

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Officers censured in Navy scandal

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Navy Secretary Richard Spencer has issued letters of censure to a retired rear admiral and two other officers found to have accepted inappropriate gifts and to have maintained unethical relationships with “Fat” Leonard Francis, the central figure in a widespread fraud investigation.

The censures — formal, permanent acknowledgements of wrongdoing — were issued last week to retired Rear Adm. Richard Wren, retired Capt. Timothy Conroy and Capt. Charles Johnson, the Navy announced Wednesday in a statement. The letters do not impact retirement benefits or pay for the officers reprimanded.

The censures are the latest in a series of punishments doled out by the Navy and the Department of Justice stemming from an ongoing probe of Francis and the defense contractor Glenn Defense Marine Asia, or GDMA, for whom he worked. Francis has pleaded guilty to bribery, conspiracy to defraud the U.S. and other charges. He is awaiting sentencing.

According to the Navy, Wren “repeatedly and improperly” took gifts from Francis while serving as the commander of Carrier Strike Group Five and as the commander

**Since ‘Fat’ Leonard Francis’ 2013 arrest, hundreds of Navy officials have been impacted by the scandal, which has led to charges against more than 30 individuals. At least 20 Navy officials have pleaded guilty to a range of charges, including fraud and dereliction of duty related to the case.**

of U.S. Naval Forces Japan between 2007 and 2010. In Spencer’s letter, the secretary wrote he determined Wren later misled investigators about his relationship with Francis. Wren retired from the Navy in 2011.

Conroy, who retired from the Navy in 2010, also accepted gifts from Francis during several months in 2008 when he was serving as the chief of staff for Carrier Strike Group Seven, Spencer determined, according to the Navy statement.

Johnson, who remains on active duty,

was found to have accepted gifts from Francis’ firm repeatedly between 2004 and 2010 while serving in various positions in the western Pacific, the Navy said.

Spencer wrote all three officers engaged in “conduct unbecoming an officer,” which was “an embarrassment” to the service.

“It is incumbent that naval officers, particularly those placed in positions of great trust and responsibility, be held to the highest standards of both personal and professional behavior,” Spencer wrote. Wren, Conroy and Johnson “disregarded those standards and engaged in conduct that reflected unethical and improper personal behavior and set poor standards of leadership.”

The 350-pound Francis bribed Navy officials in the Pacific with hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash, luxurious gifts and prostitutes, investigators said. Francis is believed to have defrauded the U.S. government out of about \$35 million. Since Francis’ 2013 arrest, hundreds of Navy officials have been impacted by the scandal, which has led to charges against more than 30 individuals. At least 20 Navy officials have pleaded guilty to a range of charges, including fraud and dereliction of duty related to the case.

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## Navy’s top NCO on leave amid misconduct probe

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy’s senior enlisted sailor has taken leave as the service’s inspector general probes allegations that he fostered a hostile work environment in his Pentagon office, Navy officials said Thursday.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Steven Giordano remains in his role as the service’s top enlisted leader. However, he could remain on leave throughout the remainder of the investigation into claims of misconduct, a Navy official said on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the ongoing case.

Giordano requested the leave, which was granted, Cmdr. William Speaks, a Navy spokesman said Thursday. Speaks and other officials declined to discuss when Giordano requested the leave or whether it was directly tied to the IG probe.

The investigation was initiated last month following a formal complaint by a sailor working for Giordano, alleging he created a toxic work environment and belittled people who worked for him, often demanding they perform menial tasks, officials said.

Giordano, who enlisted in 1989, is the 14th master chief petty officer of the Navy, according to his official biography. He is a native of Baltimore. In addition to multiple deployments aboard surface ships and sub-

marines in the Pacific and European areas of responsibility, Giordano has served in Guam and Bahrain. He was the force master chief for Navy Information Dominance Forces and fleet master chief for U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa.

As the Navy’s senior enlisted leader, Giordano serves as a chief adviser to Adm. John Richardson, the chief of naval operations, and develops policy and advocates for the sea service’s enlisted force.

Master chief petty officers of the Navy typically serve two-year assignments, which can be extended to four years. Navy officials declined to speculate on Giordano’s future with the service before the IG investigation is completed.

## USS Arizona relic heads to Texas memorial

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — In the early 1960s, workmen spent months carving up a huge unsubmerged portion of the USS Arizona, sunk by the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Chunk by chunk, cranes lifted and transported pieces of the ship to the Navy's boneyard on nearby Waipio Peninsula — all in preparation for constructing a permanent USS Arizona Memorial above the remaining submerged ship. The memorial was completed and dedicated in 1962.

"That wreckage has been resting over there basically since 1961," said Daniel Martinez, chief historian for the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which includes the Arizona.

On Thursday, a large piece of that deck will head to a war memorial in the Texas Panhandle, delivered by UPS via air and truck.

"We're really excited about it," said Ernie Houdashell, a Texas county judge who headed the effort to obtain the relic. "It's really, really an honor to think we're going to have a piece of this national treasure."

The relic will be mounted on a pedestal at the Texas Panhandle War Memorial in Amarillo on property owned by Randall County, Texas.

Its acquisition is part of an effort by Houdashell to obtain significant displays representing the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and the Marine Corps for the memorial.

The Arizona artifact will join a Vietnam War-era Huey helicopter — representing the Army — and an F-100 supersonic fighter jet used by the Air Force.

"We were looking for something for the Navy guys," Houdashell said.

# GOP immigration push faces fight

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The House plunged into its long-awaited immigration debate Thursday with divided Republicans facing an uphill fight to muscle anything through the chamber. President Donald Trump seemed to undermine the effort with a tweet suggesting any measure the House approved would be doomed in the Senate anyway.

The fight — initially centered on helping young "Dreamer" immigrants stay in the country — has been swamped by heart-rending images of children in wire enclosures after being separated from their families at the border. Trump issued an executive order Wednesday aimed at reversing his own policy of taking immigrant children from their detained parents, but emotions remained high.

"I was welcomed here," a tearful Rep. Norma Torres, D-Calif., said during floor debate, describing her journey to the U.S. as a child from Guatemala. "I was not put in a freezing cell."

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., stopped short of predicting that a bill would pass.

"I don't know the answer to that question," he told reporters. "We're going to have some votes today and see."

In an embarrassing detour, the House used an early procedural vote to correct what Republicans called a drafting error — language providing \$100 billion more than they'd planned to help build Trump's proposed border wall with Mexico. Instead of giving initial approval for \$24.8 billion

spread during the next five years, the legislation said it would open the door to \$24.8 billion "for each" of the next five years.

The House planned votes on two broad GOP bills.

One was a conservative measure granting no pathway to citizenship for young "Dreamers" who arrived in the country illegally as children and curbing legal immigration and bolstering border security. It was certain to be defeated.

The other was a compromise between GOP moderates and the party's conservatives that included an opportunity for citizenship for the young immigrants. It provides \$25 billion for Trump's wall, restrictions on legal immigration and language requiring the Homeland Security Department to keep migrant families together while they're being processed for illegal entry to the U.S.

Democrats oppose both measures as harsh.

"It is not a compromise," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told reporters. "It may be a compromise with the devil, but it is not a compromise with the Democrats."

Even before votes began, Trump complicated GOP efforts to round up votes.

"What is the purpose of the House doing good immigration bills when you need 9 votes by Democrats in the Senate, and the Dems are only looking to Obstruct (which they feel is good for them in the Mid-Terms)," Trump wrote. "Republicans must get rid of the stupid Filibuster Rule-it is killing you!"

## Texas bases soon might host migrants

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Military bases soon could become home to migrant families while they await immigrant or criminal proceedings. The executive order signed Wednesday by President Donald Trump to stop the separation of families crossing the border illegally orders Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to provide space in existing facilities or to construct facilities if necessary. This is upon request of the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen.

The idea of housing children on military installations in Texas has been discussed in recent weeks as the administration enforces its "zero-tolerance" immigration policy along the U.S.-Mexico border.

When searching for more housing for migrant children, Fort Bliss in El Paso, Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene and Goodfellow Air Force Base near San Angelo — all in West Texas — have been identified for possible use as temporary shelters, according to information from the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families.

Mattis, when asked about the idea of housing immigrants on bases, said, "We'll see what they come in with. We support DHS, and right now this is their lead and we'll respond if requested."

"We have housed refugees. We have housed people thrown out of their homes by earthquakes and hurricanes. We do whatever is in the best in-

terest of the country," he said Wednesday to reporters outside the Pentagon.

Last week, Texas politicians expressed concern over the distraction that housing migrant children on a military base could cause.

U.S. Rep. Jodey Arrington, R-Lubbock, who represents Dyess, said he is "paying close attention and gathering the facts regarding what this would mean for Dyess if the base is selected." He said he was not convinced that this is the best short-term answer. While he supports enforcing the rule of law, Arrington said he's concerned if the plan "harms regular base operations, crowds our servicemembers and distracts from the mission of defense."

## Five Mich. siblings to join military

Associated Press

ADA, Mich. — Five Michigan siblings, including quadruplets, who just graduated high school are set to join the armed forces.

Quadruplets Nevin, Mason, Bryce and Rose Lees are joining the Marine Corps, the Air National Guard, the Navy and the Air Force, respectively. Their adopted brother, Yoel Lees, will join the Marines this fall. Two other siblings who also just graduated from Forest Hills Northern High School in Grand Rapids aren't joining the military.

"I was kind of the last one to hop on the military bandwagon," Mason Lees told the Grand Rapids Press. "I'm joining the Air National Guard down in Tennessee for aerospace propulsion, hopefully."

Yoel Lees said he became interested in the Marine Corps for the culture and the brotherhood.

Their mother, Lyvonne Lees, said there hasn't been much military influence from her or her husband's families, aside from a son-in-law who serves as a pilot.

She encouraged others to take advantage of joining the military as a path to higher education because of its financial benefits.

Bryce Lees said he thinks there's a misconception that it's a scary, dangerous decision to join the armed forces.

"You meet new people, lifelong friends, you get to travel the world, you help other countries," he said.

Rose Lees wants to become an emergency medicine physician, with the hopes of working for Doctors Without Borders. She plans to attend Eastern Michigan University and to commute to the University of Michigan for Air Force training.

"Ever since I was little I've always wanted to serve," she told WXMI-TV. "I just want to help out our world."

## Lawyer: Ex-GI may seek clemency

Bales, who shot up Afghan village, likely to ask president to commute sentence

McClatchy Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Robert Bales, the former Army staff sergeant who killed 16 Afghan civilians, including seven children, will likely ask the president to commute his life sentence once he exhausts his legal appeals for one of the nation's most notorious war crimes.

Bales' attorney, John Maher, said earlier this month that if he runs out of options in the courts, he will seek executive clemency from the president.

Bales could face a receptive audience if President Donald Trump still occupies the Oval Office when his appeals are complete. Trump has freed people he believes were treated unfairly by the judicial system, pardoning five, including two for political corruption.

He also pardoned one former servicemember among the more than 3,000 clemency requests: Former Petty Officer 1st Class Kristian Saucier was sentenced to a year in prison for taking photos of a classified area of Naval Submarine Base in New London, Conn. Trump pardoned him after Saucier said he had been treated more harshly than others who were accused of mishandling classified information, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former CIA Director David Petraeus. Clinton was

not charged with wrongdoing, and Petraeus pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 2 years' probation and a \$100,000 fine.

Maher said Bales would likely request a commutation of the life-without-parole sentence "to provide a chance to one day be returned to his wife and children."

In the early-morning hours of March 11, 2012, Bales left his base, Camp Belambay, in Kandahar, armed with an M4 carbine and M9 pistol, and headed to a nearby village, where he killed four people, including a child, and assaulted six others. He returned to base for more ammunition before walking to another village, where he killed a dozen more, mainly women and children, in their beds.

It was his first tour in Afghanistan, following three in Iraq. According to court documents, he had been drinking that evening and taken sleeping pills and also was using anabolic steroids, known to cause mood swings.

He pleaded guilty on June 5, 2013, and was sentenced to life without parole in the maximum-security military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Bales' next step is the Supreme Court. In a petition filed May 19, Bales' attorneys argued that evidence was withheld during the trial that could have influenced the sentence.

Prosecutors, the petition

said, failed to disclose that servicemembers, including Bales, were ordered to take an anti-malaria medication, mefloquine, that is known to cause nightmares, anxiety, anger and psychosis in some patients.

It also alleges that the prosecution failed to divulge evidence that three relatives of Bales' victims who testified in his sentencing were linked to roadside bomb attacks on coalition forces, according to U.S. military databases, or had been detained as Taliban associates.

"The idea is not so much we want to exonerate Bob Bales," Maher told McClatchy. "But he's an American soldier who walked into combat four times. Understandably, there's going to be a breaking point for even the strongest people around, and he deserves every protection the Constitution provides."

Retired Army Lt. Col. Jay Morse, who led the government's prosecution team in 2013, said the petition contained "embellishments and flat-out mistruths." Morse said the defense has misrepresented how mefloquine became an issue, adding that the government disclosed Bales' medical records and furnished all the information and subject matter experts, including psychiatrists and psychologists, that were requested by the defense team members.

## NATO head: No guarantee alliance will survive

Associated Press

LONDON — Bonds between Europe and North America are under strain and there's no guarantee the trans-Atlantic alliance will survive, the head of NATO warned Thursday.

Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called for an international effort to shore up the military alliance amid divisions between Europe and the U.S. over trade, climate change and the Iran nuclear deal.

"It is not written in stone that

the trans-Atlantic bond will survive forever," Stoltenberg told an audience in London. "But I believe we will preserve it."

NATO has been shaken by U.S. President Donald Trump's "America first" stance and mistrust of international institutions. Trump once called NATO obsolete, and repeatedly has berated other members of the 29-nation alliance for failing to spend enough on defense.

Ahead of a NATO summit in July, Stoltenberg said "we may have seen the weakening" of some bonds between North America and Europe. But he insisted that "maintaining the trans-Atlantic partnership is in our strategic interests."

Stoltenberg said the world faced "the most unpredictable security environment in a generation" due to terrorism, proliferating weapons of mass destruction, cyberattacks and an assertive Russia.

# Canada gives OK to legalize marijuana

Associated Press

TORONTO — Marijuana will be legal nationwide in Canada starting Oct. 17 in a move that should take market share away from organized crime and protect the country's youth, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Wednesday.

The Senate gave final passage to the bill to legalize cannabis on Tuesday, legislation that will make Canada only the second country in the world to make pot legal across the country.

Trudeau said provincial and territorial governments need the time to prepare for retail sales.

"It is our hope as of October 17 there will be a smooth operation of retail cannabis outlets operated by the provinces with an

online mail delivery system operated by the provinces that will ensure that this happens in an orderly fashion," Trudeau said.

The prime minister said at a news conference that the goal is to take a significant part of the market share away from organized crime.

Canada is following the lead of Uruguay in allowing a nationwide, legal marijuana market, although each Canadian province is working up its own rules for pot sales. The federal government and the provinces also still need to publish regulations that will govern the cannabis trade.

"The legislation is transformative," said Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, adding it "marks a wholesale shift in how our country approaches canna-

bis, leaving behind a failed model of prohibition."

She urged Canadians to follow the existing law until the Cannabis Act comes into force.

"The law still remains the law," Wilson-Raybould said.

Many questions remain unanswered, including how police will test motorists suspected of driving under the influence, what to do about those with prior marijuana convictions and just how the rules governing home cultivation will work.

The Canadian provinces of Quebec and Manitoba have already decided to ban home-grown pot, even though the federal bill specifies that individuals can grow up to four plants per dwelling.

"Provinces can set their own

laws. If individuals are challenging that law, they can challenge it," Wilson-Raybould said.

Trudeau said they are going to treat it like wine and tobacco, noting that few people will cultivate it at home, but it's necessary to fight organized crime.

Trudeau promised to legalize it during the 2015 election and had set a goal of July 1 for it. The provinces pleaded for more time. Canadian marijuana stocks have rallied in anticipation of legalization and jumped again on Wednesday.

In the neighboring U.S., nine states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana. California, home to one in eight Americans, launched the United States' biggest legal marijuana marketplace on Jan. 1.

## Trump proposes merging education, labor agencies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration Thursday proposed a major reorganization of the federal government that calls for merging the education and labor departments, moving the federal food stamp program to the Department of Health and Human Services and renaming that agency.

Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget, told The Associated Press in an interview that the effort is part of the president's "drain the swamp" agenda and was aimed at streamlining a long list of overlapping regulations and department functions.

The sweeping reorganization proposal is the result of a presidential order signed by Trump in March 2017 calling for a review of the federal government aimed at identifying redundancies and streamlining agencies.

Mulvaney pointed to the fact that there are more than 40 job training programs spread across 16 Cabinet agencies — just one of a list of examples he cited. "If it's cheese pizza, it's FDA, but you put pepperoni on it and it becomes a USDA product. I mean, come

on?" he said. Among the specific proposals is a plan to merge the departments of education and labor into a single Department of Education and the Workforce, or DEW. The combined agency would oversee programs for students and workers, ranging from education and developing skills to workplace protections and retirement security.

The plan would also create a single food safety agency under the Department of Agriculture and move the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program from the USDA to Health and Human Services, which would be renamed the Department of Health and Public Welfare and be refocused more broadly on public assistance programs.

Housing programs run by the USDA would also move to the Department of Housing and Urban Development and certain functions of the Army Corps of Engineers would be moved to the departments of transportation and interior. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management's policy function would be moved into the Executive Office of the President, while background checks would move over to the DOD.

## National Mall site picked for Desert Storm memorial

BY NIKKI WENTLING

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A federal commission on Thursday approved a site on the National Mall for the future National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial after several months of debate over whether to choose another location along the Potomac River.

The U.S. Commission on Fine Arts voted to place it on a quarter-acre site at the southwest corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, a decision celebrated by supporters who advocated for a spot on the National Mall during the three-year site-selection process.

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn.; Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind.; and Joe Davis, spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, spoke at the commission meeting and urged members to choose the Mall site.

Four members voted in favor of the location, one opposed it and one member abstained from voting. It was a reversal of their decision in March to put the memorial on the Belvedere,

a portion of land along the Potomac River at the western end of Constitution Avenue.

The commission was forced to reconsider its previous decision Thursday because another federal board tasked with choosing the memorial location — the National Capital Planning Commission — decided on the 23rd-and-Constitution site. According to federal statute, both commissions, along with the National Park Service, must agree on a location.

The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association, which is responsible for the planning and construction of the memorial, opposed the Belvedere site because it is difficult to access from other war memorials.

President Donald Trump signed a resolution in March approving a Desert Storm and Desert Shield memorial in Washington. The association is responsible for all aspects of the memorial, including fundraising, design and construction. It's estimated to cost about \$25 million and to be completed in 2021.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Police replace lost stuffed cheetah

**RI** RICHMOND — A boy who lost a stuffed animal on a highway has a new one thanks to the Rhode Island State Police.

Will Ketcher, 4, was riding in a car when his stuffed cheetah, Roger, fell out the window onto Interstate 95. Heartbroken, his dad suggested they write to the state police after the family returned home to Brooklyn.

The letter began: "Dear Rhode Island State Highway Patrol, I lost my Roger ... can you please find him?"

Patrols found no sign of Roger. The state police sent the boy a package explaining they did find another cheetah who wanted to live in New York.

### Holstered gun found in Walmart shopping cart

**WI** MUSKEGO — Police said a customer at a Walmart store in Muskego pulled out a shopping cart only to find a holstered gun inside.

The .32 caliber gun was turned over to police when it was discovered last week. Officer Michael Rakers said the gun was not listed as having been stolen or used in any crime. Rakers told the Journal Sentinel it's odd that someone would put a gun in a cart while they shopped. Police haven't said whether it was loaded.

### Teenager finds bear breaking into his home

**CT** TORRINGTON — An 18-year-old who went to investigate a loud noise in his kitchen said he came face-to-face with a bear.

Carlos Novicky said he found the bear in his Torrington home on Tuesday after it pushed through a screen window to get

a loaf of bread from the counter. Novicky said he went back into his room and called police and animal control.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection said the bear was euthanized as it left the house, which the department says is standard protocol.

### Mammoth tusk stolen from science center

**AK** ANCHORAGE — A federal agency wants its woolly mammoth tusk back.

The Bureau of Land Management in Alaska asked for the public's help in recovering an approximately 10,000-year-old tusk stolen from the Campbell Creek Science Center, an interpretive center in east Anchorage.

The woolly mammoth is Alaska's official state fossil. The tusk was on display when the center was burglarized March 8. Anchorage police say a thief broke in through a window and took only the tusk, which weighs 100 pounds.

The curved tusk is dark- and light-brown, mottled and about 5.5 feet long. The BLM is offering a \$500 reward for the return of its tusk.

### Sign deterring foreign language removed

**MD** BALTIMORE — A Dunkin' Donuts shop in Baltimore is no longer offering customers coupons if they report workers shouting in foreign languages to management.

The Baltimore Sun reported the sign in the store on West 41st Street was removed after it created a stir on social media.

A photo of the sign was posted Monday on Twitter by a displeased customer. It read: "If you hear any of our staff SHOUTING in a language

other than ENGLISH Please call ... immediately with the name of the employee to receive a coupon for FREE Coffee and a pastry."

In a statement, Dunkin' Donuts said a general manager posted the sign "based on her personal judgment." The franchise owner deemed it inappropriate and had it removed.

### SUV shears hydrant, is swallowed by sinkhole

**CA** DOWNEY — Authorities said an SUV knocked over a fire hydrant and damaged a water main, unleashing a torrent that caused a sinkhole on a suburban street near Los Angeles.

Photos from the scene show parts of a Downey street, sidewalk and private driveway collapsed into a crater of water more than 20 feet across.

Police said a woman driving the SUV swerved to avoid an oncoming car and struck a utility pole and the hydrant late Saturday. Officials said crews couldn't turn off the water for hours, causing the ground around the burst pipe to give way. The sinkhole eventually swallowed the SUV. The driver was not inside.

### Teen a scholarship finalist for duct tape tux

**NJ** BRICK — A New Jersey teenager is a finalist for a \$10,000 scholarship because of a prom tuxedo he constructed entirely from duct tape.

Nicholas Matawa said his prom tuxedo cost about \$90 and was made from 29 rolls of red, white and blue duct tape — creating an American flag-themed tuxedo complete with a duct tape top hat. NJ.com reported Matawa wore the tuxedo to his Brick Memorial High School prom last month.

For his effort, Matawa is now a finalist in a scholarship competition run by Duck Brand — which inspired Matawa to make the tuxedo. A winner will be announced July 9.

### Man falls into cops' hands after eluding them

**OH** YOUNGSTOWN — An Ohio man who ran from a traffic stop and then found himself clinging by his hands to a window ledge was literally caught by police waiting below.

The (Youngstown) Vindicator reported Youngstown police said Dai'ryon Mitchell, 21, jumped out of a car and fled on foot when officers responded to a report of multiple gunshots having been fired. Police said officers chased Mitchell into a home and, while hanging by his hands from a window ledge, he tried to pull himself inside when he saw two officers beneath the window. Mitchell instead lost his grip, fell into the officers' arms and was arrested.

### Conviction stands, despite lost evidence

**MI** DETROIT — A man convicted of sawing and removing metal fence posts at a Detroit baseball field lost his appeal, even though police lost track of the evidence before trial.

Marvin Armstead was accused of sawing 10 posts at Jayne Field so he could use them for his fencing business. Armstead insisted that he had purchased posts that were similar to ones that were stolen.

He argued his lawyer should have tried to have the case dismissed because the fence posts were lost while in police custody. But the appeals court said the lost evidence was only potentially useful to his defense.

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# Aussies get key draw against Danes

Associated Press

SAMARA, Russia — Mile Jedinak has a knack for penalty kicks and his strategy is beyond simple.

“Just to get that ball in the back of the net,” the Australia captain said after converting from the spot to give Australia a 1-1 draw against Denmark on Thursday and new life at the World Cup.

The 38th-minute penalty was set up after Denmark forward Yussuf Poulsen was called for a handball following a video review. Poulsen was also cautioned by the referee and will be suspended for the team’s final group match against France because of yellow card accumulation.

The goal was Jedinak’s second from the spot at this year’s World Cup, and it snapped Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel’s five-match streak of shutouts for the Danes.

“It’s more just composing and staying concentrated, regardless of the situation, regardless of where you’re standing and regardless of what’s going on around you,” added Jedinak, who has converted 16 straight penalties.

Christian Eriksen scored in the opening minutes for Denmark, which has gone unbeaten in 17 straight international matches.

Going into the tournament, No. 36 Aus-

tralia was the lowest-ranked team in Group C with the others all in the top 12.

With a loss to France in the opener, a defeat Thursday would have made it nearly impossible for the Socceroos to advance to the next stage. Denmark, meanwhile, beat Peru in its first match.

Australia lost to 1998 World Cup champion France 2-1 on Saturday in Kazan, with both French goals coming as the result of video technology. But the score didn’t reflect the Socceroos’ gritty defensive performance.

“You’ve got to put those frustrations aside,” Jedinak said. “You don’t put two performances in like that if you’re frustrated. You’ve got to just believe, and that’s what we do. We have belief in what we’re doing. We’re believing in the structure and how we’ve been training and preparing. And we’ll continue to do that. It will be the same going forward.”

Australia again took a defensive stand against Denmark, which was back at the World Cup after missing out on the tournament in Brazil. The Danes were coming off a 1-0 victory over Peru on Saturday in Saransk. Poulsen, who plays for German club RB Leipzig, scored the lone goal.

It is the fifth World Cup appearance for the Danes, who reached the quarterfinals in 1998.

Australia was also making a fifth trip to

the World Cup. The team’s best showing was in the 2006 quarterfinals.

Moments after Mathew Leckie’s early header for Australia sailed over the goal, Eriksen sent a left-footed shot over goalkeeper Mathew Ryan’s outstretched arms.

The Danes held the lead until the yellow on Poulsen, which was not without controversy. Video replay also gave Peru a penalty against the Danes in the opener, but it wasn’t converted.

“I think after today I don’t like the system. It’s the second match it’s been used against us,” Eriksen said. “If you want to use the VAR for penalties, you should also use it for free kicks. Two matches in a row, that’s bitter.”

After the pleas from Denmark’s players to the referee went unheard, Schmeichel had a few words with Jedinak to rattle him. It didn’t work.

“You still have to stay focused in getting good contact and maintain that focus,” said Jedinak, who plays for Aston Villa.

Pione Sisto nearly gave the Danes the advantage just after the halftime break, but his shot went to the right of the goal. Australia added some firepower in the 68th, bringing on 19-year-old Daniel Arzani as both teams scrambled for a winning goal.

# Mbappe goal sends France to second round

Associated Press

YEKATERINBURG, Russia — Fast, exciting and now the youngest scorer in France’s World Cup history.

Kylian Mbappe is the one.

At 19 years and 183 days, Mbappe became the youngest player to score for France’s national team on soccer’s biggest stage. And his reward was leading his squad into the round of 16 with a 1-0 victory over Peru on Thursday.

“I’ve always said that the World Cup is a dream for any player,” said Mbappe, who was born a few months after France won the 1998 title. “It is a dream come true and I hope I will have more like this.”

With two wins from two matches in Group C, France is through to the next round with a match to spare. Peru was

eliminated.

Paul Pogba, one of France’s best players, set up the 34th-minute goal for Mbappe. Pogba beat his defender and passed to Olivier Giroud, who then chipped the ball toward goal for Mbappe to easily tap in past goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

France coach Didier Deschamps made a pair of tactical adjustments after an underwhelming performance in the team’s opening win over Australia. He put Giroud and Blaise Matuidi in the starting lineup but kept the same 4-3-2-1 formation with Giroud up front.

Both used their speed and passing to expose gaps in Peru’s backline.

Paolo Guerrero started for Peru after coming off the bench in the opening loss to Denmark. He came out with energy, but

he cooled down after receiving a yellow card in the 23rd minute.

Guerrero nearly missed the World Cup before his doping ban was lifted by a Swiss judge prior to the tournament. France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris was one of three opposing captains, along with Australia’s Mile Jedinak and Denmark’s Simon Kjaer, who signed a letter to FIFA supporting the lifting of the ban.

Guerrero had one of Peru’s best chances in the 87th minute from a free kick, but his attempt went right at Lloris.

“We gave it our best in two matches. We came into this match with a completely different set of expectations, but I have nothing to hold against my players,” Peru coach Ricardo Gareca said. “France is a hard

team to harness. ... France corrected its style over the course of the game, this proves that France is a great side.”

Gareca said in both games his team’s ball control created opportunities, “but we couldn’t finish, we couldn’t score.”

The three-prong attack of Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann and Ousmane Dembele did little in the opening win over Australia, but the French trio was active Thursday in Yekaterinburg.

Griezmann had a pair of opportunities stopped within the first 15 minutes, and Mbappe and Dembele consistently got past Peru’s defense to set up scoring chances.

Peru was outshot 12-10, with only two of those chances on target. Two others were blocked.

# Devils' Hall earns NHL's MVP award

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Taylor Hall doesn't love public speaking, and the New Jersey Devils forward's nervousness grew while the NHL Awards show moved along.

But after Hall and the hockey world watched moving tributes to the Humboldt Broncos and the victims of two mass shootings, he was ready to accept the Hart Trophy with the proper perspective.

"It's not all about you," Hall said. "It's not all about winning awards. It's about enjoying life and doing what you love."

Hall was named the NHL's most valuable player Wednesday night, becoming the first New Jersey player to win the award after edging Colorado's Nathan MacKinnon in a close vote.

The hometown Vegas Golden Knights also went home with four trophies in recognition of their incredible expansion

season from a celebratory and occasionally somber evening at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

Hall, who finished sixth in the league with 93 points, beat out fellow first-time Hart finalists MacKinnon and Anze Kopitar of Los Angeles. Hall got 72 first-place votes and 1,264 total points in the voting, while MacKinnon got 60 first-place votes and 1,194 points.

Hall likely got the nod over two worthy contenders because of the way he carried the Devils offensively while they rebounded from a last-place finish in the Eastern Conference and reached the playoffs for the first time in five years. Hall put together a 26-game points streak during the season, and he finished with 41 more points than rookie Nico Hischier, New Jersey's second-leading scorer.

"If there is one thing I'm proud of, it's to be the first Devil to win MVP," Hall said. "At

the start of the season, people wrote us off. People have wrote me off, and it feels pretty good standing up here now."

Indeed, the award is a sweet validation for Hall, who was traded by Edmonton to New Jersey for defenseman Adam Larsson just two years ago. The Oilers gave up on the No. 1 pick in the 2010 draft, but Hall never gave up on reaching his potential.

He reached it on the Devils' top line with Hischier, forming a potent scoring tandem with the Swiss rookie.

"I was a good player for a long time, and I feel what really brought me to the next level was being in Jersey, playing with my teammates, drafting Nico No. 1 overall and getting to play with him as a centerman all season long," Hall said. "I think probably the biggest reason why I'm up here today is No. 13 (Hischier) on my team, and the trust that (gen-

eral manager) Ray Shero and (coach) John Hynes have put in me."

While Hall closed the show with the biggest trophy, the Golden Knights were big winners as well.

Coach Gerard Gallant won the Jack Adams Award, and George McPhee was named the NHL's general manager of the year in recognition of the Knights' immediate growth into champions of the Pacific Division and the Western Conference.

High-scoring Knights forward William Karlsson won the Lady Byng Trophy for the player best combining sportsmanship and ability. Defenseman Deryk Engelland also won the Mark Messier NHL Leadership Award for his actions during his team's breakthrough season in the wake of the shooting massacre on the Las Vegas Strip shortly before their first game.

## Sweden's Dahlin poised to be top pick in NHL Draft

Associated Press

Rasmus Dahlin is drawing comparisons to a pair of the best defensemen in the game today and to one of the best of all time.

No pressure.

The smooth-skating, play-making Swedish defenseman is expected to become just the third defenseman in the past 20 years to be picked No. 1 in the NHL Draft.

"He is so far ahead of anyone else available," said Joe McDonnell, the Dallas Stars' director of amateur scouting. "We didn't pay much attention to him this year because if we picked No. 1, we probably wouldn't have jobs right now. And if we didn't have the No. 1 pick, we knew we wouldn't be able to draft him."

Buffalo is expected to take Dahlin first overall on Friday night and it will be no surprise to some of the best in hockey.

Hall of Famer Nicklas Lid-

strom, a seven-time Norris Trophy winner, is one of the people who think Dahlin does compare to him, and some other current star defensemen who happen to be Swedes: Erik Karlsson and Victor Hedman.

"He has a lot of tools," Lidstrom, who has seen Dahlin play and has known of him for a few years, wrote in an email. "It will be interesting to see his development in the NHL where everyone is better/stronger/faster!"

Since St. Louis selected defenseman Erik Johnson first overall in 2006, the only blueliner taken No. 1 was Aaron Ekblad in 2014. Ekblad started strong in Florida, becoming an All-Star in his first two seasons and winning the Calder Trophy as the league's top rookie, but appeared to take a step back the last two years. Johnson finished 12th in rookie of the year voting and has had a decent career with the Blues and Colorado Avalanche.

"This is one of those years where there's a generational-type defenseman available and that's not always the case," Hall of Fame coach Scotty Bowman said. "Everybody says this Dahlin is the best in a while on defense."

The 18-year-old Dahlin has held his own against grown men over two seasons in a high-level European league. He had seven goals and 13 assists in 41 games this past season with Frolunda of the Swedish Hockey League and was the junior player of the year. As the youngest player in the Olympic men's hockey tournament, he had an assist in two games while suiting up sparingly for Sweden.

"I think I'm ready right now to play in the NHL," Dahlin said.

Dahlin is set to become the second Swede taken No. 1 overall, joining Hall of Famer Mats Sundin, who was drafted by Quebec in 1989.

The Detroit Red Wings have

leaned on scout Hakan Andersson for nearly three decades to decide who overseas has a chance to play in the world's best hockey league. Andersson, who knows the hockey landscape as well as anyone overseas, said he has never seen a prospect quite like Dahlin.

"It's not easy to put him in any category with anyone," said Andersson, the director of European scouting for the Red Wings. "It's hard to say someone is going to be better than Nicklas Lidstrom, but Dahlin has all the tools to be an unbelievable defenseman. He has Lidstrom's poise with the puck. He can rush the puck up the ice like Karlsson. And, he's big and aggressive enough to play the physical game and take people out like Hedman can."

Still, Dahlin knows he has to improve his play when the other team has the puck and perhaps when he has to push players away from the crease. He is 6-2 but only 181 pounds.

# Stanton's walk-off HR propels Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Expectations have been sky high for Giancarlo Stanton since he was acquired from Miami last offseason. In front of a sellout crowd Wednesday night at Yankee Stadium, the 6-foot-6 slugger had his first huge moment in pinstripes.

Stanton lined a two-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the New York Yankees erased a five-run deficit to beat the Seattle Mariners 7-5.

"That ball was absolutely scalded," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

Gary Sanchez tied the score with a two-run homer in the eighth, and the Yankees went on to complete their largest comeback victory of the year.

Coming off an MVP season in which he led the majors with 59 home runs and 132 RBIs, Stanton has been inconsistent so far with New York, batting .255 with 18 homers.

The 28-year-old slugger has started to heat up lately, though, with four hits Monday night in Washington and a home run in Tuesday's series opener against Seattle.

Didi Gregorius singled with two outs in the ninth and Stanton hammered an 0-2 breaking ball from reliever Ryan Cook (1-1). Stanton knew it was gone the moment he connected, and he took a little jump at the plate and pumped his arm before tossing his bat aside.

"When you hit a line drive, that's a base hit to center for me," Boone said. "He's a different animal."

The laser shot traveled a projected 453 feet for Stanton's first walk-off homer with the Yankees — his previous one came on April 18, 2014, for the Marlins (also vs. Seattle). He was mobbed by teammates and doused as he crossed the plate, throwing his helmet into the air and smiling from ear to ear.

"I was trying to decide

whether I was going to bowl it or throw it up," Stanton said, acknowledging the homer was his biggest hit for the Yankees. "I'm part of it now."

New York is a season-high 27 games above .500 with the majors' best record at 49-22. The Yankees have won nine of their last 11 against Seattle (46-28).

"They're dangerous," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "They made us pay tonight."

Aroldis Chapman (3-0) pitched a perfect inning for the win. His final pitch was clocked at 104.3 mph, his fastest this season.

The Mariners have lost three straight for the first time since April 17-19 against the World Series champion Astros.

Seattle starter Felix Hernandez lasted five innings and threw 95 pitches. He was charged with two runs, one earned, and six hits.

Sanchez drove Alex Colome's cutter 439 feet off the back wall

of the left-center bullpen, knotting the score at 5.

"Excited for two of our big boys to really deliver in a big way tonight," Boone said.

Dee Gordon had two RBIs for the Mariners. Denard Span and Ryon Healy each drove home a run in the fifth, extending Seattle's advantage to 5-0.

Yankees rookie Jonathan Loaisiga, making his second major league start in place of injured Masahiro Tanaka, allowed three runs on six hits and two walks in 3 2/3 innings.

New York broke through in the fifth with two outs and runners on first and second. Aaron Judge hit a broken-bat single to left, scoring Miguel Andujar. Aaron Hicks also came home when Span bobbled the ball.

"I knew our offense was going to come through eventually," said Judge, who had his first three-hit game since May 9.

Gregorius' sacrifice fly in the seventh made it 5-3.

## MLB roundup

### Lester wins fifth straight start as Cubs blank Dodgers

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jon Lester won his fifth straight start, Javier Baez backed him with three hits and two runs, and the Chicago Cubs beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-0 on Wednesday.

Lester (9-2) gave up five hits over seven innings. Baez had two doubles, a triple and a steal. He also made some solid plays at shortstop and second base.

Kyle Schwarber hit his 14th homer. Kris Bryant added two hits and an RBI in his third straight game batting leadoff. And the Cubs handed Ross Stripling his first loss since April 30, taking two of three in a rematch of the past two NL Championship Series.

Lester walked three and struck out one batter. Anthony Bass worked the final two innings to finish the six-hitter.

Baez made a strong throw from deep in the hole at shortstop in the second inning to rob Logan Forsythe of a hit.

**Astros 5, Rays 1:** Jose Altuve homered twice, including the last of three straight by his team during the sixth inning, to lift host Houston over Tampa Bay.

**Twins 4, Red Sox 1:** Robbie Grossman and Max Kepler homered to back an effective start by Lance Lynn (5-5) as host Minnesota beat Boston.

**Phillies 4, Cardinals 3:** Odubel Herrera hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the seventh inning, Cesar Hernandez had a two-run shot and host Philadelphia beat St. Louis.

**Indians 12, White Sox 0:** Corey Kluber (11-3) became the first pitcher with 11 wins this season and Jose Ramirez

and Jason Kipnis hit three-run homers in host Cleveland's victory over Chicago.

**Athletics 12, Padres 4:** Light-hitting Franklin Barreto connected for a 424-foot, three-run home run, one of five long balls visiting Oakland hit in routing San Diego.

**Reds 5, Tigers 3:** Scooter Gennett hit a tying two-run homer, and Eugenio Suarez also connected on the next pitch and host Cincinnati completed the two-game sweep against Detroit.

**Blue Jays 5, Braves 4:** J.A. Happ (9-3) pitched a season-high 8 1/3 innings to win his fifth straight decision, Kendrys Morales hit a two-run home run and host Toronto beat Atlanta for its seventh win in eight home games.

**Giants 6, Marlins 5:** Brandon Belt had three hits, Gorkys

Hernandez added a two-run single during a five-run sixth inning and host San Francisco beat Miami.

**Rangers 3, Royals 2:** Austin Bibens-Dirkx (1-1) pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Rougned Odor homered and visiting Texas extended its winning streak to a season-high five games with a victory over struggling Kansas City.

**Rockies 10, Mets 8:** Nolan Arenado and Charlie Blackmon homered, and pinch-hitter Ryan McMahon put his team ahead with a three-run shot and host Colorado rallied past New York.

**Orioles 3, Nationals 0:** Mark Trumbo homered, Andrew Cashner and four relievers combined on a five-hitter and visiting Baltimore shook off a long rain delay to beat Washington.