allegations of torture at the prisons in Yemen, looked into them, but were satisfied that there had not been any abuse when U.S. forces were present.

“We always adhere to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct,” said chief Defense Department spokeswoman Dana White when presented with AP’s findings. “We would not turn a blind eye, because we are obligated to report any violations of human rights.”

In a statement to the AP, the UAE’s government denied the allegations.

“There are no secret detention centers and no torture of prisoners is done during interrogations.”

Inside war-torn Yemen, however, lawyers and families say nearly 2,000 men have disappeared into the clandestine prisons, a number so high that it has triggered near-weekly protests among families seeking information about missing sons, brothers and fathers.

None of the dozens of people interviewed

by AP contended that American interrogators were involved in the actual abuses. Nevertheless, obtaining intelligence that may have been extracted by torture inflicted by another party would violate the International Convention Against Torture and could qualify as a war crime, said Ryan Goodman, a law professor at New York University who served as special counsel to the Defense Department until last year.

At one main detention complex at Riyan airport in the southern city of Mukalla, former inmates described being crammed into shipping containers smeared with feces and blindfolded for weeks on end. They said they were beaten, trussed up on the “grill,” and sexually assaulted. According

‘The entire place is gripped by fear. Almost everyone is sick, the rest are near death. Anyone who complains heads directly to the torture chamber.’

Former detainee

a former detainee held for six months at Riyan airport. “The entire place is gripped by fear. Almost everyone is sick, the rest are near death. Anyone who complains heads directly to the torture chamber.” He was flogged with wires, part of the frequent beatings inflicted by guards against all the detainees. He also said he was inside a metal shipping container when the guards lit a fire underneath to fill it with smoke.

Like other ex-detainees, he spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of being arrested again. The AP interviewed him in person in Yemen after his release from detention.

The AP interviewed 10 former prisoners, as well as a dozen officials in the Yemeni government, military and security services and nearly 20 relatives of detainees. The chief of Riyan prison, who is well known among families and lawyers as Emirati, did not reply to requests for comment.

Laura Pitter, senior national security counsel at Human Rights Watch, said the abuses “show that the U.S. hasn’t learned the lesson that cooperating with forces that are torturing detainees and ripping families apart is not an effective way to fight extremist groups.” Human Rights Watch issued a report Thursday documenting

torture and forced disappearances at the UAE-run prisons and calling on the Emirates to protect detainees’ rights.

Amnesty International called for a U.N.-led investigation “into the UAE’s and other parties’ role in setting up this horrific network of torture” and into allegations the U.S. interrogated detainees or received information possibly obtained from torture. “It would be a stretch to believe the U.S. did not know or could not have known that there was a real risk of torture,” said Amnesty’s director of research in the Middle East, Lynn Maalouf.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has praised the UAE as “Little Sparta” for its outsized role in fighting against al-Qaida.

U.S. forces send questions to the Emirati forces holding the detainees, which then send files and videos with answers, said Yemeni Brig. Gen. Farag Salem al-Bahsani, commander of the Mukalla-based 2nd Military District, which American officials confirmed to the AP. He also said the U.S. handed authorities a list of most-wanted men, including many who were arrested later.

Al-Bahsani denied detainees were handed over to the Americans and said reports of torture are “exaggerated.”

The network of prisons echoes the secret detention facilities set up by the CIA to interrogate terrorism suspects in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. In 2009, then-President Barack Obama disbanded the so-called “black sites.” The UAE network in war-torn Yemen was set up during the Obama administration and continues operating to this day.

“The UAE was one of the countries involved in the CIA’s torture-and-rendition program,” said Goodman, the NYU law professor. “These reports are hauntingly familiar and potentially devastating in their legal and policy implications.”

The UAE is part of a Saudi-led, U.S.-backed coalition meant to help Yemen’s government fight Shiite rebels known as Houthis, who overran the north of the country. At the same time, the coalition is helping the U.S. target al-Qaida’s local branch, one of the most dangerous in the world, as well as Islamic State militants.

A small contingent of American forces routinely moves into and out of Yemen, the Pentagon says, operating largely along the southern coast. Under the Trump administration, the U.S. has escalated drone strikes in the country to more than 80 so far this year, up from about 21 in 2016, the U.S. military said. At least two commando raids were ordered against al-Qaida, including one in which a Navy SEAL was killed along with at least 25 civilians.

A U.S. role in questioning detainees in Yemen has not been acknowledged previously.

Depp poses assassination query at event

The Washington Post

Johnny Depp was Glastonbury Festival's inaugural guest at its new Cineramageddon drive-in movie theater in Britain on Thursday night, and he certainly gave the place a memorable launch. While introducing a screening of his 2004 movie "The Libertine," he made inflammatory statements about President Donald Trump.

"I think he needs help and there are a lot of wonderful dark, dark places he could go," Depp said, according to the Guardian.

He then asked the crowd, "When was the last time an actor assassinated the president?"

The answer is John Wilkes Booth, who shot Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre in 1865.

"It is just a question — I'm not insinuating anything," he assured the crowd. "By the way, this is going to be in the press. It will be horrible. I like that you are all a part of it."

He also claimed that he wasn't referring to himself, since he's not really an actor. "I lie for a living," he clarified. "However, it has been a while and maybe it is time."

When asked about the incident, a representative from the Secret Service responded that it's "aware of the comment in question. For security reasons, we cannot discuss specifically nor in general terms the means and methods of how we perform our protective responsibilities."

Depp has been the subject of plenty of bad press in the past year. First there was the very public implosion of his short marriage to Amber Heard, who claimed the actor had physically abused her. Photos of her bruised face circulated around the internet. The pair reached a \$7 million settlement in 2016.

Meanwhile, Depp sued his business managers, who in turn countersued, going public with some very unsavory accusations about the actor, saying that he has compulsive spending disorder and had squandered hundreds of millions of dollars with an outrageously extravagant lifestyle that included spending \$30,000 every month on wine.

GOP's challenge: Secure the votes for Senate health bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has finally unwrapped his plan for dismantling President Barack Obama's health care law. Now comes his next challenge — persuading enough Republicans to back the measure and avert a defeat that could be shattering for President Donald Trump and the GOP.

McConnell released the bill Thursday after weeks of closed-door meetings searching for middle ground between conservative senators seeking an aggressive repeal of Obama's statute and centrists warning about going too far. Erasing Obama's law has been a marquee pledge for Trump and virtually the entire party for years.

The bill would cut and rede-

sign the Medicaid program for low-income and disabled people, and erase taxes on higher earners and the medical industry that helped pay for the roughly 20 million Americans covered by Obama's law. It would let insurers provide fewer benefits, offer less generous subsidies than Obama to help people buy policies and end the statute's tax penalties on people who don't buy policies and on larger firms that don't offer coverage to workers.

"I am very supportive of the Senate #HealthcareBill. Look forward to making it really special! Remember, ObamaCare is dead," Trump tweeted late Thursday.

Shortly after the 142-page bill was distributed, more than a half-dozen GOP lawmakers signaled concerns or initial op-

position. McConnell, R-Ky., has little margin for error: Facing unanimous Democratic opposition, "no" votes by just three of the 52 GOP senators would sink the legislation.

McConnell, eager to approve the legislation next week, indicated he was open to changes before it reaches the Senate floor. But he said it was time to act.

"No amount of eleventh hour reality-denying or buck-passing by Democrats is going to change the fact that more Americans are going to get hurt unless we do something," he said.

Democrats said the GOP measure would take coverage away from people and raise their out-of-pocket costs, all in the name of paring taxes on the wealthy.

N. Korea calls itself 'victim' in death 'mystery'

The Washington Post

BEIJING — North Korea said Friday that the death of American tourist Otto Warmbier was a mystery, denying he had been tortured and casting itself as the "biggest victim" of the affair.

In its first public reaction to Warmbier's death, a Foreign Ministry spokesman also tried to shift blame onto the administration of former President Barack Obama, blaming it for refusing to have a dialogue with Pyongyang and claiming it never officially had asked for his release.

"The fact that Warmbier, 22, died suddenly in less than a week after his return to the U.S. in his normal state of health indicators is a mystery to us as well," the spokesman was quoted as saying by the official Korean Central News Agency. "To make it clear, we are the biggest victim of this incident."

The American university

student was arrested while visiting North Korea as a tourist, accused of stealing a propaganda poster and sentenced to 15 years hard labor. He was returned to the U.S. last week suffering brain damage and died Monday.

North Korea said the sentence had been appropriate and called speculation that he had died as a result of beating or torture "groundless."

"Although we had no reason at all to show mercy to such a criminal of the enemy state, we provided him with medical treatments and care with all sincerity on humanitarian basis until his return to the U.S., considering that his health got worse," the spokesman said.

North Korea said Warmbier had slipped into a coma after suffering from botulism and taking a sleeping pill. But officials at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, where Warmbier was treated after his return, said they had found no trace of the disease,

instead saying it appeared he had suffered severe neurological damage, possibly as a result of cardiopulmonary arrest.

Friday's statement appeared to support that possibility, saying that North Korean doctors had "brought him back alive whose heart had nearly stopped."

"Why the U.S. government which claims to care about the welfare of its citizens had not even once made an official request for the release of Warmbier on humanitarian basis during the Obama administration?" the statement said. "The answer should be given by the U.S. itself."

Earlier this week, Obama spokesman Ned Price said the previous administration "had no higher priority than securing the release of Americans detained overseas," and added that its efforts to secure Warmbier's release had "never ceased, even in the waning days of the administration."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man reportedly beat daughter over Snapchat

MA PEABODY — Police said a Massachusetts man grabbed his 11-year-old daughter by the neck and beat her with a belt after she installed the Snapchat app on her cellphone.

Sean Nguyen, of Peabody, has been charged with strangulation and assault and battery on a child with injury, however police say the girl was not injured. Nguyen, 31, was arrested Tuesday inside a courtroom for an unrelated case.

Police said Nguyen became enraged when he discovered the app on his daughter's phone.

The girl was taken to the Salem police station by relatives after the assault.

Bus rolls down street, hits church, cars

NY NEW YORK — An empty New York City transit bus rolled backward down a hilly Brooklyn block and smashed into a church and parked vehicles during a crash caught on video.

One person on the street received minor injuries when the bus got loose early Wednesday in the Bushwick neighborhood.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokeswoman Amanda Kwan said the brake was not engaged.

Bennie Garcia told the Daily News he was in bed when he heard a "massive bang" and the driver yelling for help. He saw his neighbor who'd been doing a car repair lying on his back and bleeding from his nose.

The union that represents transit workers said it was the driver's third day on the job, and she was very upset.

Woman who hid gun in vagina gets probation

TX WACO — A Texas woman who police said packed a loaded pistol in her vagina has been sentenced to probation after she pleaded guilty to drug possession.

Ashley Cecilia Castaneda, 33, has been sentenced to 10 years on deferred probation for methamphetamine possession.

Waco police said that when Castaneda was arrested in 2015, she told officers on her way to McLennan County Jail that she was packing a loaded handgun in her birth canal. Police Sgt. W. Patrick Swanton said a jail matron performed a cavity search and found the gun, right where Castaneda said she had hid it.

Official reprimanded for 'racist pig' comment

GA LAWRENCEVILLE — Commissioners in a suburban Atlanta county have voted to publicly reprimand a colleague for calling civil rights leader and Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a "racist pig" on Facebook.

The decision on Tuesday followed the recommendation of Gwinnett County's ethics board, which voted earlier this month to sustain the ethics complaint against Commissioner Tommy Hunter, news outlets reported.

The public reprimand will involve posting a written rebuke on the county's website, on the wall of the courthouse and in the local newspaper.

The Republican commissioner, who is white, had posted on Facebook in January that "John Lewis is a racist pig." Hunter later apologized for his word choice and said the post was an overreaction to the congressman's criticism of then-President-elect Donald Trump.

Woman accused of stealing hair highlights

PA BETHLEHEM — A Pennsylvania woman with a history of stealing meals and services is suspected of having struck again, this time at a hair salon.

Police said Tia Hassler, 46, went to the Intrigued Salon on Sunday and had more than \$100 worth of highlights put into her hair, only to claim she had no money once the work was done.

Salon workers told police Hassler knew the price before they did the work and gave no indication she couldn't pay.

Online records show numerous theft of services cases against her dating to 2009. That's when she first was charged with running up a tab for meals and drinks and refusing to pay for them.

511 California surfers paddle out for record

CA HUNTINGTON BEACH — Southern California surfers are stoked after setting a Guinness World Record for largest surf paddle-out.

The record became official Tuesday after 511 surfers formed a circle and held hands for one minute while floating off Huntington Beach.

The Orange County Register said the group contended with morning fog, strong currents and large waves.

The paddle-out was a celebration of surfing making it into the Olympic Summer Games for the first time in 2020.

The newspaper said it was also to plant a seed: If Los Angeles gets the nod for the 2024 or 2028 Olympics, Huntington Beach wants to host the surfing event.

Driver, 13, arrested after 2 police chases

WI MOUNT PLEASANT — Police said they've arrested a 13-year-old driver who led officers on two chases in Racine County.

Officers said they began the first pursuit about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday in Mount Pleasant when the vehicle was spotted with its headlights off. That chase led officers into Racine where the boy ran through stop signs and traffic signals. Officers ended the chase after about 2 miles for safety reasons.

The vehicle was spotted about 3 a.m. Thursday and again officers pursued it, later breaking off the chase.

WITI-TV reported that during the pursuit officers got the vehicle registration information, tying it to a Sturtevant address. Officers went to that home and arrested the boy as he pulled in.

Suspect lights cigarette at end of wild car chase

CA LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles police said a woman led officers on a wild chase in a suspected stolen car that lasted a half-hour and ended when she crashed into a pole.

According to officials, at one point during the pursuit early Thursday, the suspect stopped the sedan suddenly and then backed up and rammed a patrol car. One officer was hospitalized in unknown condition.

As she led officers through suburban Van Nuys, the woman gestured out the window to bystanders in the streets.

At the end of the chase, she lit a cigarette, stuck her head out of the car's sunroof and ignored officers' commands. The suspect was dragged from the vehicle and taken into custody.

From wire reports

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As expected, Sixers take Fultz No. 1

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Markelle Fultz, Lonzo Ball and the future of the NBA arrived Thursday night.

Jimmy Butler and Tom Thibodeau hope to rekindle their past.

Fultz and Ball led a record-setting run of one-and-dones in the NBA Draft, which received a jolt early in the first round when the Chicago Bulls traded Butler to the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Philadelphia 76ers took Fultz with the No. 1 pick and the Lakers followed by taking Ball, with the point guards from the Pac-12 Conference beginning a run of seven straight freshmen. Nine of the first 10 selections played just one season of college ball.

"Right now it's unbelievable, really," Fultz said. "I mean, say you want to do something, and to go out and do it is unbelievable."

Thibodeau has enough young players in Minnesota and wanted a veteran like he had during his successful run coaching the Bulls. He found one in Butler, who the Wolves acquired along with the 16th overall pick for Zach LaVine, Kris Dunn and the No. 7 pick, which ended up

being — what else? — another freshman, Arizona's Lauri Markkanen.

While that was being completed, the draft got off to a familiar start with the same top-four picks as last year: Philadelphia, the Lakers, Boston and Phoenix.

Fultz averaged 23.2 points last season, tops among freshmen, and added 5.9 assists and 5.7 rebounds per game, the only Division I player to reach those stats. He walked across the stage Thursday night at Barclays Center wearing orange sneakers made of basketballs.

The 76ers had the No. 1 pick for the second straight year after trading with the Boston Celtics on Monday. Now they add Fultz to a promising young core that includes Rookie of the Year finalists Joel Embiid and Dario Saric, plus Ben Simmons, the top pick from last year who sat out all season with a foot injury.

Fultz, who played just 25 games in college, said it was always his dream to be the top pick and wasn't bothered that Boston traded the chance to take him.

"In high school I told my trainer Keith I wanted to be the No. 1 player in the country and the No. 1 draft pick, so it was a

goal I set out there, and that's what I was striving for," Fultz said.

Ball then got the wish he and his father, LaVar, wanted all along by staying in Los Angeles, where he starred last season at UCLA. LaVar Ball had said his son would only play for the Lakers, and it was clear that would happen when Lonzo got a phone call with the Lakers on the clock.

As Lonzo walked on stage to meet Commissioner Adam Silver and put on a purple Lakers hat, LaVar put on a gold and purple Big Baller Brand hat, the company he has started.

"Tonight was supposed to be a good night. Definitely was, and now I'm just focused on playing," Lonzo Ball said. "Just want to get on the court."

The Celtics then took Duke's Jayson Tatum at No. 3 after moving down two spots in the trade with Philadelphia, drawing cheers from a large contingent of their fans at Barclays Center wearing green. The Suns took Josh Jackson of Kansas, the Sacramento Kings took Kentucky guard De'Aaron Fox at No. 5 and the run of freshmen continued when the Orlando Magic selected Jonathan Isaac.

Fox ended up in the same

state as Ball, who he outplayed when Kentucky ousted UCLA in the NCAA Tournament.

"I mean, it's extremely gratifying for me to be in that top five, and we already knew that this was going to be a pretty tough draft and it was pretty loaded at the point guard position, and for me to be up there is just a blessing," Fox said.

Silver has talked about changing the NBA's current rule that American-born players must be 19 and a year out of high school, but teams seem just fine with the current system. The run of freshmen bettered the 2014 record of four straight first-year players to start the draft, finally ending when the New York Knicks took French guard Frank Ntilikina at No. 8.

The top 10 was rounded out with two more freshmen: Dennis Smith Jr. of North Carolina State to Dallas at No. 9, and Gonzaga's Zach Collins at No. 10 with the Kings' second pick, which was later dealt to Portland for a pair of picks. Last year's record of 14 freshmen fell when Brooklyn grabbed Jarrett Allen from Texas at No. 22, and there were 16 total among the 30 first-round picks — and just two seniors.

Fewer international players selected this time around

Associated Press

MIAMI — Lauri Markkanen had a special accessory sewn into the lining of his suit jacket at the NBA Draft.

The Finnish flag.

"It's been a little while," Markkanen said.

For the sharpshooting Finn, it was worth the wait.

Markkanen — officially drafted by Minnesota, but traded to Chicago in the deal that sent Jimmy Butler to the Timberwolves — will become the second Finland-born player in the NBA, after Hanno Mottola. And while international players didn't hear their name called as often in this year's draft as last

year, when a record 27 were selected, there was still a distinct foreign flavor.

"I'm really honored to be part of this organization, and can't wait to go there and do what I can," said Markkanen, who spent his lone college season at Arizona. "It's just a blessing to be here."

There were a half-dozen players with true international ties taken in the first round. Right after Markkanen went off the board, the New York Knicks took point guard Frank Ntilikina with the No. 8 pick.

Still just 18, Ntilikina, who was born in Belgium and plays professionally in France, has

been a pro for three years already.

"I think it definitely helped me to play against grown men, adults, and to play against some of the guys that went into the NBA actually," Ntilikina said. "Like, I had teammates that played in the NBA, former Mavs Rodrigue Beaubois, former Knick Mardy Collins, so actually every teammate can help you to make the transition."

UCLA's T.J. Leaf, picked No. 18 by Indiana, was born in Israel. Terrance Ferguson, the No. 21 pick by Oklahoma City, was born in Oklahoma but played this last season in Australia. OG Anunoby, the No. 23 pick by

Toronto, was born in London.

And Anzejs Pasecniks was taken at No. 25 by Orlando before getting traded to Philadelphia; he's a Latvian who has been playing in Spain.

The second round, as usual, featured plenty of players from foreign teams — former UCLA player and Australia-born Jonah Bolden was most recently playing in Serbia; Vlatko Cancar, Ognjen Jaramaz and Alpha Kaba were all teammates in Serbia; Isaiah Hartenstein was born in Oregon, raised in Germany and played in Lithuania; Mathias Lessort has been in France and Aleksandar Vezekov last played in Spain.

TCU eliminates Louisville from CWS

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — With TCU holding a one-run lead and two Louisville runners on base and two outs in the fifth inning, Sean Wymer got called out of the bullpen.

The first batter he faced: national player of the year Brendan McKay.

Wymer struck out McKay to end the inning, and he fanned him again with a runner on to end the eighth during another shutdown performance that helped the Horned Frogs win 4-3 on Thursday night at the College World Series.

TCU advanced to its bracket final for the third year in a row. The Frogs must beat Florida on Friday night and again Saturday to reach the best-of-three championship series for the first time.

"I felt like it was a classic ballgame from beginning to end," coach Jim Schlossnagle

said. "Obviously, the story tonight was Sean and how well he pitched out of the bullpen for us. I was trying to hold off on putting him in there as long as possible but felt like it was the fifth inning there with McKay coming to the plate. That could be the game."

Wymer (6-4), who worked the last 4¹/₃ innings, has thrown nine shutout innings in his last four appearances. He limited the Cardinals (53-12) to two hits after they had pulled within a run on McKay's 18th homer of the year and Logan Taylor's first homer in 123 games.

McKay, the No. 4 overall pick by Tampa Bay in last week's Major League Baseball draft, was the Dick Howser Trophy winner as the nation's top college player and also is a finalist for the Golden Spikes Award.

"I knew what my job was when I came in," Wymer said of facing McKay in the fifth. "I had to get that out because you

wanted to keep the game, obviously, in our favor. So that's really it."

The Horned Frogs led 4-0 in the second inning against freshman left-hander Nick Bennett (5-1), who was making his first start since a regional win over Xavier on June 4. After Connor Wanhnen doubled in a run, Omaha native Ryan Merrill singled in two more to knock out Bennett.

Josh Watson scored the second run on Merrill's base hit on a play at the plate that stood after a video review. The sliding Watson was able to touch home with his left hand as catcher Colby Fitch tagged his knee almost simultaneously.

Austen Wade followed with an RBI single off Adam Wolf to break an 0-for-15 slump.

The Cardinals scored each of the next three innings to pull within one. Josh Stowers singled in a run, McKay homered on the first pitch of the fourth

and Taylor on the first pitch of the fifth to chase TCU starter Nick Lodolo.

Louisville coach Dan McDonnell was ejected in the eighth inning after pinch runner Ryan Summers was caught stealing second. McDonnell sprinted out of the first-base dugout to argue with second-base umpire Mark Winters. The play was not subject to video review. TV replays showed Summers' foot touching the bag as Cam Warner tagged his helmet. McDonnell was the first coach ejected in a College World Series game since Cal State Fullerton's George Horton on June 18, 2007.

"I lost my cool and just fought for my guy knowing the point of the game and how valuable that base was," McDonnell said. "But I'm never going to stand behind a camera and blame an umpire. That's not the reason we lost. I don't know if I should have been thrown out, but that's not my call to make."

Golden Knights may be best expansion team ever

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Vegas Golden Knights owner Bill Foley has repeatedly said he wants to win the Stanley Cup within the first six years of his new team's existence.

After Vegas came away with a jackpot from the expansion draft, Foley's franchise goalie is even bolder.

"Let's do it earlier," Marc-Andre Fleury said Thursday. "Why wait six years? I don't know where I'll be in six years. Right away our goal has to be to get good, to improve and to go out there."

Vegas shouldn't start blocking off the Strip for the parade just yet, but Sin City's new team is holding a remarkable hand after general manager George McPhee's 37-player haul from the expansion draft and several subsequent trades.

Nashville general manager David Poile is among many hockey observers who think the Golden Knights have the ingre-

dients for the most competitive expansion team in league history. From Fleury on out, Vegas already has a solid NHL roster with a sturdy blue line and four lines of capable forwards.

What they don't have is the game-changing playmakers and goal scorers that separate decent teams from great ones, but they've got a plan for that, too: Vegas will add even more top-shelf talent in the draft, where McPhee holds three first-round picks, including the sixth overall.

The players who have already arrived in Vegas realize that although they're starting over, they aren't starting from scratch.

"They put a great group together," said forward Reid Duke, who became the Golden Knights' first player when he signed as a free agent in March. "You never really know what to expect, but they made some big splashes. Got a lot of good players, a lot of good picks. It's nice

to see that they are not only building for right now, but the future, too. They've got some smart guys up there, and they know exactly what they are doing."

McPhee continued his moves Thursday, swinging two trades to add draft picks in place of claimed players who might not have made the Golden Knights' roster. Vegas shipped defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk and a seventh-round pick next year to Carolina for Pittsburgh's second-round pick this year, and then traded David Schlemko to Montreal for a fifth-round pick in 2019.

After Foley paid \$500 million to the league as an expansion fee, the Golden Knights were given favorable franchise-building terms explicitly designed to give them a better chance to be competitive more quickly than the new teams of the previous 25 years.

Instead of forcing Vegas fans to watch several years of plod-

ding franchise-building, the NHL wants the Golden Knights to be decent from the start.

Can they be the best expansion team ever?

The NHL added nine franchises between 1991 and 2001, and no team did better than the Florida Panthers, who went 33-34-17 and racked up an expansion team-record 83 points in the 1993-94 season. The NHL still had ties in 1994, so teams didn't pick up extra points through shootout wins.

All but four teams in the Western Conference recorded more than 83 points last season. An 84-point season would have put the Golden Knights in sixth place in an eight-team Pacific Division last season, ahead of Arizona and Vancouver.

The Golden Knights aren't ready to make any predictions yet, but once they get together in Vegas for the first time under coach Gerard Gallant, they'll start to figure out just how good they can be.

Braves use 8-run fifth to edge Giants

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Lane Adams says he believes the baseball cliché that hitting is contagious.

In the Braves' biggest inning in six years, the hot hitting spread all the way to his spot on the bench.

Adams delivered a pinch-hit, three-run homer in Atlanta's eight-run fifth inning and the Braves held off San Francisco in the ninth to beat the Giants 12-11 in a rain-delayed game Thursday night.

It was the Braves' most runs in an inning since they scored eight in the ninth at the Dodgers on April 19, 2011. Their nine hits in the inning were their most since April 7, 2004, when they had nine in the fourth against the Mets.

"When one guy gets going, the rest fall in line," Adams said. "... It was a great inning."

The big inning left Atlanta with a 12-6 lead. Braves manager Brian Snitker said the eight-run inning "was great" because "we needed them all."

The homer was the first of Adams' career.

The Braves won three of four in the series to cap San Francisco's 1-7 road trip.

"You can look at the good things and the silver linings, but the bottom line is we lost seven games," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "That's not a good trip."

The Giants, last in the NL West, have lost nine of 10. They gave the Braves a scare by scoring two runs off closer Jim Johnson in the ninth.

"That was big," said Hunter Pence, who had two hits but hit a groundout to second base to end the game with two runners on base. "Unfortunately we weren't able to finish it off. We battled pretty hard this whole game."

Brandon Phillips led off the Braves' big inning with a homer off Matt Cain (3-7), the first of six straight hits.

The Braves and Giants combined for seven homers, including four by Atlanta, and 31 hits. Nick Markakis had four hits, including a two-run homer in the first. Matt Adams hit his third homer of the series, and 13th of the season, in the fourth.

Buster Posey drove in three runs with a homer and two doubles for San Francisco. Joe Panik led off the fifth with a

homer. Brandon Belt hit his 13th homer off Ian Krol in the eighth.

Jaime Garcia allowed six runs and seven hits in 4¹/₃ innings. Rookie Jason Hursh (1-0) recorded the final two outs in the fifth for his first major league win.

Johnson gave one-out singles to Nick Hundley and Denard Span in the ninth before walking Belt to load the bases. Hundley scored on Kelby Tomlinson's fielder's choice grounder, and Panik's fly ball to left field cut the lead to one run.

Johnson earned his 14th save in 19 chances.

Rain delayed the start of the game for the second straight night. The delay lasted 1 hour, 26 minutes.

Surging Arizona moves into tie for second in NL West

Associated Press

DENVER — Zack Godley got off to a rough start, quickly recovered and turned in a gem for the surging Arizona Diamondbacks.

Godley shook off a leadoff home run to throw well into the eighth inning, Paul Goldschmidt and Chris Owings hit three-run homers, and the Diamondbacks beat the Colorado Rockies 10-3 on Thursday.

Goldschmidt finished with three hits and four RBIs to increase his season total to 64, tops in the majors.

Arizona took two of three in the NL West matchup and is now tied with Colorado for second place in the division behind the Dodgers. The Diamondbacks have won 12 of 14 and are a season-high 19 games above .500 after a 7-1 road trip.

"We came in here and did what we needed to do," Godley said. "More for ourselves than anybody it showed we're playing good ball. Keep trying to carry that over into the next day."

Angels 10, Yankees 5: Albert Pujols lined a go-ahead

single during a messy, four-run rally in the seventh inning and visiting Los Angeles overcame Aaron Judge's major league-leading 25th home run to beat New York.

The Angels took advantage of three errors and two wild pitches — including a heater by Dellin Betances that sailed to the backstop — during a late surge.

Astros 12, Athletics 9: Josh Reddick homered and scored four runs, and Jake Marisnick and Marwin Gonzalez each went deep for visiting Houston.

The major league-leading Astros completed a four-game sweep with their 10th straight victory in Oakland and their 15th win in 16 games against the A's overall.

White Sox 9, Twins 0: Jose Abreu and Todd Frazier each hit two-run homers in the first inning, Jose Quintana cruised behind the extra support, and visiting Chicago won big after a rain-delayed start of 4 hours and 50 minutes that was the longest in Minnesota history.

Brewers 4, Pirates 2: Corey Knebel broke Aroldis Chapman's modern-era re-

cord for consecutive games by a reliever with a strikeout at a season's start, fanning a batter for the 38th straight game and closing out the win for host Milwaukee.

Phillies 5, Cardinals 1: Aaron Nola pitched shutout ball into the eighth inning, Freddy Galvis and Tommy Joseph homered, and host Philadelphia ended a five-game losing streak.

Joseph drove in three runs as Philadelphia, a major league-worst 23-48, won for just the second time in 15 games.

Rangers 11, Blue Jays 4: Carlos Gomez homered twice to drive in five runs, and Mike Napoli and Robinson Chirinos also homered for host Texas.

Gomez has five homers in his six games since returning from the disabled list last week after missing a month with a right hamstring strain.

Cubs 11, Marlins 1: Addison Russell had four hits, including a home run, to pace visiting Chicago past Miami.

Kris Bryant had a three-run homer, Willson Contreras added a two-run shot and Ian Happ also had four hits and

drove in a pair for the Cubs, who have won four of five. Russell had two RBIs.

Indians 6, Orioles 3: Austin Jackson had three hits and three RBIs, Erik Gonzalez homered and visiting Cleveland won three of four from Baltimore to complete a 7-1 road trip that began with a four-game sweep of Minnesota.

Cleveland has scored at least five runs and reached double figures in hits over nine consecutive games, and homered in 11 straight.

Mariners 9, Tigers 6: Robinson Cano hit a grand slam and a two-run homer, Andrew Moore pitched seven effective innings to win in his big league debut, and host Seattle held off Detroit for its fifth straight victory and moved above .500 for the first time this season at 38-37.

Dodgers 6, Mets 3: Joc Pederson hit a go-ahead home run in the seventh and host Los Angeles used the long ball again to power past New York and complete a four-game sweep.

Justin Turner and Enrique Hernandez also hit home runs for the Dodgers, who had a club-record 15 in the series.