

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Trump's budget seeks border wall funds

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will be making a significant request for border wall funds and seeking money to stand up Space Force as a new branch of the military in the White House budget being released this week, an administration official said.

For the first time, Trump plans to stick with the strict spending caps imposed years ago, even though lawmakers largely have avoided them with new budget deals. That likely will trigger a showdown with Congress.

The official said Friday that the president's plan promises to

balance the budget in 15 years.

Trump will seek \$750 billion for defense, a boost for the military, while cutting non-defense discretionary spending by 5 percent below the cap, said the official, who was unauthorized to discuss the document ahead of its release and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Budgets are mainly seen as blueprints for White House priorities. But they are often panned on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers craft the appropriation bills that eventually fund the government, if the president signs them into law.

Trump's budget for the 2020 fiscal year will increase requests for some agencies

while reducing others to reflect those priorities. Reductions are proposed, for example, for the Environmental Protection Agency.

The administration official said Congress has ignored the president's spending cuts for too long. The federal budget is bloated with wasteful spending, the official said, and the administration remains committed to balancing the budget.

The cuts being requested by the White House would hit discretionary spending as well as some mandatory safety-net programs, which Trump has proposed in the past. Many Republicans are often eager to reduce government spending, but

Congress has had trouble passing bills that seriously slash the safety-net programs used by many Americans.

Budgets often rely on various accounting measures to achieve desired results. This one, for example, counts \$546 billion in defense money as a base, but another \$174 billion in another account to keep within caps.

And while the budget will suggest it balances in future years, it is also expected to rely on projections for continued economic growth from the tax cuts Trump signed into law in 2017. But there's no guarantee that would cover the lost tax revenues.

## Images suggest N. Korea planned launch before talks

*The Washington Post*

TOKYO — Satellite images suggest North Korea was preparing to launch a space rocket even before the breakdown of the Hanoi summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un, experts say.

There is no way of knowing if Pyongyang will follow through with the plans, which would undoubtedly be seen very negatively in Washington and could derail an already shaky negotiation process. Meanwhile signs of a hardening of attitudes within the Trump administration has left several experts increasingly pessimistic.

The plans may reflect a feeling that talks had already hit an impasse even before the summit, as well as North Korea frustration with a lack of sanctions relief, expert say. North Korean leader Kim had already warned in a New Year's Day speech that he might be forced to follow a "new path" if the United States

demanded unilateral concessions and failed to lift sanctions.

The images showed signs of activity on Feb. 22 at Second Academy of Natural Sciences (SANS) at Sanumdong, just outside Pyongyang, which is North Korea's primary developer of ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles.

Other images made available this week show North Korea has also rebuilt a launchpad and rocket engine test site at the Sohae Satellite Launching Station, reinforcing suspicions that a rocket launch could be imminent.

In 2012, an agreement between North Korea and the Obama administration to cease nuclear and missile tests in return for food aid broke down after Pyongyang launched a satellite rocket. Trump has set considerable store in a promise by Kim Jong Un to suspend testing, and said on Friday he said he would be "very disappointed" if testing resumed.

"With the inconclusive result in Hanoi, North Korea now appears to be moving again toward a space launch," wrote Jeffrey Lewis, a scholar at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, Calif., on a blog post.

Lewis said he expected North Korea would use older, and already tried and tested technology for a space launch, but he said there was a possibility it could use a larger rocket that would send a more provocative signal.

"If North Korea wants to place a satellite in geostationary orbit, however, it will require a larger launch vehicle," he wrote. "North Korea might instead debut a new rocket, possibly using a variant of the March 18 Revolution engine that powers its new generation of strategic missiles including the Hwasong-15."

Lewis said the move followed a pattern of North Korean nego-

tiating tactics: "Pressure before the summit to make deal, followed by a credible punishment after the U.S. walks away."

Attitudes also appear to be hardening in Washington. On Thursday, a senior State Department official said launch of a space launch vehicle from Sohae "would be inconsistent with the commitments that the North Koreans have made."

But more significant to many experts was a comment that appears to put the ball squarely in Pyongyang's court to dismantle its nuclear weapons before the United States would consider easing the pressure.

"So nobody in the administration advocates a step-by-step approach," said the official, who could not be named under State Department guidelines. "In all cases, the expectation is a complete denuclearization of North Korea as a condition for all the other steps being — all the other steps being taken."

# McSally: Train leaders for investigations

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — Upon disclosing that she had been raped by a superior while in the U.S. Air Force, Sen. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., became a powerful force in the debate over military sexual assault.

She also staked out a position that has divided lawmakers in the past — namely, that such cases should continue to be handled within the military's chain of command.

McSally's argument at a Senate hearing Wednesday to keep decision-making about sexual assault cases under the command structure came minutes after the retired A-10 pilot said during a Senate hearing that

she was raped by a superior and that the reason she didn't report the assault was because she didn't trust the system.

"I very strongly believe that the commander must not be removed from the decision-making responsibility of preventing, detecting and prosecuting military sexual assault," she said.

The military justice system gives the commanders, rather than outside prosecutors, the power to decide how and whether to pursue a criminal case regarding sexual assault. Critics of that setup, including Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., say victims don't trust the chain of command to deliver justice and often fear retaliation or bias. Gillibrand and others argue

that independent, trained military prosecutors should make those decisions, rather than top officers trained primarily for other duties.

"When we've asked service-members, 'What would you do, what would make you actually report?' overwhelmingly, they have answered, 'If you took it out of the chain of command.' Because they're not reporting," Gillibrand said in Wednesday's hearing. She said the perpetrator is a member of the chain of command in many cases.

Previous attempts by Gillibrand to change that system were met with opposition from members of her own party, including former Sen. Claire

McCaskill, D-Mo., who argued that removing responsibility from the chain of command would be a "recipe for disaster" and would risk reducing prosecutions.

While Gillibrand intends to reintroduce her legislation, McSally showed signs on Wednesday that she would take up McCaskill's cause.

McSally argued that the military should educate commanders who want to do the right thing but are naive about sexual assault, and she said the military should ensure that commanders are trained and empowered to take legal action, prosecute fairly and rid the ranks of perpetrators.

## Military official says 'quad' will continue with meetings

*Associated Press*

SINGAPORE — An American military official said the U.S., Australia, India and Japan continue to have regular diplomatic meetings to "coordinate our respective visions of and efforts in the Indo-Pacific region."

Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Dave Eastburn made the comments late Friday in Washington to clarify that the U.S.-backed diplomatic grouping often referred to as the "quad" would continue.

They came after Adm. Phil Davidson, head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, suggested in

Singapore on Thursday that a loose security grouping of the four countries could be shelved for now.

Eastburn said Davidson "was referring to a formal, regular meeting of military leaders from the four countries" and not other regular diplomatic consultations.

The U.S. and the other three countries had come together to provide humanitarian assistance after the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe then suggested they form the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.

## Judge: Lawsuit to include separated migrant families

*The Washington Post*

In a legal blow to the Trump administration, a federal judge ruled Friday that all migrant families separated during the government's border crackdown should be included in a class-action lawsuit. But he stopped short of immediately ordering the Justice Department to track them all down.

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in California said the universe of separated families should extend beyond the 2,700-plus children taken from their parents last spring and include families forced apart as early as July 1, 2017, and in

the months afterward, when the Trump administration was denying that it had a policy of separating families.

Sabraw said a government watchdog report in January that showed that potentially thousands more families were separated than the Trump administration had admitted publicly compelled the court to look into the matter.

"The hallmark of a civilized society is measured by how it treats its people and those within its borders," he wrote in a 14-page ruling. "That Defendants may have to change course and undertake additional effort to address these issues does not

render modification of the class definition unfair; it only serves to underscore the unquestionable importance of the effort and why it is necessary (and worthwhile)."

The ruling dramatically expands the scope of the class-action lawsuit that compelled the Trump administration to reunite the separated families and prolongs a political fiasco for the president that had been nearing its end.

Sabraw said he would hear arguments later this month to decide whether to require the Trump administration to locate the rest of the families. But, he said, "the Court has an obliga-

tion to resolve that question," especially for parents who may have been deported without their children and, although it "may be burdensome, it clearly can be done."

Otherwise, he wrote, parents being deported without their children creates the "very real possibility of a permanently orphaned child" because of the "questionable" actions of government officials.

The lawsuit is *Ms. L v. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California*.



# Bill OK'd to strengthen burn pit registry

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The House unanimously approved a bill last week to make the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry a more useful tool for researching the health effects of toxic exposure on servicemembers and veterans.

The House passed the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act on Wednesday with a vote of 416-0. It would allow family members of deceased servicemembers and veterans to enter cause of death in the registry. As of now, only registered individuals are allowed to update their health information.

The change was recom-

mended by veterans groups, including Burn Pits 360, which has expressed concerns that the registry hasn't been used to his fullest potential.

"According to Burn Pits 360, without tracking [causes of death] ... the registry's ability to establish mortality rates related to conditions and diseases associated to toxic exposure will be precluded," said Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., the ranking Republican on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Pits were used until 2010 at U.S. military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan to burn trash, human waste, petroleum, rubber and other debris, releasing hazardous fumes into the air. Some servicemembers

exposed to the smoke have attributed medical conditions, such as respiratory issues and cancer, to it.

The burn pit registry, run by the Department of Veterans Affairs, was created in 2014 to collect health information voluntarily from Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. It includes more than 170,000 troops.

Rep. Raul Ruiz, D-Calif., and Rep. Brad Wenstrup, R-Ohio, both medical doctors, lead the congressional Burn Pits Caucus and sponsored the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act.

While lawmakers approved the bill Wednesday with little controversy, Ruiz is setting his sights on more drastic changes — and he's anticipating a fight

with the VA.

"The burn pit registry is a proactive thing veterans can do to feel empowered and share information, to have a communication mechanism," Ruiz said. "The registry is not an end-all."

In the next two or three months, Ruiz plans to introduce more legislation to secure benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, he said.

Ruiz didn't have a cost estimate for his legislation.

"I think that because we've been through this song and dance before with Agent Orange, that's why we need to introduce legislation right away," he said.

## Smollett indicted on 16 counts for false report

*Associated Press*

CHICAGO — A grand jury in Chicago indicted "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett on 16 felony counts related to making a false report that he was attacked by two men who shouted racial and homophobic slurs.

The Cook County grand jury indictment dated Thursday and made public on Friday gives details of the disorderly conduct charge against Smollett. It elaborates on the allegation that he falsely reported he was attacked on Jan. 28 by two masked men who hurled racial and homophobic slurs at the black and openly gay actor, beat him, threw an unidentified liquid chemical on him and looped a rope tied like a noose around his neck.

The indictment — eight counts from what he told the officer who responded to the report of the attack and eight for what he later told a detective — comes a little more than two weeks after prosecutors announced one felony count of the same charge.

Chicago police initially investigated the incident as a possible hate crime but later said Smollett staged the attack, recruiting two brothers to carry it out, because he was unhappy with his pay on the Fox show.

An attorney for Smollett, Mark Geragos, called the indictment "prosecutorial overkill." He said Smollett "adamantly maintains his innocence."

While it was not immediately clear why the grand jury indicted Smollett on 16 counts, it divides what prosecutors and police say the actor told the officer who responded to the initial call from what he said to the detective.

The second eight counts are more explosive because they include two things that helped propel the incident into an international sensation. The first is that by the time he talked to the detective, Smollett said he could see through the eye holes of one attacker's mask that he was a white man. The two brothers who allegedly participated are black.

## Doctor on robot machine tells Calif. man he's dying

*Associated Press*

SAN FRANCISCO — Ernest Quintana's family knew he was dying of chronic lung disease when he was taken by ambulance to a hospital, unable to breathe.

But they were devastated when a robot machine rolled into his room in the intensive care unit that night and a doctor told the patient, 78, by video call he would likely die within days.

"If you're coming to tell us normal news, that's fine. But if you're coming to tell us there's no lung left and we want to put you on a morphine drip until you die, it should be done by a human being and not a machine," his daughter, Catherine Quintana, said Friday.

Ernest Quintana died Tuesday, two days after being taken to the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center emergency department in Fremont, Calif.

Michelle Gaskill-Hames, senior vice president of Kaiser Permanente Greater Southern Alameda County, called the situation highly unusual and said officials "regret falling short" of the patient's expectations.

But the hospital also defend-

ed its use of telemedicine and said its policy is to have a nurse or doctor in the room at the time of remote consultations.

"The evening video tele-visit was a follow-up to earlier physician visits," Gaskill-Hames said in a written response. "It did not replace previous conversations with patient and family members and was not used in the delivery of the initial diagnosis."

Granddaughter Annalisa Wilharm, 33, was alone with Quintana when a nurse popped in to say a doctor would be making his rounds. A robot rolled in and a doctor appeared on the video screen.

Wilharm figured the visit was routine. She was astonished by what the doctor started saying.

"This guy cannot breathe and he's got this robot trying to talk to him," she said. "Meanwhile, this guy is telling him, 'So we've got your results back, and there's no lung left. There's no lung to work with.'"

Wilharm said she had to repeat what the doctor said to her grandfather because he was hard of hearing in his right ear and the machine couldn't get to the other side of the bed.

# India returning key diplomat to Pakistan

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India said Saturday that it was returning a key diplomat to Pakistan's capital amid an easing of tensions between the nuclear neighbors, but it also demanded that its archrival take concrete steps against terrorists operating from its territory.

India's high commissioner to Pakistan was to return to Islamabad on Saturday, Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar said at a news briefing. Pakistan had announced last week that its high commissioner to India was returning to New Delhi.

The moves come after the two countries recalled their diplomats for consultations as tensions flared after a Feb. 14 suicide attack on a convoy of Indian paramilitary soldiers in the Indian-held portion Kash-

mir that killed 40 soldiers.

India blamed the attack on a Pakistan-based militant group, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and launched a retaliatory airstrike inside Pakistan.

Kumar said Saturday that a reported Pakistani crackdown last week on seminars, mosques and hospitals belonging to outlawed groups and the arrests of dozens of people was not enough, and that Pakistan should take concrete steps "against terrorists and terror infrastructure" on its territory. He said a recent United Nations statement also called for "perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of terrorism to be held accountable and brought to justice."

Kumar accused Pakistan of failing to take any credible action against Jaish-e-

Mohammed and other terrorist organizations, which he said continued to operate with impunity from Pakistan.

"The widespread presence of terrorist camps in Pakistan is public knowledge within and outside Pakistan," he said.

Pakistan says it has arrested 44 people, including the brother of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar, who was apparently named in a dossier given to Islamabad by New Delhi. It also says it shut a number of facilities and froze assets of several outlawed organizations.

Pakistan's information minister, Fawad Chaudhry, said Saturday that his country was acting against the banned militant outfits and would not allow anyone to "use Pakistani land for terrorism against any country."

## As blackout eases, Venezuela braces for rallies

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan opposition protesters on Saturday confronted security forces on a main avenue in Caracas, venting their anger over a nationwide blackout, shortages of basic necessities and the government of President Nicolas Maduro.

Demonstrators on Avenida Victoria in the Venezuelan capital pushed against the shields of riot police, who later withdrew from the area.

Security forces have deployed in large numbers in the city ahead of planned rallies by supporters of opposition leader Juan Guaido. Police units and members of the National Guard gathered at several

intersections, wearing helmets and carrying shields and other anti-riot gear. Several columns of security forces moved on motorcycles.

Meanwhile, Maduro's backers planned to hold a rival demonstration as power returned to many parts of Venezuela after the country's worst blackout, which started late Thursday and only started to ease about 24 hours later.

On Saturday morning, managers of the Caracas subway said they were waiting for the power supply to stabilize before resuming service.

The outage on Friday deepened a sense of isolation and decay, endangering hospital patients, forcing schools and businesses

to close and cutting people off from their families, friends and the outside world. While electricity returned to some parts of Caracas nearly 24 hours after lights, phones and the internet stopped working, several other populous cities remained in the dark as evening approached Friday.

"I'm desperate," said Maria Isabel Garcia, 39, an office worker who hadn't been able to buy food for her three young children because she wasn't able to take money out of the bank on Thursday.

The blackout marked another harsh blow to a country paralyzed by turmoil as the power struggle between Maduro and Guaido stretches into its second month and economic hardship grows.

## Netanyahu campaign draws accusations of incitement

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — When Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has run into political trouble in the past, he has lashed out at the media, the political opposition and Israel's Arab minority with incendiary and divisive language to galvanize his nationalist base.

Ahead of April 9 elections, Netanyahu has zoned in on prominent Arab lawmaker Ahmad Tibi.

The Israeli leader, slumping in the polls after the dramatic announcement of his pending corruption indictment, is portraying Tibi as a threat to national security in a charged campaign that critics say questions

the loyalty of the country's Arab citizens.

Using his own nickname, Netanyahu has been repeating a campaign mantra: "Bibi or Tibi." The snappy slogan, eagerly parroted by his hard-line allies, highlights Netanyahu's efforts to paint his challengers as weak "leftists" conspiring with Arab Israelis and a hostile media to oust him.

It also shines a spotlight on Tibi — an affable, media-savvy political veteran who speaks fluent Hebrew. Tibi is known for his harsh criticism of government policies toward the country's Arab citizens and toward Palestinians who live under Israeli control in territories Israel captured in 1967.

"Until this week, I didn't know that

against my will I was a leading candidate for prime minister," he said with a smile from his home in an Arab neighborhood of Jerusalem.

Despite the humor, Tibi said he is concerned about what he views as Netanyahu's attempt to demonize Israel's Arab minority.

"He is delegitimizing the Arab parties, the Arab lawmakers and the Arab public in general," he said. "He's trying to transmit that it is either me, the supposed patriotic Jewish leader, or the Arabs will take over the country and decide who will be the prime minister. And he portrays this as a nightmare."



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Girl walking dog finds man tied up in trunk

**NJ** IRVINGTON — Authorities said a young girl walking her dog heard screams coming from the trunk of a car, leading to the discovery of a man who was tied up inside the vehicle.

The girl was walking in Irvington at about 7:10 a.m. Thursday when she heard a scratching sound. The girl soon heard the sound again and said, "Hello?" and someone from inside the trunk said, "Hello! Help me, help me, help me!"

The child alerted her mother, who called authorities. The man was rescued a short time later.

Authorities say the man told them he was kidnapped overnight by two people in Hillside and forced to withdraw money from ATMs.

## 120K gallons of bourbon spill, 2 hurt

**KY** BARDSTOWN. — Roughly 120,000 gallons of would-be bourbon have spilled at a Kentucky distillery.

News outlets reported two people were injured in the fermented mash spill Tuesday at the Barton 1792 Distillery in Bardstown, where a storage collapse last year left thousands of barrels in a mountainous heap.

They two have been released from a hospital.

Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet spokesman John Mura said a leg of a 55,000-gallon tank gave way and flipped a container holding the mash. He said 10,000 gallons ran into a storm drain and then a tributary, but officials don't believe there's a threat to drinking water.

## Taco Bell employees fight with customer

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — A fast-food chain said some employees have been fired following allegations of an assault on a customer outside a Philadelphia outlet.

Bryan Reese, 38, told television stations that he went on Feb. 24 to pick up friends at the Taco Bell. One friend, Joe Boback, told WCAU-TV that customers were complaining about waiting for food.

Reese said a half-dozen employees jumped over the counter and singled him out for what he called an "unprovoked" attack.

## Fake DEA agent stops real agent, is arrested

**CA** SAN JOSE — A San Jose man has been charged with impersonating a Drug Enforcement Administration agent after he allegedly pulled over drivers, including an off-duty federal agent.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that Alex Taylor, 49, was arrested Saturday after an investigation into reports that a man driving a Volkswagen Jetta with police lights was making unauthorized traffic stops.

The DEA said Taylor was arrested on suspicion of impersonating a federal officer, unlawful possession of official badges, identification cards "or other insignia" and the use and possession of a counterfeit seal of a United States federal agency.

## Man sentenced after biting off part of ear

**KS** LAWRENCE, — A Lawrence man accused of biting off part of his roommate's ear during a drug-infused attack has been sen-

tenced to just over three years in prison.

Wynn Anderson, 39, was sentenced Tuesday to 37 months in prison followed by two years of supervision.

The victim, James Conlon, 52, testified at a preliminary hearing that people were smoking methamphetamine at the home when Anderson called him out to the front porch and stabbed him. Conlon said Anderson also bit off part of his ear, growled and spit it out.

## Man pays \$300 for 1 Girl Scout cookie box

**FL** ORLANDO — A Deltona Girl Scout troop was having a bad day. Then, Douglas Ford made it a lot brighter — and not only for the girls.

The scouts were selling Girl Scout cookies Saturday, and let's just say the boxes of goodies were not moving like they hoped, according to Fox 35 WOFL. Accompanied by his dog, Jazz, Ford saw the girls, reached into his wallet and pulled out \$300, the TV station said.

He took one box and told the girls to donate the rest, troop leader Trina Grant told WOFL.

## Man facing up to 2 years for mailing gun

**SD** RAPID CITY — A man who mailed a handgun to someone in Canton is facing up to two years in prison.

Kohl Hammer has pleaded guilty to illegally mailing the gun in Rapid City last summer.

It's illegal for most people to send pistols, revolvers and other small firearms through the U.S. mail. Military members, law enforcement and gun dealers and manufacturers are exempt.

The Rapid City Journal said

law enforcement found the weapon while serving a search warrant after the package arrived at an address in Canton.

## Circus clown who ran for Congress dies

**SC** CAMDEN — A professional circus clown who ran for Congress last year has died in South Carolina.

An obituary from Kornegay Funeral Home, of Lugoff, said Steve Lough, 53, died on Feb. 23.

Lough played up his career as a clown for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus when he ran unsuccessfully in a crowded Democratic primary for the seat of Republican U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman.

The cause of his death hasn't been reported.

## Governor, predecessor have speeding history

**ME** AUGUSTA — Former Gov. Paul LePage and current Gov. Janet Mills couldn't be more different when it comes to politics. But, according to their state driving records, they share at least one thing: a lead foot.

Mills' driving record, which The Associated Press obtained from the secretary of state's office, includes 10 speeding violations since 1975, including four since 2000. Her most recent marks on her driving record include a lane violation in 2011 and speeding at 91 mph in a 65-mph zone in July 2008.

LePage's driving records shows nine speeding tickets since 1970, including two since 2000. His tickets include violations for driving 83 mph in a 65-mph zone, driving 84 mph in a 65-mph zone and driving 51 mph in a 25-mph zone.

From wire reports

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# Is Radamus future of US men's skiing?

Associated Press

His name, River Radamus, almost conjures up images of summer. His game is most certainly meant for winter.

Although, the 21-year-old ski racer from Edwards, Colo., joked: "If it doesn't pan out in skiing, maybe I can go to kayaking?"

Only thing — his passion for water, in its frozen form, runs too deep. Radamus grew up with a dad coaching the U.S. ski team's developmental squad and with posters of Olympic champions Ted Ligety and Lindsey Vonn adorning his bedroom wall. Radamus is making a big splash this season as he recently captured two gold medals at the world junior championships.

No pressure to become the next big name. After all, he was named River for a reason — to stand out.

"I do have a name that's unique," Radamus said in a phone interview before a World Cup race this weekend in Slovenia. "So it is a name for

headlines."

Radamus was raised in the same area as Mikaela Shiffrin, where school field trips in the winter months weren't necessarily to museums but to the slopes to catch a glimpse of racing. His father, Aldo, served in different roles with the U.S. ski team and a young River Radamus was actually at the 2002 world junior championships in Italy when Steven Nyman captured a slalom crown. After Radamus earned a pair of gold medals of his own at the world juniors in February, Nyman posted on Instagram a picture of Radamus watching the action on the shoulders of his mom. Nyman's post read: "17 years later he won..twice!"

Only 4 at the time, Radamus doesn't remember much from that day. But he does recall a feeling.

"That definitely inspired me to pursue ski racing in a very real way to where I am today," Radamus said.

This season began a little bit bumpy for Radamus — not

finishing a World Cup slalom in Levi, Finland, then winding up 54th during a super-G at home in Beaver Creek, Colo. But it began to change when he scored his first World Cup points in Alta Badia, Italy, when he took 24th in a giant slalom.

More success: A win on the Nor-Am Cup circuit, which is the training ground for young racers.

It all came together at the world juniors, when Radamus won gold in the super-G. Four days later, he took another title in the giant slalom.

That was part of a banner week for the U.S. squad, with Ben Ritchie taking second in the slalom. In addition, the squad of Radamus, Ritchie, AJ Hurt and Katie Hensien took silver in the team event. The Americans elected to not field a squad for the team event at the world championships in Are, Sweden, so the younger athletes such as Radamus could focus on juniors.

"World juniors is an important benchmarking event for us, both for individual athletes

on the way to the World Cup and to show our depth as a nation," U.S. ski & snowboard Alpine development director Chip Knight said.

For his success at world juniors, Radamus gives an assist to the team's mantra of "Remember Why." Each time workouts got hard over the off-season, that's what popped into his mind.

"Just trying to remember why we're putting in the hard work and all that," Radamus said.

This did the trick, too — the movie "Miracle." More specifically, the speech delivered by actor Kurt Russell as he portrayed U.S. hockey coach Herb Brooks. In what's become a tradition, Radamus and his teammates sit in a dark room and listen to the motivational speech before playing the heavily favored Soviet squad.

"We look at ourselves as underdogs and I think that that's sort of the energy we had all through the world juniors," Radamus said.

## Shiffrin wins record 15th World Cup race of season

Associated Press

SPINDLERUV MLYN, Czech Republic — Mikaela Shiffrin set yet another milestone on Saturday, clinching a record 15th World Cup victory of the season.

Returning to the resort where she started her World Cup career at the age of 15 in 2011, Shiffrin dominated the last slalom before next week's finals.

No other skier, male or female, has won more than 14 races in a single campaign in the 53-year history of the World Cup.

The American will likely get three chances to further improve the best mark as she is expected to compete in Thursday's super-G and next weekend's slalom and giant slalom at the World Cup Finals in

Andorra.

Shiffrin had already wrapped up the World Cup slalom season title, her sixth in the last seven years, and her third straight overall championship.

Saturday's win was Shiffrin's 39th in slalom, leaving her one short of the 32-year-old World Cup record held by Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark.

A day after finishing third in a GS, Shiffrin went back to winning. She built on her first-run lead to beat Wendy Holdener by 0.85 seconds. It was Holdener's 21st career podium in the discipline but the Swiss skier has yet to win a race.

"Yesterday (...) I felt disappointment from the first (run)," Shiffrin said. "So today I wanted to not protect something, like ski with risks, ski to fight, and see what was possible. It was really fun to ski, both runs."

Slovakia's Petra Vlhova, the only skier other than Shiffrin to win a women's World Cup slalom since January 2017, was more than two seconds behind in third.

Katharina Truppe of Austria posted the fastest second-run time to climb from 16th to fourth.

Olympic champion Frida Hansdotter, who was third after the opening run, dropped to seventh, trailing Shiffrin by 2.80 seconds. This week the Swede skier announced her retirement after the season.

Shiffrin positioned herself for the record win by leading the opening run in tough conditions.

In dense snowfall, Shiffrin was 0.37 seconds faster than Holdener, while the rest of the field was left with more than a second to make up in the deci-

sive leg.

"It was OK," Shiffrin said about conditions in the opening run. "For sure it's pretty wet snow so if you make a mistake, it's pretty quick you slow down. You have to push really hard every gate and always go like forward, forward, forward."

Catching a patch of soft snow immediately after finishing her opening run, Shiffrin lost balance and fell, calling it "a little bit dangerous" and prompting course workers to clear the fresh snow from the finish area.

In the final run, Shiffrin struggled at the third gate and had her lead over Holdener reduced to 0.26, but she skied cleanly for the rest of her run, steadily extending her advantage again with every split time.



# Cleveland OF Martin reclaiming his career

Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Leonys Martin turned and sprinted toward the gap in left-center field to snare Nick Madrigal's drive. He ripped a breaking ball over the wall in right-center for a home run, and returned a fervent embrace from a former teammate.

All in a day's work on Tuesday.

All in Martin's new life with the Cleveland Indians.

Just six games after arriving from Detroit in a July 31 trade, Martin's career came to a crashing halt. He was stricken with a life-threatening infection that entered his blood stream and damaged his organs. He feared that he would never see his wife, Yaimira, or their three children again. Fortunately, doctors at the Cleveland Clinic reversed the infection and Martin was released on Aug. 19, following a 12-day hospital stay in which he lost 45 pounds.

Now, after an extensive training program in Florida, which included lunges, leg lifts, agility ladders, sprints and core strength training, Martin is back in peak physical health. Extensive hitting, throwing and fielding restored his baseball readiness.

"I take time to recover and get myself ready for spring training, making sure I am ready from day one, so that is exactly what I did," Martin said after hitting a two-run homer in Cleveland's 11-0 win over the White Sox.

"It was a long way to get here, a long way to get where I want to be. It took a lot of months. I took it with baby steps; one step at a time, but thank God I am able to do what I love and happy to be back in baseball," he said.

Martin, who turns 31 on Wednesday, wore an ear-to-ear grin all the way around the bases after homering off left-hander Bernardo Flores Jr. It was his second home run during Cactus League play, improving his spring average to .500 (8-for-16) with an .875 slugging percentage.

"He swung the bat really well. He's swung well against lefties and righties," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "The more lefties he sees, the better. Keeps your mechanics."

The Indians are counting on Martin to help stabilize their outfield following the departures of All-Star Michael Brantley and Lonnie Chisenhall.

## NHL roundup

# Holtby stops 25 shots as Capitals shut out Devils

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Braden Holtby worried the Washington Capitals might come out flat against a last-place New Jersey Devils team that was missing several regulars, so he made sure he was on his game from the moment the puck was dropped.

He was right, and he was ready.

Holtby stopped 25 shots to help the slow-starting Capitals shut out the Devils 3-0 on Friday night for their sixth consecutive victory. It wasn't pretty, but it was good enough to put the defending Stanley Cup champions back in sole possession of first place in the Metropolitan Division.

"Playing a team like them with a ton of injuries, you don't really know," Holtby said. "I was just trying to be prepared thinking that might happen and be there (and) do my job."

Holtby did his job by robbing All-Star Kyle Palmieri in the first period and making a handful of other important saves in a game that shouldn't have been so close. With his 35th career shutout, Holtby tied Olie Kolzig for the most in franchise history.

Andre Burakovsky extended his goal streak to three games by finishing off a rush 2:40 in, and Nicklas Backstrom scored on the power play in the third period. Lars Eller sealed it with an empty-netter in the final minute of a game that was hardly a masterpiece with the puck bouncing all over bad ice and a playoff contender at times playing down to its competition.

"I feel like games like this are going to happen," Backstrom said. "Even if we didn't play our best, it's a good thing that we came out of it with two points."

**Jets 8, Hurricanes 1:** Andrew Copp scored twice, Nikolaj Ehlers had a goal and two assists, and visiting Winnipeg rode a four-goal first period to an easy win over Carolina.

Kevin Hayes, Blake Wheeler, Kyle Connor and Ben Chiarot each had a goal and an assist. Adam Lowry also scored as Winnipeg posted its largest victory of the season.

The Jets scored three times in the first 10 minutes to jump ahead early and then three times in the final 10 minutes to turn it into a rout.

Laurent Brossoit made 28 saves and Winnipeg moved ahead of idle Nashville into first place in the Central Division.

Curtis McElhinney stopped only 21 of 29 shots for the Hurricanes. Greg McKeeg

scored their lone goal midway through the third period.

**Panthers 6, Wild 2:** Aleksander Barkov set a franchise record with five assists, and MacKenzie Weegar and Mike Matheson each scored twice as host Florida beat Minnesota to snap a six-game losing streak.

Jonathan Huberdeau had a goal and three assists, Mike Hoffman also scored and Evgenii Dadonov added three assists. Sam Montembeault made 26 saves in his second career start for his first NHL win.

Marcus Foligno and J.T. Brown scored for the Wild, who had their eight-game point streak stopped. Devan Dubnyk allowed three goals on seven shots before he was replaced by Alex Stalock to start the second period.

**Ducks 8, Canadiens 2:** Adam Henrique scored twice, rookie Troy Terry had a goal and two assists, and host Anaheim interrupted Carey Price's pursuit of Montreal's career wins record.

Corey Perry and Devin Shore had a goal and an assist apiece during the Ducks' highest-scoring performance of their miserable season. Daniel Sprong and Rickard Rakell also scored and John Gibson made 35 saves for the Ducks, who have won three of four for only the second time since mid-December.

Rookie Max Jones even scored his first NHL goal with 10.4 seconds to play.

Shea Weber had a power-play goal and an assist for the Canadiens, who have lost five of eight. Paul Byron also scored and Price stopped 21 shots as Montreal completed a three-game California road swing with two losses while giving up a whopping 14 goals.

After getting a rare night off Thursday in San Jose, Price was in position to become the Canadiens' career victories leader after tying Jacques Plante's record with his 314th win Tuesday in Los Angeles. Instead, Price gave up eight goals in a game for the first time this season behind his befuddled defense.

At least now the 31-year-old former NHL MVP will get a chance to make Canadiens history in front of his Montreal fans on Tuesday against the Red Wings.

Montreal and Carolina are in the two Eastern Conference wild-card spots with 79 points apiece — but the Hurricanes and the ninth-place Blue Jackets, who have 77 points, both have two games in hand on the Canadiens.

# Warriors bounce back, top Nuggets

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Golden State Warriors hardly expect to fix every flaw in one night.

Beating Denver in dominant fashion certainly provided a positive first step. The two-time defending champions showed some of that swagger again.

"Pride," coach Steve Kerr said.

Klay Thompson returned from a two-game absence to score 39 points with nine three-pointers, and the Warriors bounced back from their worst loss of the season to beat the Nuggets 122-105 on Friday night in a matchup of the top two teams in the Western Conference.

Thompson sat out that embarrassing 128-95 home defeat Tuesday night to the Celtics, the worst at Oracle Arena in Kerr's five seasons, because of soreness in his right knee. He then scored 27 points in the first half Friday and wound up 9-for-11 from deep.

Having him back meant a lot, and everybody else brought their best, too.

Kevin Durant added 26 points and six assists, and Stephen Curry scored 17 points. DeMarcus Cousins had a strong outing on both ends with 13 points, six rebounds, six assists, six blocked shots and three steals.

Golden State played with a purpose again, an edge that hadn't been seen much the past month.

With the Warriors on a two-game home losing streak, they didn't let Denver get into the game for any significant stretch — much like a 142-111 road win against the Nuggets in January.

"Our guys have responded for the last five years to bad losses, to lulls, so it didn't surprise me at all that we came out with energy and passion and got off to that great start," Kerr said.

## NBA roundup

# Rockets extend streak to seven

Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden had 31 points and 10 rebounds and the Houston Rockets extended their winning streak to a season-high seven games with a 107-91 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Friday night.

The Rockets had a big lead for most of the night after a 37-point first quarter and were up by 22 entering the fourth. Philadelphia had trouble containing Clint Capela with Joel Embiid out for the eighth straight game with a sore left knee, and Houston's big man had 18 points and nine rebounds.

The victory came after Philadelphia won the first meeting this season 121-93 behind 32 points from Embiid.

Tobias Harris had 22 points for the 76ers, who dropped their second straight. Ben Simmons played despite dealing with stomach flu and added 15 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds.

**Hornets 112, Wizards 111:** Marvin Williams scored a season-high 30 points on seven three-pointers, and Charlotte snapped a five-game home losing streak with a win over Washington.

Williams was 7-for-10 from beyond the arc and had seven rebounds as the Hornets got a much needed win to remain in the hunt for the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

**Clippers 118, Thunder 110:** Lou Williams scored 40 points, Danilo Gallinari added 34 and host Los Angeles defeated foul-plagued Oklahoma City for its first four-game winning streak since November.

Williams passed former Clipper Jamal Crawford for second in NBA career points off the bench.

**Raptors 127, Pelicans 104:** Kawhi Leonard scored 31 points and visiting Toronto snapped a two-game skid by beating undermanned New Orleans.

**Pistons 112, Bulls 104:** Blake Griffin scored 16 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter after going to the locker room with an apparent right leg injury, and Detroit rallied to beat host Chicago for its fourth straight victory.

**Heat 126, Cavaliers 110:** Josh Richardson scored 20 points, Rodney McGruder had a seven-point possession in the fourth quarter to help put the game away, and Miami beat visiting Cleveland.

**Grizzlies 114, Jazz 104:** Mike Conley had 28 points and 11 assists, Jonas Valanciunas added 27 points and Memphis beat visiting Utah.

**Magic 111, Mavericks 106:** Terrence Ross scored 22 points, Nikola Vucevic had 20 points and 13 rebounds and host Orlando topped Dallas.

## Top 25 roundup

# Alexander-Walker leads Hokies past Miami

Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Nick-eil Alexander-Walker had 21 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists and No. 15 Virginia Tech beat Miami 84-70 on Friday night to tie the school record for regular-season victories with 23.

Playing mostly at the point guard, Alexander-Walker was 6-for-14 from the floor, including three three-pointers for the Hokies (23-7, 12-6 Atlantic Coast Conference). He tied his career high with the eight assists.

Ahmed Hill and Ty Outlaw had strong performances in their last home game for the Hokies. Outlaw scored 19 points, hitting five three-pointers, and Hill added 17 points and connected on five threes as well.

Ebuka Izundu and Chris Lykes had 16 points each for Miami (13-16, 5-13).

**No. 19 Buffalo 84, Bowling Green 73:** Nick Perkins scored 22 points and the Bulls beat the Falcons in their regular-season finale for their 26th consecutive home victory.

CJ Massinburg scored 15 points, and Jeremy Harris had 10 of his 14 points in the second half to help Buffalo (28-3, 16-2 Mid-American Conference) win its ninth straight overall following a loss at Bowling Green on Feb. 1. The Bulls broke the school records set last season for victories and conference victories, and matched No. 5 Tennessee for the nation's longest active home streak.

Justin Turner scored 17 for Bowling Green (20-11, 12-6).

**No. 24 Maryland 69, Minnesota 60:** Anthony Cowan scored 21 points, Jalen Smith had 19 points and 11 rebounds and the host Terrapins beat the Golden Gophers to end the regular season in feel-good fashion following a two-game skid.

Maryland (22-9, 13-7 Big Ten) led by 12 at halftime, stretched the margin to 19 in the opening three minutes of the second half and went up 54-32 with 13 minutes left. Bruno Fernando had 11 points and 11 rebounds to help Maryland avoid its first three-game losing streak of the season. The Terps were coming off a lopsided defeat at Penn State and their lone conference loss at home, versus Michigan.

Amir Coffey scored 23 points for Minnesota (19-12, 9-11).