

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, May 18, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Newly released Niger video reveals survivors wrote final messages to their loved ones

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Seven Americans who survived a deadly ambush on a convoy in a remote part of Niger in October expected to die on the battlefield, according to new information released Thursday by the Pentagon.

More than an hour after their team of 11 American and 34 Nigerien troops was attacked just outside the village of Tongo Tongo in the West African nation, the American survivors — six Green Berets and an intelligence contractor — drafted final words to families and friends, a video narration of the ambush revealed. Four U.S. soldiers were killed by Islamic State fighters in the ambush.

"They wrote short messages to loved ones on personal devices, believing they would soon be overrun," the video's narrator states as dots representing the seven Americans and four Nigeriens take a defensive position in a swamp while enemy fighters pursued them.

The Pentagon on Thursday released the 23-minute video that it prepared for Congress, one week after Defense Department officials released an eight-page summary of a roughly 6,300-page investigation into the Oct. 4 incident that led to widespread scrutiny of the U.S. military's mission in Africa. An abbreviated 11-minute version of the video was shown to reporters on May 10, but it was cut off just before the narrator mentioned the messages soldiers sent home. Marine Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, the commander of U.S. Africa Command, told reporters that they were not initially shown the video because of its length.

According to the newly re-

leased video, the ISIS fighters stopped pursuing the Americans and Nigeriens shortly after they drafted their messages when American drones and two French fighter jets arrived at the scene. After four shows of force by the French warplanes, the enemy forces eventually fled the area, though no bombs were dropped.

The deaths of four U.S. soldiers, Staff Sgt. Bryan Black, Staff Sgt. Dustin Wright, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Johnson and Sgt. La David Johnson, made the fight the deadliest on the African continent for American troops since the infamous Black Hawk Down incident in Somalia in 1993.

Black and Wright were Green Berets, and Jeremiah Johnson and La David Johnson — who were not related — were support troops attached to 3rd Special Forces Group, which had deployed from Fort Bragg, N.C., about a month before the attack.

Top AFRICOM officials, including Army Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier, the AFRICOM chief of staff who led the probe into the incident, blamed systemic problems for the soldiers ending up in a fight where they were outmanned three-to-one and outgunned.

The soldiers did not spend enough time training together before deploying, did not properly prepare for their mission with Nigerien troops and were not properly equipped to fight a well-trained enemy, Cloutier determined in his investigation. The troops initially set out on a mission to capture or kill a leader of ISIS in the Greater Sahara without properly informing their chain of command, which thought the eight-vehicle convoy was on a mission to meet with village leaders.

## Students killed in Texas high school

*Associated Press*

SANTA FE, Texas — At least one gunman opened fire at a Houston-area high school Friday, killing eight to 10 people, most of them students, authorities said.

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said he could not be precise about the number of deaths at Santa Fe High School, which went on lockdown around 8 a.m. One person was in custody, and a second person had been detained, he said. CNN quoted a source who said nine students and one teacher had been killed.

A law enforcement official has identified a person in custody as 17-year-old Dimitrios Pagourtzis. The official was not authorized to discuss the shooting by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

An unknown number of possible explosive devices were found at the school and off campus. Authorities were in the process of rendering them safe.

The district confirmed an unspecified number of injuries but did not release details. A school police officer was shot, officials said, but there was no immediate word on his condition.

Michael Farina, 17, said he was on the other side of campus when the shooting began and thought it was a fire drill. He was holding a door open for special education students in wheelchairs when a principal came bounding down the hall and telling everyone to run. Another teacher yelled, "It is real."

Students were led to take cover behind a car shop across

the street from the school. Some still did not feel safe and began jumping the fence behind the shop to run even farther away, Farina said.

"I debated doing that myself," he said.

The emergency room medical director at Clear Lake Regional Medical Center said the facility had treated eight patients injured in the shooting.

Dr. Safi Madain said six of the eight patients have been treated and released. Madain said one patient remains in critical condition and the other is in fair condition. Madain said all appeared to be high school students with gunshot wounds.

Other victims have been treated at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Dr. David Marshall, chief nursing officer, said an adult male was in critical condition at the hospital. He said that man was shot in the upper arm and was undergoing surgery.

A woman who answered the phone at a number associated with the Pagourtzis family declined to speak with the AP. She said: "Give us our time right now, thank you."

Pagourtzis played on the Santa Fe High School junior varsity football team, and is a member of a dance squad with a local Greek Orthodox church.

The shooting was all but certain to re-ignite the national debate over gun regulations. While cable news channels carried hours of live coverage, survivors of the Feb. 14 attack in Parkland, Fla., took to social media to express grief and outrage.

# Ex-sailor sentenced in \$2.3M fraud

*The Virginian-Pilot*

NORFOLK — When federal investigators first started looking into Clayton Pressley III, they thought the Chesapeake sailor was only guilty of stealing the identities of his subordinates.

But while that case worked its way through the courts in late 2016, they got a tip: The Bronze Star recipient was also ripping off the Navy through an elaborate procurement fraud scheme.

Pressley was sentenced Tuesday to two years in federal prison in connection with the \$2.3 million fraud. That is on top of four years and two months he received in the identity theft case, in which he fraudulently obtained \$24,000 in loans.

The fraud charges stem from Pressley's efforts in 2014 to manipulate the Navy's procurement process. According to court documents, Pressley, then a senior chief petty officer, and unnamed co-conspirators were selling Navy "inert training aids," or fake bombs, that were never shipped but marked as delivered.

According to court documents, an unnamed Navy officer who had purchasing authority ordered the aids from two vendors, identified as Firm D and Firm V.

Friendly sales representatives at those firms funneled orders to Firm G, a Tucson, Ariz.-based business that served as a front for Pressley, the mother of one of his children and other

co-conspirators. No goods were ever delivered, documents said.

It is unclear whether the sales representatives knew the scope of the fraud.

Pressley, who used an alias to serve as Firm G's chief operating officer, netted more than \$644,000 from the conspiracy, court documents said.

He used the money to buy airline tickets, home goods, hotel rooms and a car, among other things.

"The steps taken by Mr. Pressley and others to perpetrate their scheme demonstrated remarkable cunning and deceitfulness," Special Assistant U.S. Attorney David Layne said in court documents, asking for a sentence of at least three years and 10 months.

Defense attorney Bruce Sams asked the court for a sentence of no more than two years, saying his client was struggling with unspecified mental health issues at the time of his crimes. He noted Pressley was forced to forfeit his military retirement benefits.

Pressley was forced out of the Navy last year after almost 20 years.

Pressley, who was ordered to pay full restitution, received his Bronze Star in January 2007. According to a copy of the citation, it was "for exceptionally meritorious service during Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Court documents said he served as a command action casualty officer.

## Trump warns NATO allies on spending

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. President Donald Trump has issued a new warning to Germany and other NATO allies that they would be "dealt with" if they fail to follow through with an alliance pledge to boost defense spending to agreed levels.

Trump, during a meeting at the White House Thursday with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, singled out Germany not only for its military shortcomings but also for the country's business dealings with Russia.

"Germany must demonstrate leadership in the alliance by addressing its longstanding shortfall in defense contributions. Germany has not contributed what it should be contributing, and it's a very big beneficiary — far bigger than the United States, frankly," Trump said. He also complained that Ger-

many buys "massive amounts of gas from Russia and paying billions and billions of dollars."

In July, Trump is expected to attend NATO's major annual summit in Brussels, where once again the U.S. will press members to ramp up spending. The issue of military investment, or lack of it among NATO's European members, has dominated Trump's agenda with allies.

Trump credited the eight nations now meeting NATO guidelines that call for dedicating 2 percent of GDP to military matters. The countries are Poland, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Greece, and the United Kingdom.

"They paid the number that they're supposed to be paying," Trumps said. "We have some that don't — and, well, they'll be dealt with."

He did not elaborate what measures would be taken to ensure compliance.

## Navy embeds mental health teams with sub squadrons

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

Commanders are calling it the "year of change" for Navy medicine, but Rear Adm. Paul D. Pearigen is excited about what the reforms promise, especially for submariners.

The commander of San Diego-based Navy Medicine West, a health network that's concentrated in the Pacific Rim but extends globally from Peru to Egypt and Vietnam, Pearigen sees 2018 as a transition from the way the armed forces traditionally treated patients to one based more on hiking readiness in deploying units and ships.

"This is really about the transition of management and administration of the military treatment facilities, all those hospitals across the Navy, Army and Air Force, from the services' medical departments to the Defense Health Agency," Pearigen told members of the San Diego Military Advisory Council during a Wednesday address at Naval Base Point Loma.

Called "DHA" by the troops,

it's a joint agency that's consolidating the business and clinical wings of the Army, Air Force and Navy medical services.

By Oct. 1, it's supposed to release new policy guidelines that shift key portions of retiree and family health care to DHA along with control of more than 400 hospitals and clinics now run by the military services.

The plan is to provide better but cheaper care, and the agency already manages the Tricare medical program for retirees and families of the troops.

Pearigen's command is pairing mental health treatment teams with submarine squadrons to make the medical professionals organic to the boats, becoming almost like the rest of the crew.

The psychologists, social workers and other mental and behavioral health specialists will learn the culture of the submarine fleet, but unlike similar teams on aircraft carriers and surface warships, they'll likely never deploy for long underwater tours.



# Trump lawyer: Special counsel has narrowed questions in probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's attorney said Friday the special counsel in the Russia probe has narrowed the scope of potential questions for the president, even as Trump advanced an unverified theory that the Justice Department planted a spy in his 2016 campaign and is now "out to frame him."

Rudy Giuliani said on CNN Friday that special counsel Robert Mueller has narrowed his question subject areas from five to two, as negotiations continue over if the president will sit down for an interview.

Giuliani said they don't expect to be asked about the president's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, who faces a separate criminal investigation in New York. But Giuliani did not pro-

vide many additional details.

His comments came after Trump sent out a morning tweet that seemed intended to undercut the ongoing Russia investigation, which he has called a "witch hunt."

Promoting a theory that is circulating in conservative circles, Trump quoted Fox Business anchor David Asman and tweeted: "Apparently the DOJ put a Spy in the Trump Campaign. This has never been done before and by any means necessary, they are out to frame Donald Trump for crimes he didn't commit."

On whether there was an "informant" in the 2016 presidential campaign, Giuliani said on CNN, "I don't know for sure, nor does the President, if there really was one," though he said they have long been told there was "some kind of infiltration."

Last week, the National Re-

view raised the question of a possible FBI spy on Trump's campaign. The article cites work by Rep. Devin Nunes, an ardent Trump supporter and head of the House Intelligence Committee, who has demanded information on an FBI source in the Russia investigation.

The New York Times reported separately this week that at least one government informant met several times with Carter Page and George Papadopoulos, both former foreign policy advisers on Trump's campaign. The newspaper attributed the information to current and former FBI officials.

In a tweet Thursday, Trump cited the National Review article suggesting that the FBI source was really a "confidential informant in the campaign."

"If so, this is bigger than Watergate!" he tweeted.

## Prince Charles to walk Markle down the aisle

Associated Press

WINDSOR, England — Prince Charles will walk Meghan Markle down the aisle when she marries his son Prince Harry — a gesture of welcome to the American actress as she joins the royal family.

Kensington Palace said Friday that Markle asked the heir to the British throne to offer the supporting elbow Saturday at St. George's Chapel in Windsor once Markle's father was unable to attend after falling ill.

Charles "is pleased to be able to welcome Ms. Markle to the Royal Family in this way," the palace said.

The news came amid the final wedding preparations. Union Jacks have been unfurled, security barriers are up and fans are moving in to capture the prime viewing positions in Windsor, 25 miles west of London.

Buckingham Palace announced that the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the royal wedding, just a few weeks after undergoing a hip replacement operation. Prince Philip, 96, has largely retired from public duties and it had not been clear whether he would be feeling well enough to attend.

The announcements came after days of speculation. Markle's mother, Doria Ragland, was the bookies' favorite to escort the bride, but Prince Charles has a lifetime of experience in appearing at public events amid intense scrutiny.

Having the father of the groom escort the bride is yet another twist in a royal wedding that is proving to be different from many others. Normally such occasions are carefully choreographed well in advance.

Things began to unravel last week after it emerged that Thomas Markle allegedly staged paparazzi photos in what celebrity website TMZ said was an effort to improve his image and show him to be a loving father preparing for the big day. Markle later said he wouldn't attend the wedding because he would be recovering from surgery following a heart attack.

## Senate confirms Haspel as CIA chief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Veteran spy Gina Haspel will become the first female director of the CIA after six Democrats joined Republicans in a Senate confirmation vote that overrode concerns about her role in the agency's interrogation program after 9/11.

Thursday's 54-45 vote split both parties, and the margin was the closest for a CIA nominee in the nearly seven decades that a nod from the Senate has been required. Haspel, who has spent nearly all of her 33-year CIA career in undercover positions, is the first career operations officer to be confirmed since William Colby in 1973.

Haspel, 61, is a native of Kentucky but grew up around the world as the daughter of an Air Force serviceman. She worked in Africa, Europe and classified locations around the globe and was tapped as deputy director of the CIA last year. She worked under former CIA Director Mike Pompeo until President Donald Trump nominated him to be secretary of state.

Haspel was backed by many in the CIA rank-and-file and was supported by senior intelligence officials, including six former CIA directors and three former national intelligence directors, who said she earned the chance to take the helm of the nation's premier spy agency. National Intelligence Director Dan Coats said Haspel has integrity and both frontline and executive intelligence

expertise.

Her opponents argued it wasn't right to promote someone who supervised a covert detention site in Thailand where terror suspects were waterboarded, an interrogation technique that simulates drowning. They said the U.S. needed to slam closed what was one of the CIA's darkest chapters that tainted America's image with allies abroad.

Several senators said Haspel was not forthcoming in answering questions about her role in the torture program or the CIA's decision to destroy video-tapes of the sessions. They also had questions about her rejection of the now-banned techniques.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said the world was watching the vote, which he called a "referendum on torture." He said the so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques" the CIA used at black sites, including slamming detainees against walls and confining them in coffin-shaped boxes, amounted to "government-sanctioned torture."

Three Republicans opposed her: Sen. John McCain, of Arizona, who is battling cancer and did not vote; Sen. Rand Paul, of Kentucky; and Sen. Jeff Flake, of Arizona.

Six Democrats supported Haspel's nomination. Several up for re-election this fall in states where Trump is popular, including Sens. Joe Manchin, W.Va.; Heidi Heitkamp, N.D.; Joe Donnelly, Ind.; and Bill Nelson, Fla. Also voting yes were Sens. Jeanne Shaheen, N.H., and Mark Warner, Va.

# Ash falls near erupting Hawaii volcano

Associated Press

VOLCANO, Hawaii — Authorities handed out around 2,000 masks for protection as people living near Hawaii's Kilauea volcano braced for pulverized rock, glass and crystal to rain down after an explosive eruption at the peak's summit.

Lindsey Magnani, her fiancé Elroy Rodrigues and their two children picked up masks for their family Thursday afternoon at Cooper Center in Volcano, Hawaii.

Magnani said her children — Kahele Rodrigues, 2, and Kayden Rodrigues, 3 months old — were doing OK, but her and her fiancé had both been sneezing all day.

"This morning it smelled like sulfur so we had to close all the windows," Magnani said.

Most residents found thin coatings of

ash, if they saw any at all, as winds blew much of the 30,000-foot plume away from people.

"It was a grit, like a sand at the beach," said Joe Laceby, who lives in the town of Volcano a few miles to the northeast of Kilauea's summit. The ash was a bit of an irritant, he said, but "not too bad."

Laceby sealed windows and cracks in his home with cellophane to keep out ash and volcanic gases. He has gas masks to protect himself from the toxic fumes and ash.

The explosion at Kilauea's summit came shortly after 4 a.m. Thursday following two weeks of volcanic activity that sent lava flows into neighborhoods and destroyed at least 26 homes. Scientists said the eruption was the most powerful in recent days, though it probably lasted only a few minutes. Geologists have warned that the vol-

cano could become even more violent, with increasing ash production and the potential that future blasts could hurl boulders the size of cows from the summit.

Winds kept the ash away from the Volcano Winery, tasting room manager Lani Delapenia said. A thin coating of white soot had blanketed tables and vines the day before, on Wednesday, but none wafted over the day of the 30,000-foot plume. The strength and direction of the wind makes all the difference, she said.

Julia Neal, operator of Pahala Plantation Cottages about 28 miles southwest of the summit crater, said people have been picking up ash masks from county civil defense workers at the local community center. Some people working outside were wearing them. People with asthma were staying inside, she said.

## Gunman arrested at Trump resort in Florida

Associated Press

DORAL, Fla. — Gunfire erupted early Friday at President Donald Trump's golf resort, as a man shouting anti-Trump rhetoric draped a flag over a lobby counter and exchanged fire with officers in what one official called an "ambush" before being arrested, police said.

One officer broke his arm, and the suspect was wounded by gunfire in the incident, which began around 1:30 a.m. at the Trump-owned Trump National Doral Golf Club near Miami.

Trump was not at the club at the time.

Miami-Dade Police Director Juan Perez identified the suspect as Jonathan Oddi, 42, of Doral. Police were preparing a search warrant to enter Oddi's house, Perez said. His neighbors were evacuated Friday morning as officers swept the area looking for booby traps, Perez said.

"We don't know what his intentions were in the long term, but we know what he was doing at the time — he was trying to engage our police officers in some kind of ambush-type at-

tack," Perez said.

Video footage showed the conscious suspect being wheeled into a hospital on a gurney.

Perez said the man took down a flag from the rear of the complex and draped it over a lobby counter.

"He was yelling and spewing some information about President Trump, and that's what we know so far. And he had an American flag that he did drape over the counter," Perez said.

The man fired shots into the ceiling and waited for officers to arrive, he said. Four officers from Doral and one from Miami-Dade quickly encountered him and exchanged gunfire. The man was arrested without further violence.

"You know, these officers did not hesitate one second to engage this individual that was actively shooting in the lobby of the hotel," he said. "They risked their lives knowing that that they had to get in there to save lives in that hotel."

Perez said the U.S. Secret Service was on the scene, and the FBI was on the way, but local police were in charge for the time being.

## Trump nominates Wilkie to lead VA

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced Friday his intent to nominate Robert Wilkie as the next secretary for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Wilkie has been serving in the role in an interim basis since March 28.

Trump made the surprise announcement during a public speech Friday morning at the White House about prisons and the criminal justice system. He said Wilkie, 55, has done an "incredible job" at the VA.

"I'll be informing him in a little while — he doesn't know this yet — that we're going to be putting his name up for nomination to be secretary of the veterans administration," Trump said. Wilkie was at the event.

Trump's previous nominee for the job — White House physician Ronny Jackson — withdrew from consideration April 26 after he quickly became mired in controversy. Nearly two dozen coworkers made

allegations that Jackson was a toxic leader, drank on the job and doled out controlled substances.

Following Jackson's failed nomination, Trump said he had another candidate in mind. He said the person had "political capabilities."

Wilkie's name was among a list of possible picks rumored over the past several weeks. Others included Rep. Brian Mast, R-Fla., former Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., and White House Chief of Staff John Kelly.

Trump chose Wilkie to temporarily lead the VA after he fired former VA Secretary David Shulkin in March. Wilkie came to the VA from the Pentagon, where he worked as the undersecretary of personnel and readiness.

Wilkie walked into an agency reeling from Shulkin's firing and the chaos and infighting that led up to it.

"Wilkie has stabilized things at the central office," said Garry Augustine, director of Disabled American Veterans, in April.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police praise students for illusion prank

**WI** CUMBERLAND — Police had praise for students who created an illusion for a senior class prank that appeared to show a car crashed into the principal's office.

Students at Cumberland High School in Wisconsin used a junk car, some bricks, some tape and a black tarp to make it look like the car had crashed into their school.

Police arrived on the scene only to realize it wasn't really a wreck. The Cumberland Police Department wrote on Facebook that it was "one of the best senior pranks."

The school district also congratulated the students for their ingenuity.

## Person in Spider-Man suit hangs out on train

**MA** BOSTON — A person sporting a Spider-Man costume joined commuters on a Boston subway train — dangling from a handrail.

Twitter user Ashley Armstrong tweeted a video Wednesday of the masked superhero checking a smartphone while hanging upside down on a Green Line train. Armstrong tweeted: "Just another day on the #MBTA."

The Boston Globe reported that eager fans took to Reddit to share pictures and stories of the nimble web slinger, who was obviously surfing the web.

## \$85M apartment comes with trip to space

**NY** NEW YORK — The owner of a New York City condominium is offering a trip to outer space included with the purchase of an \$85 million apartment.

The condo is a 15,000 square-foot duplex located on the en-

tirety of the 45th floor of the Atelier building on west 42nd Street in Manhattan. WNBC-TV reported the steep price tag for the 10-bedroom, 11-bathroom apartment comes with a number of amenities, including two seats on a trip to outer space.

Amenities included with the \$85 million home also include two Rolls-Royce Phantoms, a Lamborghini, courtside seats for Brooklyn Nets games, a mansion in the Hamptons for the summer, a live-in butler and a private chef.

## Police arrest fleeing man when his pants fall

**FL** DAYTONA BEACH — A Florida motorist trying to elude police didn't get too far when he bailed out of his pickup truck. That's because his pants fell to his ankles as he was running away.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported Tobias Smith, 24, crashed into another vehicle, a power pole, a fence and a barbershop as he sped away from police during an attempted traffic stop Tuesday.

No one was injured inside the barbershop, but the crash caused \$3,000 in damage to the building.

A police report said Smith ran but was quickly captured when his pants fell down.

He's charged with leaving the scene of a crash, fleeing and eluding, driving with a suspended license and resisting arrest.

## Jury convicts Goldman in theft of gold bar

**FL** KEY WEST — Two thieves await sentencing for stealing a 17th-century gold bar from a museum in Key West.

Jarred Alexander Goldman, of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.,

was found guilty Wednesday of conspiracy and theft of a major artwork. That artwork was a bar of gold recovered from the 1622 wreck of a Spanish galleon off the Florida Keys. Weighing 74.85 ounces and valued at \$556,000, it disappeared from the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum in 2010.

Authorities said Goldman stood guard while Steven Johnson, of Rio Linda, Calif., lifted the bar from its display case. The FBI recovered only a fragment, sold by Johnson to a man who testified for the prosecution. Johnson pleaded guilty in late April. Sentencing for both men is July 23.

## Man, 93, makes his first hole-in-one

**OH** ZANESVILLE — A 93-year-old Ohio man who made his first hole-in-one in nearly seven decades of golf decided to quit the game for good a few holes later.

Ben Bender told The Zanesville Times Recorder "the Lord knew this was my last round" and gave him a hole-in-one.

Bender aced the 152-yard third hole last month at Green Valley Golf Course in Zanesville with a 5 wood.

He said his hip was bothering him that day, forcing him to stop after a few more holes and head to the clubhouse, bringing his golfing career to a memorable end.

Bender said he began playing when he was 28, whittling his handicap down to a 3 at one point. He said he hates giving up the game, but knows he can't play forever.

## New pop-up restaurant offers pickle ice cream

**NY** NEW YORK — A pop-up ice cream and dumpling shop in New York City is serving up a brand new

flavor: pickle ice cream

Lucky Pickle Dumpling Co., located in the Upper West Side neighborhood of Manhattan, dishes out gigantic servings of chartreuse soft serve topped with pickle slices for \$5. Executive Chef Glenroy Brown told WABC-TV that the ice cream is created with fresh-pressed cucumber, giving it a light and balanced flavor.

Brown noted that most customers assume the ice cream is briny or sour based on the name.

Popular local eatery Jacob's Pickles is behind the pop-up restaurant, which also serves dumplings and noodles.

Brown said he and his team developed the ice cream from scratch because they wanted a unique dessert.

## Man accused of stealing police cruiser

**ME** BANGOR — Prosecutors said a man charged with stealing a police cruiser slipped through an 11-by-11-inch opening while handcuffed to get into the driver's seat.

Assistant District Attorney Marianne Lynch said a video captured Tyler Tibbetts' maneuver during his arrest May 11.

Lynch told WMTW-TV the opening between the front and back seats was "extraordinarily small," and she doesn't think "in anybody's wildest dreams" would an adult man be expected to fit through.

Police said Tibbetts, 22, led officers on a chase in the stolen cruiser before abandoning the car in Garland, east of Dexter. He was later arrested after crashing a different car.

Tibbetts is facing multiple charges including theft, escape and eluding police. He is being held without bail.

From wire reports

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# James shouldering burden for Cavaliers

Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — LeBron James recovered quickly from his neck strain. There's still too much stress on his back.

He's carrying the Cavaliers. It's a springtime tradition.

As has been the case for much of his 15-year career, James has had to perform at an extraordinary level throughout these playoffs, most recently in Cleveland's Game 2 loss at Boston.

Bouncing back after taking a blow to the jaw from Jayson Tatum's shoulder that violently twisted his head and sent a chill down the spines of Cleveland fans, James finished with 42 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists.

It was not enough, however. His teammates failed him and the Cavs fell into a 2-0 hole in the Eastern Conference finals.

Kevin Love (22 points, 15 rebounds) helped, so did Kyle Korver (four three-pointers) and Tristan Thompson (8 points, 7 rebounds). But too many other Cavs ranged from mediocre to awful.

If Cleveland is to even the series at home, that has to change starting in Game 3 on Saturday.

"We have to ramp it up," said J.R. Smith, who didn't score in Game 2 and committed a critical flagrant foul. "We're playing too slow. We're making 'Bron play hero ball, which is tough to do, especially in the Eastern Conference finals. We got to help him. With that said, we have to give him an opportunity to make him feel confident to give us the ball so we can make the right

plays. We got to help him and he's got to help us."

Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said James "did everything" in practice Thursday, but the 33-year-old had left the floor by the time media members were allowed in for interviews. James was spotted in the fitness and training area inside the facility.

Lue said the Cavs spent time breaking down video of the two losses. There was plenty to dissect.

Cleveland has had puzzling defensive lapses, and Lue said there were up to nine instances in Game 2 alone where communication breakdowns led to easy baskets or open shots for the Celtics.

On offense, Lue feels Smith and point guard George Hill, who have been outscored 72-12 in two games by Jaylen Brown and Terry Rozier, need to be more aggressive and attack the basket.

Smith believes it's simpler than that.

"Make shots, that's the only thing we can do," said Smith, who is 2-for-17 and 0-for-7 on three-pointers in the series. "I mean obviously we can do more on the defensive side, but our main focus is to make shots right now when we get it. If we don't have them, try to make the next-best play. Right now 'Bron and Kev are working overly hard, trying to carry us. We just got to step up and do our job."

But talking a good game is one thing, playing one is another. The Cavs don't have time for speeches or excuses. With their season inching toward danger, results are all that matter.

Hill didn't record an assist in 28 minutes in Game 1 and had three points in Game

2. He missed time in the opening round against Indiana with back spasms and has been puzzled by his drop-off after playing so well in Cleveland's sweep over Toronto.

"I'm trying to figure it out myself," he said. "I think a little bit of just trying to be more involved offensively, trying to be more involved defensively, not waiting until a play is possibly called and things like that to go do it. I've just got to be more assertive, I've got to play with that edge like I did in the second series."

"There's no one to blame but myself. You've got to look yourself in the mirror and say, 'What can I do better?'"

The Cavs know they need to be more physical after the Celtics took the fight to them in Boston.

Lue raised some eyebrows following Game 2 when he described Boston's players as "gooning up" the series. Lue explained he wasn't being critical.

"It's not a bad thing to goon it up," he said. "Like, they're taking hard fouls, they're being physical. They're playing playoff basketball. So that's all I meant by it."

Thompson said he loves that Boston is playing "hard and chippy." But he knows if the Cavs don't ease the burden on James, this fight could be over sooner than expected.

"Other guys have to contribute and other guys have to step up," Tristan Thompson said. "Of course, it's a huge luxury having LeBron on our team. At the same time, we have to be ready to play and we have to do our job."

And get off James' back.

## Celtics hope to end road woes in Cleveland

Associated Press

WALTHAM, Mass. — Home-court advantage has proven to be a valuable commodity for the Celtics so far this postseason.

Boston is 9-0 at TD Garden during these playoffs and has blistered opponents early in games, shooting 47 percent from the field and 39 percent from the three-point line. It's often led to cushions that have helped the Celtics sustain opponents' runs in the second half.

But after boasting the third-best road record in the NBA during the regular season, the Celtics have looked like a totally different team since the post-

season began. They are just 1-4 away from their building and seen their shooting numbers dip to 41 percent overall and 31 percent from beyond the arc.

That can't persist if Boston is going to have success as the series shifts to Cleveland on Saturday.

Marcus Smart, who was all over the court in the Celtics' Game 2 win, didn't take any offense to Cavs coach Tyronn Lue's comment that the Celtics have "shown they haven't played that well on the road."

"We haven't played well. We know that and understand that," Smart said. "We understand that other teams see that

and try to exploit it. But that's the beauty about this game. It just takes one game. You never know. Things change. Our confidence is high. Who knows?"

Coach Brad Stevens said he thought the entire team seemed a little "shell-shocked" at Milwaukee in the first round, when after taking a 2-0 series lead, was promptly blown out 116-92 in Game 3. It lost all three road games in that series.

"We took a punch in the mouth right when guys came out and they surprised us a little bit," Smart said. "We can't afford to be surprised this time around. ... We're just trying to make it as hard as we can on those guys

for them to win a game and for us to execute whatever plan Brad has for us."

That will be easier said than done against a Cavaliers team that got 42 points and near triple-double by LeBron James in Tuesday's loss.

Pressure will certainly be on the Cavs, but they have history on their side. James has won at least one playoff road game in 31 of his last 32 playoff series. To have a chance to make it 32 out of 33, Cleveland would need to win one of the next two games at home to force a Game 5.

That's not out of their reach by any means.



# Lightning take Game 4 from Capitals on road

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jon Cooper's Tampa Bay Lightning won Game 4 of the Eastern Conference final despite going the equivalent of more than a period without a shot on goal.

They won despite falling behind about 4½ minutes into the game.

They won despite being called for three penalties — one right after the other — late in the first period, allowing Alex Ovechkin and the rest of the Washington Capitals' prolific power play to get all that time to operate.

And they did it, mainly, thanks to Andrei Vasilevskiy, who made 36 saves and kept things close until Alex Killorn scored the tiebreaker with about 8 minutes left, lifting Tampa Bay to a 4-2 victory over Washington on Thursday night, evening the series at two games apiece.

"When you don't have your 'A' game, you need your goalie to have his 'A' game," Cooper said. "And he sure did."

Now the Lightning will host Game 5 on Saturday night, with Game 6 back in Washington on Monday.

The road team has won every game in the series so far.

"It's pretty bizarre," said Steven Stamkos, who took a puck of the face during the morning skate, then went out and scored a power-play goal that gave Tampa Bay a 2-1 lead after the first period. "We've got to find a way to win one at home."

The Capitals might be thinking the very same thing. After all, they fell to 3-5 in the nation's capital this postseason, while they are 7-1 in away games.

On Thursday, they even got booed — yes, a smattering of jeers rang out in the team's first conference final in 20 years — late in the first period after failing to convert any of the trio of man-advantage chances.

That stretch was part of a chunk of nearly 21 full minutes of game time — the last 10:41 of the first period, followed by

the initial 10:11 of the second — during which Tampa Bay never put a single official shot on net.

"Our guys were gassed. That's a lot of stress. Mental stress. The same guys are on the ice the whole time. Other guys aren't playing," Cooper said. "You kind of lose your whole rhythm."

And so it was vital that Vasilevskiy played just like the Vezina Trophy finalist he is.

He was spectacular at times, including stops against Chandler Stephenson on a breakaway and Nicklas Backstrom — who returned after missing four games with an injured right hand — from the doorstep in the second period. In the third, Vasilevskiy used his left glove to swat away a try from Brett Connolly.

Following one flubbed chance, Ovechkin threw his head back and looked up, the very picture of disappointment.

After allowing 10 goals in Games 1 and 2, Vasilevskiy has given up a total of four in Games 3 and 4.

"He didn't play great in the first two. He played well in the second two. It's our job to make him look like the goalie from the first two games," Washington forward Tom Wilson said. "We'll make it hard on him."

Capitals goalie Braden Holtby didn't get a chance to make nearly as many saves, given the shot discrepancy: Washington ended up with 38 to Tampa Bay's 20. And Holtby allowed goals on two of the first five shots he faced, to Brayden Point and to Stamkos. Anthony Cirelli added an empty-netter with a second left.

The go-ahead goal came thanks to a defensive breakdown, when Killorn was left pretty much alone and scored 6 seconds after a Tampa Bay power play expired, putting in a pass from Ondrej Palat.

"Tonight was so important," Killorn said. "Going down 3-1 in a series is tremendously different from 2-2."

## Briefly

# Foster's ex testifies she lied about abuse

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The former girlfriend of Reuben Foster testified at a preliminary hearing Thursday that she lied to police when she said the San Francisco 49ers linebacker attacked her, allegations that led to a domestic violence case against him.

Elissa Ennis testified she lied because she wanted retribution after Foster tried to end their relationship, saying she was angry "and I wanted to end him." When asked by prosecutor Kevin Smith if Foster ever hit her, Ennis replied, "No, sir. Not once."

Foster was arrested after Ennis told police he dragged her by her hair, physically threw her out of their house, and punched her in the head eight to 10 times in February. He has been charged with domestic violence with an allegation that he inflicted great bodily injury, forcefully attempting to prevent a victim from reporting a crime, and possession of an assault weapon. Foster pleaded not guilty last week.

Ennis subsequently issued a statement through her attorney saying her injuries, including a ruptured eardrum, were the result of a fight with another woman.

Prosecutors have said they will continue to pursue the case even if Ennis does not cooperate with the investigation. The prosecution said Ennis' testimony couldn't be trusted given inconsistencies throughout.

Judge Nona Klippen said she will rule Wednesday on whether the case should continue to trial.

Ennis, who testified against the advice of her attorney, said in court Thursday that she wanted to testify to "do the right thing."

She said Foster broke up with her after she got into the fight with another woman during a road rage incident in San Francisco. A 22-second video clip of that fight was presented as evi-

dence in the case.

During cross examination by Foster's attorney Joshua Bentley, Ennis said she went to jail in 2011 for falsely accusing an ex-boyfriend of domestic violence.

## Cowboys' DE seeks league reinstatement

DALLAS — Dallas Cowboys defensive end Randy Gregory is seeking reinstatement to the NFL after missing the 2017 season over multiple violations of the league's substance-abuse policy, a person with direct knowledge of the application said Friday.

Gregory's application should be received by the league office within days in hopes that he will be reinstated in time for training camp in late July, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of privacy stipulations in the drug policy.

The 25-year-old Gregory last played in the 2016 regular-season finale. He was suspended before Dallas' playoff loss, his third suspension of the season.

## Kane helps US into semifinals at worlds

HERNING, Denmark — Captain Patrick Kane scored two goals to lift the United States to a 3-2 win over the Czech Republic in the quarterfinals of the ice hockey world championship on Thursday while Canada beat Russia 5-4 in overtime.

Switzerland pulled off a surprise by eliminating Finland 3-2 and defending champion Sweden edged out Latvia 3-2.

Kane claimed the third-period winner to take the outright lead in the scoring table on 19 points, a U.S. record, with eight goals and 11 assists and set up a semifinal against Sweden on Saturday.

The U.S. is looking for its first medal since picking up bronze in 2015.

# Price's complete game lifts Red Sox

Associated Press

BOSTON — One strike away from a four-hit shutout, David Price happily settled for a complete game and his strongest outing of the season.

Price struck out eight and held Baltimore to five hits, including two in the ninth when the Orioles broke up the shutout before the Boston left-hander finished them off in a 6-2 victory for the Red Sox on Thursday night.

"He was amazing," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "He was outstanding. You saw it. Bad swings, up, down, in and out, changeup, cutter, sinkers ... that was fun to watch."

J.D. Martinez hit a two-run homer in the first, and Xander Bogaerts homered with two on during a four-run fifth, giving Price more than enough cushion against the struggling Orioles.

Price (4-4) struck out eight and didn't walk a batter while winning consecutive starts for the first time this season. He cruised through the first eight innings before Andrew Susac led off the ninth with a double, the first Baltimore player to reach

second base in the game.

Manny Machado spoiled the shutout bid with a two-out homer, but Price finished off Baltimore on Jonathan Schoop's pop-up to center as the Red Sox improved to 4-0 against Baltimore by taking the makeup game that was rained out on Patriots' Day.

"They're a free-swinging team," said Price, who threw just 95 pitches. "You can go out there and do that or you can go out there for three innings and give up a bunch of runs."

Danny Valencia had a pair of hits for the punchless Orioles, who have lost three of four and have the second-fewest wins in the American League. Valencia nearly had a double in the fifth, but got thrown out at second by left fielder Andrew Benintendi, one of several strong defensive plays that helped Price go the distance.

Hanley Ramirez also caught a foul pop on the top step of Boston's dugout in the second and Mookie Betts ran down a fly ball that was headed to the wall in right.

"The defensive plays that I had today, it makes everything a lot easier," Price said. Kevin Gausman (3-3) went 4<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings

for Baltimore, allowing six runs and eight hits while striking out six and walking two. He was pulled after Bogaerts drove a high fastball out to left with two men on during Boston's four-run fifth.

"We just got into some sticky situations where we just had to dig ourselves out of a hole and we just couldn't," Susac said.

The Orioles also weren't happy with the strike zone, which Susac said forced Gausman to throw some pitches the Red Sox pounced upon.

Manager Buck Showalter agreed with his catcher.

"I'm very biased, but I didn't think he got a fair shake tonight," Showalter said. "There were a lot of pitches that could have and should have gone his way."

**Heads-up:** The Red Sox stole five bases, including one in the fifth when Betts got a great jump with Gausman pitching from the stretch and concentrating on home. By the time Gausman threw a pick-off attempt to first, Betts was more than halfway to second.

"He threw over, but you've got to step off," Showalter said.

## MLB roundup

# Turner ties career high for RBIs in win

Associated Press

MIAMI — Justin Turner tied a career high with five RBIs and Kenta Maeda pitched eight sharp innings to help the Los Angeles Dodgers snap a six-game losing streak with a 7-0 rout of the Marlins.

Turner, who broke his left wrist in spring training and made his season debut Tuesday, hit a three-run double for the Dodgers' first hit in the third inning. He added a two-run double in the fourth and also singled in finishing 6-for-13 in the series (.462).

Maeda (3-3) allowed two hits and no walks in his longest outing of the season, and retired the final 17 batters he faced while throwing 96 pitches. Kenley Jansen gave up two hits in the ninth, but struck out the side to complete the Dodgers' sixth shutout.

Yasiel Puig hit his third homer of the season, all in the past four games.

Caleb Smith (2-5) threw 60

pitches before he gave up a hit. But he walked the bases loaded in the third, and Turner cleared them with a double. Kemp followed with an RBI double, and Smith departed after three innings trailing 4-0.

**Phillies 6, Cardinals 2:** Vince Velasquez pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning, and Carlos Santana and Pedro Florimon each hit home runs in visiting Philadelphia's victory over the Cardinals.

Velasquez (4-4) gave up five hits in 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, struck out five and walked two in recording his third straight win. The Phillies won for the seventh time in eight games and improved to 17-2 against opponents outside of the NL East. At 25-16, the Phillies are nine games over .500 for the first time since they were 102-60 at the close of the 2011 season.

**White Sox 4, Rangers 2:** Wellington Castillo hit a tie-breaking two-run single in Chicago's four-run eighth, helping

host Chicago beat Texas in the opener of a four-game series between two of the worst teams in the AL.

Yoan Moncada finished with three hits for Chicago, which had lost nine of 10. The White Sox improved the majors' worst record to 11-29, still a franchise record for worst 40-game start.

**Pirates 5, Padres 4:** Gregory Polanco led off the seventh inning with a double and scored the go-ahead run on an error, leading host Pittsburgh over San Diego for its eighth win in nine games.

**Athletics 10, Blue Jays 5:** Matt Olson hit a three-run home run, Khris Davis and Matt Chapman added two-run shots, and visiting Oakland beat Toronto.

Davis went 4-for-4 and scored three times as Oakland won for the second time in its past 13 games north of the border. Davis singled in the first, homered in the third, singled and scored in the fifth, came

around to score after being hit by a pitch in the sixth, and singled in the eighth.

**Rays 7, Angels 1:** C.J. Cron homered and scored two runs against his former teammates, and Chris Archer pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning of Tampa Bay's victory over host Los Angeles.

Mike Trout extended the longest hitting drought of his career to 0-for-19 with four hitless at-bats for the Angels, who have lost five of eight on their 11-game homestand.

**Tigers 3, Mariners 2:** Jose Iglesias' two-out, two-run single in the eighth inning gave visiting Detroit the lead, and Tigers pitchers allowed just two hits over the final six innings in a win over Seattle.

**Rockies 5, Giants 3 (12):** Carlos Gonzalez blooped a tie-breaking, two-run single with two outs in the 12th, lifting Colorado past host San Francisco in the clubs' first meeting of the year.