

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## NY governor says suspect in bike path attack that killed 8 radicalized in US

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Uzbek immigrant accused of using a truck to mow people down along a bike path, killing eight, “did this in the name of ISIS,” police said Wednesday.

Investigators, meanwhile, were at the hospital bedside of 29-year-old Sayfullo Saipov, working to extract information about the attack Tuesday near the World Trade Center memorial that also left 12 people injured, a law enforcement official said.

The official, who was not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity, said Saipov was lucid after surgery for wounds suffered when he was shot by police outside his rented Home Depot pickup truck.

John Miller, deputy police commissioner for intelligence, said Saipov left behind notes at the scene, handwritten in Arabic with symbols and words, that essentially said Islamic State, or ISIS, “would endure forever.”

“It appears that Mr. Saipov had been planning this for a number of weeks. He did this in the name of ISIS,” Miller said, citing the notes.

In the past few years, ISIS has been exhorting followers online to use vehicles or other close-at-hand means of killing people in their home countries. England, France and Germany have seen deadly vehicle attacks in the past year or so.

“He appears to have followed, almost exactly to a T, the instructions that ISIS has put out in its social media channels before with instructions to its followers on how to carry out such an attack,” Miller said.

Miller said Saipov had never been the subject of a New York police investigation but appears

to have some links to people who have been investigated.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo called Saipov a “depraved coward.”

“He was radicalized domestically,” he said on CNN. “It’s not the first time. It’s a global phenomenon now.”

In a number of recent extremist attacks around the world, the assailants were found to have been inspired but not actually directed by ISIS, and in some cases never even made contact with the terror group.

On the morning after the bloodshed, city leaders vowed New York would be not intimidated. They also said Sunday’s New York City Marathon, with 50,000 participants and some 2 million spectators anticipated, will go on as scheduled.

“We will not be cowed. We will not be thrown off by anything,” Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

While the mayor said there have been no credible threats of any additional attacks, police announced the deployment of heavy-weapon teams and other stepped-up security along the marathon route, in the subways and other sites, and New York Police Commissioner James O’Neill urged people to be vigilant.

In Tuesday’s attack, Saipov hurtled down the bike path, running down cyclists and pedestrians, then crashed into a school bus, authorities said. He was shot in the abdomen after he jumped out of the vehicle brandishing air guns and yelling “God is great!” in Arabic, they said.

The dead consisted of five people from Argentina, one from Germany, and two Americans, authorities said. Nine people remained hospitalized in serious or critical condition.

## Navy report: Crew errors led to fatal destroyer wrecks

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

The two collisions that killed a combined 17 sailors aboard the destroyers USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain resulted from sailors not following procedures and lack of communication between officers and the rest of the ship, a Navy report released Wednesday concluded.

Watch-standers aboard USS Fitzgerald were not paying attention to the right-hand side of the ship prior to its collision with the tanker ACX Crystal on June 17 in waters near Tokyo Bay in Japan, according to the 71-page investigation report on both collisions.

Meanwhile, sailors in Fitzgerald’s combat information center — charged with providing the most complete picture of traffic in the area — weren’t watching considerable ship activity in the area.

Additionally, Fitzgerald’s officer of the deck failed to contact the tanker, take evasive action or warn the commanding officer and crew of the hazardous situation, according to the report.

On the John S. McCain, confusion led to five steering configuration changes in roughly three minutes before the ship collided with the tanker Alnic MC in the Straits of Singapore on Aug. 21, according to the report.

The collisions have led the Navy to review its training, manning and operational guide-

lines throughout the fleet.

Congressional testimony revealed what many in the Navy and the Japan-based 7th Fleet for years had come to accept: Some deployed sailors were working up to 100-hour weeks aboard ships that often weren’t properly manned.

Meanwhile, necessary training gave way to operational demands amid tensions with North Korea, China and others in the Asia-Pacific region.

“Numerous failures occurred on the part of leadership and watchstanders” aboard the Fitzgerald before its early-morning collision, according to the report. They included failures to plan for safety, navigate, execute basic watch standing practices and respond appropriately during a crisis.

At 1 a.m. on June 17, Fitzgerald approached three merchant vessels from its right side within a traffic separation scheme, which is a common setup throughout the world for ships approaching busy channels. According to international rules taught to navies and pleasure craft alike, Fitzgerald was in a crossing situation, which obligated the ship to remain clear of the others. If it did not, Crystal should have taken “early and appropriate action,” according to the Navy’s account.

“In the 30 minutes leading up to the collision, neither Fitzgerald nor Crystal took such action to reduce the risk of collision until approximately one minute prior to the collision,” the report stated.

## Air base in Niger won't open on time

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. operations at a new base in Niger will be delayed a year as work crews battle dust storms and logistical obstacles to complete one of the Air Force's largest troop labor projects in history, military officials said.

U.S. Africa Command initially expected to finish upgrading the facility in Agadez this year, but operating in the rugged and isolated terrain of central Niger has proved challenging.

"Estimated completion is 2018 due to logistical challenges with constructing an air base in the Sahel desert," said Samantha Reho, an AFRICOM spokeswoman.

The site that will host U.S. forces, known as Air Base 201, is technically a Nigerien outpost, but the U.S. is spending \$100 million to overhaul it. A flight line is under construction, along with living quarters and mission support buildings.

"We're in the very early stages right now of establishing a presence in the area, but one day this once empty desert will be a fully functioning flight line," said 1st Lt. Danielle Tabb, a civil engineer on the Agadez project.

The base, now expected to open in mid-to-late 2018, will eventually be a hub for U.S. surveillance operations in the region. It may also serve as a base for armed drone strikes if U.S. and Niger authorities reach an agreement to allow such flights.

Since the Oct. 4 ambush in Niger that left four American soldiers dead, politicians and military officials have questioned whether more air and other support is needed for troops patrolling territory where numerous violent extremist groups are active. AFRICOM wouldn't confirm whether it was in talks to arm its unmanned aircraft operating out of Niger. But CNN and other news media, citing unnamed U.S. officials, reported that talks between the U.S. and Niger about conducting armed flights have taken on a sense of urgency.

# Psychiatrist: Bergdahl likely had PTSD before his capture

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — A forensic psychiatrist said Wednesday that Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was likely already suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder among other mental health conditions when he walked off his post in Afghanistan eight years ago.

Dr. Charles Morgan, who has extensive experience working with prisoners of war, examined Bergdahl and testified in the sentence hearing portion of the soldier's court-martial that his time in captivity likely exacerbated those disorders.

"He wants to do the right thing," Morgan said of Bergdahl. "Once he gets an idea that makes sense, he wants to move on it. In this case, he understood what he was doing would get him in trouble."

Bergdahl has said he walked off Observation Post Mest in Paktika province, Afghanistan, in June 2009 in an attempt to reach a forward operating base some 20 miles away to

alert military leadership to his concerns about his chain of command. But he became lost and was kidnapped by armed Taliban fighters, who held him captive for five years.

The soldier now faces up to life in prison after he pleaded guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy charges, admitting he endangered his fellow troops when he walked off his post.

"He's bright, but he's also naive," Morgan said. "He has a unique world view. He's very curious, he's slightly suspicious, and he's odd."

The doctor said Bergdahl was suffering from schizotypal personality disorder in June 2008 and has likely suffered with the condition most of his life. Morgan said the disorder likely contributed to his washing out of Coast Guard basic training following anxiety attacks in 2006, two years before he enlisted in the Army. Bergdahl was also diagnosed with the disorder by Army physicians after he returned to the U.S.

Individuals with the disorder

typically struggle to connect socially with other people, develop a negative self-image and suffer from anxiety. Morgan said Bergdahl displayed all of those symptoms as well as eccentric tendencies characteristic of those suffering schizotypal personality disorder.

Morgan told the judge, Army Col. Jeffery R. Nance, on Wednesday that he believed Bergdahl likely developed PTSD as a child.

"Home life wasn't always peaceful," he said. The soldier's father, Bob Bergdahl, "punched holes in walls and believed in corporal punishment."

The combination of mental conditions likely contributed to his decision to walk away from his post, Morgan testified, saying the soldier did not understand the impact his decision would have on others.

Previous witnesses detailed the high-risk search efforts launched to find Bergdahl in the weeks after he disappeared, detailing severe injuries suffered by three servicemembers during those operations.

## Franchetti chosen to lead 6th Fleet

By TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Pentagon has tapped a former destroyer commander to lead the Navy's Mediterranean fleet at a time of rising tensions with Russia and a growing terror threat in Africa.

Rear Adm. Lisa Franchetti, an adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has been nominated to command the Naples, Italy-based 6th Fleet, the Defense Department said Tuesday. Confirmation would see her promoted to vice admiral and become deputy commander of Naval Forces Europe and Naval Forces Africa, a Pentagon statement said.

The 6th Fleet mostly operates in the Atlantic and around Europe and Africa — an area that's home to more than 100 countries and a billion people.

The fleet has been busy lately dealing with increased Russian naval activity. Russian aircraft have been harassing U.S. military planes and ships in the Black Sea in encounters the Pentagon has described as "unsafe and unprofessional."

Russia is preparing to launch its most powerful ballistic-missile submarine, the Knyaz Vladimir, in November and will deploy two destroyers and a tanker around the Korean Peninsula and the South China

Sea over the coming months in a show of force, media reports have said.

Last summer, China and Russia conducted a naval drill in which Chinese warships entered the Baltic Sea for the first time.

Meanwhile, U.S. forces appear to be stepping up counterterrorism efforts in Africa.

Franchetti's previous jobs include commanding the guided-missile destroyer USS Ross, Destroyer Squadron 21 and the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier strike group. She was the first woman to take charge of Naval Forces Korea in 2013.



# Concerns about sealift raised

By SCOTT WYLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy may not be able to support its warships in combat if it doesn't upgrade a fleet of aging supply ships that are losing their ability to quickly provide food, fuel and equipment, a government watchdog said in a report released Tuesday.

The Navy must improve the Military Sealift Command's support ships to accommodate its expanding fleet, which covers ever-widening distances, the Government Accountability Office said. Otherwise, vital supplies might not reach the warships during combat.

"Over 90 percent of the equipment, personnel, fuel and other cargo necessary to sustain a major conflict is moved by sealift ships, but the readiness of the aging surge sealift fleet is trending downward," the GAO

said.

The sealift fleet includes oilers, tankers and cargo ships, many of which are 50 years old.

In the report, Navy officials agreed with the agency's recommendations on expanding and upgrading sealift capabilities. They said they are drafting a long-term plan that includes how much they must spend to expand and upgrade the fleet to keep in line with the Navy's future shipbuilding.

The Navy has given little thought to how support ships will accommodate warships spread out in a broader area, the GAO said. Support vessels traditionally were part of a strike group that supplied the warships as needed, but they increasingly sail longer distances to meet the ships at sea.

The more challenging logistics will demand that Navy leaders think in new ways, the

report said.

The agency found in the past five years that the supply ships' equipment is breaking down more often and that maintenance periods are running longer than planned. That leads to fewer ships available to provide refueling and supplies.

The USS Mount Whitney, a 47-year-old MSC command ship, returned to its home port of Gaeta, Italy, last week after being dry-docked for 10 months in a shipyard in Rijeka, Croatia.

About \$45 million worth of work was done on the Mount Whitney's mechanical, electrical and computer systems as well as the living quarters, hull and propellers.

Navy officials couldn't say whether the amount of time and work was unusual for a ship this size or whether its age was a factor.

# Former adviser's plea could rattle WH

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump dismissed George Papadopoulos as a "liar" and a mere campaign volunteer, but newly unsealed court papers outline the former adviser's frequent contacts with senior officials and with foreign nationals who promised access to the highest levels of the Russian government.

They also hint at more headaches for the White House and former campaign officials. Papadopoulos is now cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller as he investigates possible coordination between Russia and Trump's 2016 White House campaign.

Records made public Monday in Papadopoulos' case list a gaggle of people who were in touch with him during the campaign but only with such identifiers as "Campaign Supervisor," "Senior Policy Advisor" and "High-Ranking Campaign Official." Two of the unnamed campaign officials referenced are in fact former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and his business associate Rick Gates. Both were charged with financial crimes in an indictment unsealed Monday.

The conversations described in charging documents reflect Papadopoulos' efforts to arrange meetings between Trump aides and Russian government intermediaries and show how he learned the Russians had "dirt" on Hillary Clinton in the form of "thousands of emails."

In charging Papadopoulos, 30, with lying to the FBI, Mueller's team is warning of a similar fate for anyone whose statements deviate from the facts.

"I think everyone to whom Mueller and his team wanted to send a message heard loud and clear the message," said Jacob Frenkel, a Washington defense lawyer.

# Hollywood harassment widens

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Hollywood's widening sexual harassment crisis has ensnared a prominent film director after six women — including actress Olivia Munn — accused Brett Ratner of sexual assault or misconduct in a Los Angeles Times report on Wednesday.

The reverberations also reached back 32 years as Oscar-winner Dustin Hoffman came forward to apologize for allegedly sexually harassing a 17-year-old intern in 1985.

Writer Anna Graham Hunter alleges in a Wednesday column in The Hollywood Reporter that the 80-year-old actor groped her on the set of TV movie "Death of a Salesman" and "talked about sex to me and in front of me."

Hoffman issued a statement Wednesday, apologizing for "anything I might have done that could have put her in an uncomfortable situation. I am sorry. It is not reflective of who I am."

Munn also complained about onset behavior, alleging that while visiting the set of Ratner's

"After the Sunset" in 2004, he masturbated in front of her in his trailer. Munn described the incident, without naming Ratner, in a 2010 collection of essays.

Ratner's lawyer issued a statement Wednesday in which he said the director "vehemently denies the outrageous derogatory allegations" and is "confident that his name will be cleared once the current media frenzy dies down and people can objectively evaluate the nature of these claims."

Ratner and Hoffman become the latest Hollywood figures to face allegations of misusing their power to harass actresses, a list that now includes producer Harvey Weinstein and writer-director James Toback. Harassment allegations have also been levied against actors Kevin Spacey and Jeremy Piven.

Police in Beverly Hills on Tuesday announced they have launched criminal investigations over complaints received about Weinstein and Toback. Weinstein also is being investigated for sexual assault or rape by police in Los Angeles, New York and London.

Dozens of women, including actresses Selma Blair and Rachel McAdams, have alleged that Toback sexually harassed or assaulted them.

Toback has denied the allegations. He does not have a representative to field inquiries about the criminal investigation.

Repercussions have been swift after allegations against Weinstein surfaced.

Weinstein was fired from the company he founded within days after initial reports of sexual harassment were published and Netflix suspended production on its final season of "House of Cards" on Tuesday amid allegations star Spacey made a sexual advance on actor Anthony Rapp in 1986 when he was 14.

The decision to pause production Tuesday came before a second actor leveled allegations against Spacey.

Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos wrote on his Facebook page that he encountered Spacey at the bar of London's Old Vic Theatre, where Spacey was artistic director from 2004-15, and the actor tried to fondle him against his will.



# Real Kelly is slowly revealing himself

BY ZEKE MILLER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In his three months on the job, John Kelly has been credited with bringing order to a chaotic West Wing, but don't call him a moderate. President Donald Trump's chief of staff was the enforcer of Trump's controversial

immigration **ANALYSIS** policies, has

frequently criticized the president's enemies, and this week echoed his boss' defense of Confederate monuments.

It all suggests that "The Chief," as he is known among aides, may have instilled order, but he is more ideologically aligned with Trump than many believed.

White House officials and Kelly allies say he is not so much partisan as he is ideological, holding hawkish views on issues such as immigration and national security.

One ally, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private conversations, said Kelly was undoubtedly conservative in mindset. The ally said Kelly's striking Oct. 19 press conference lamenting the nation's diminishing respect for women, religion and Gold Star families bared his true

feelings.

Kelly's star rose in the Trump orbit earlier this year in part because of the worldview he shares with the president. A retired Marine general who led the U.S. Southern Command, Kelly moved swiftly to enforce — and then defend — the president's controversial travel ban, which remains tied up in litigation.

And Trump credited Kelly, then the secretary of Homeland Security, for his tough talk on illegal immigration.

In a speech in April, Kelly told lawmakers to "shut up and support the men and women on the front lines," and to change immigration laws if they don't agree with how they are being enforced.

Since his arrival in the White House on July 31, Kelly has focused his efforts on tightening the flow of information to the president and reforming the administration's decision-making processes. But he has insisted that his role is not to manage Trump, but to manage those around him.

"I was not sent in to, or brought in to control him," Kelly told reporters on Oct. 12. "And you should not measure my effectiveness as a chief of staff by what you think I should be doing."

# Women defend their account of ordeal at sea

BY CALEB JONES  
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Two women from Hawaii who were rescued after being lost at sea defended their account of the ordeal, insisting that a storm was whipping up 30-foot waves and near hurricane-force winds on the night they set sail, despite records that show no severe weather in the area at the time.

The Coast Guard is reviewing records from the days after Jennifer Appel and Tasha Fuiava put to sea in a 50-foot sailboat, but NASA satellite images for the days around their departure show no organized storms in the region where they planned to travel.

There was a tropical cyclone, but it was near Fiji, thousands of miles west of Hawaii. Localized squalls are known to pop up, but a storm lasting three days would have been visible on satellite and would have elicited mass warnings to the public to brace for the weather.

"We got into a Force 11 storm, and it lasted for two nights and three days," Appel said Tuesday.

Coast Guard officials told The Associated Press on Monday that the two women had an emergency beacon but never turned it on because they did not fear for their lives. If they had, rescuers would have been headed their way in a matter of

minutes.

The woman "stated they never felt like they were truly in distress, like in a 24-hour period they were going to die," Coast Guard spokeswoman Petty Officer 2nd Class Tara Molle said Monday.

The women said Tuesday that they did not use the beacon because they never felt they were in immediate danger, yet they have been quoted as saying they did not think they would survive another day, and that they were fearful during a dramatic tiger shark attack that lasted for six hours.

Their description of 20- to 30-foot tiger sharks ramming their boat in a coordinated attack for more than six hours could simply be misperception, but scientists who study sharks say that behavior has never been recorded and that tiger sharks grow to only about 17 feet in length.

Furthermore, the pair said they had been flagging vessels and sending distress signals for at least 98 days.

They also defended their claims that their boat would not fit into harbors on some Hawaiian islands, places where much larger vessels come and go regularly.

The Coast Guard outlined other inconsistencies, most notably on the timing of events.

# Pakistani bride kills 17 in botched plot to kill husband

Associated Press

MULTAN, Pakistan — Pakistani police arrested a newly married woman on murder charges after she allegedly poisoned her husband's milk and it inadvertently killed 17 other people in a remote village, a senior police officer said Wednesday.

District police chief Sohail Habib Tajak said a judge allowed police to question the woman, 21-year-old Aasia Bibi, for two weeks to determine whether it was the woman's decision or her boyfriend had incited her to kill her husband by poisoning.

"This incident took place last week and

our officers have made progress by arresting a woman and her lover in connection with this murder case, which was complicated and challenging for us," he told The Associated Press.

Tajak said Bibi was married against her will in September in a village near the town of Ali Pur, 60 miles south of Multan, a city in the eastern Punjab province.

He said Bibi was not happy with her husband and wanted to return to her parents' home.

Tajak said the woman obtained a poisonous substance from her boyfriend, Shahid Lashari, last week and mixed it in milk for

her husband, who refused to drink it. But the woman's mother-in-law later used the tainted milk to make a traditional yogurt-based drink and served it to 27 members of her extended family, who fell unconscious and were hospitalized.

Seventeen people died and 10 were being treated in a hospital, he said.

Bibi and Lashari appeared before a judge in the city of Muzaffargarh on Tuesday, where she told reporters that she was angered over her parents' decision to marry her to a man against her will. They did not have lawyers.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Teen surfer saves man caught in currents

**FL** JUPITER — When a 13-year-old surfer saw a man struggling in the treacherous currents off the Florida coast, he paddled over and pushed his surfboard at him.

"Come on, get on!" Sam Ruskin yelled to the man after his 22-foot boat overturned in Jupiter Inlet last week. Video taken by a drone and posted on Facebook shows the man was dangerously close to the jetty's rocks when Ruskin approached with the surf board.

The video shows the man paddling on the board as Ruskin swam alongside in the strong current to get to the beach, which was about 150 feet away.

## Officials: Man fined for mailing live snakes

**NY** BUFFALO — Federal prosecutors in western New York say a man has been fined \$5,000 for mailing live snakes to China.

The U.S. attorney's office in Buffalo said Chaoyi Le, 28, of Shanghai, sent seven ball pythons from Amherst, N.Y., to China in 2014 using a fake name. The package was intercepted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Le was convicted of federal Lacey Act false labeling. U.S. District Judge Frank Geraci on Monday also ordered Le to pay \$3,500 in restitution to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Man pulls 'a Houdini,' flees in police car

**IN** VALPARAISO — A northwest Indiana sheriff said a Seattle man who led police on a manhunt after commandeering a squad car had pulled a Houdini-like move while handcuffed.

Lake County Sheriff Oscar Martinez Jr. said Monday that an officer was searching Kiflay Gebrehiwot's car following a traffic stop when the skinny suspect managed to "do a Houdini" like Harry Houdini, the illusionist famed for his escapes. Despite being handcuffed behind his back inside the squad car, Martinez said Gebrehiwot, 27, slipped his legs through his cuffed arms, putting his arms in front of him and then drove off.

He was arrested in Porter County after crashing the car.

## Police: Maggots found in child's diaper

**NC** LEXINGTON — A North Carolina couple is charged with felony child abuse after maggots were found in the diaper of an 18-month-old baby, one of seven children in their care, police said.

The Dispatch of Lexington reported police also charged Jamie Leigh Hiatt, 25, and Michael Patrick McKnight, 26, of Lexington with misdemeanor child abuse.

According to Lexington police, officers performing a welfare check at a home last week discovered seven children all under age 6 who were malnourished and uncared for. Capt. Michael Hunt said the officers contacted emergency personnel and the Department of Social Services.

## Woman pepper-sprays restaurant patrons

**LA** METAIRIE — Authorities say a woman accused of pepper-spraying patrons at a Chuck E. Cheese's in Louisiana was arrested.

Nola.com/The Times-Picayune reported a deputy working a security detail was at the front of the Metairie Chuck E. Cheese's restaurant Sunday

when someone notified him about an argument that was getting out of hand. The deputy spotted the woman "indiscriminately spraying pepper spray."

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Jason Rivas said paramedics treated five adults and two children for exposure at the scene. Police arrested Katarian Marshall, 24, and charged her with disturbing the peace by fighting.

## Man indicted for having missile warning system

**OH** DAYTON — A former Ohio air base employee was indicted on federal charges alleging he had an unregistered firearm silencer and a stolen missile warning system that is used on aircraft.

The Dayton Daily News reported the charges against Joel Montgomery, 48, are tied to search warrants from 2015, after he was terminated from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The newspaper reported Montgomery's Spring Valley home was raided again Oct. 19, after an informant told the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms that Montgomery had hundreds of weapons and bomb-making materials and that his drinking was of concern.

## Cops: Man stole wallet to pay court fines

**PA** LEECHBURG — Police say a man who was at a Pennsylvania judge's office to pay court fines stole a wallet that was near the payment window and used the cash inside to pay his fees.

Steven Rago was out on bail on simple assault charges and was at a district court judge's office to pay fees.

Allegheny Township Patrolman Kerry Myers said video

shows Rago, 31, putting a wallet into his sweat shirt pocket. He's seen later paying the fine with cash.

Police said he admitted to having the wallet and returned it. He paid back the money, but his bail was rescinded due to the new theft charge.

## Rare cannons return to governor's mansion

**RI** CRANSTON — A pair of rare Civil War cannons were returned to the mansion of the Rhode Island governor.

Officials from Cranston and the Rhode Island National Guard gathered Tuesday at the Sprague Mansion in Cranston to mark the return.

The National Guard took the cannons from the mansion in April for an inspection. The National Guard and the city then had to negotiate a new agreement for their safekeeping.

The cannons were used to train Rhode Island soldiers after President Abraham Lincoln called for troops in 1861.

## Bobcat in bathroom startles publisher

**OK** SAPULPA — A small-town Oklahoma newspaper publisher found a startling front-page story practically in his newsroom: There was a hissing bobcat in the bathroom.

Sapulpa Herald publisher Darren Sumner said the wild animal jumped at him one recent morning as he was heading into the restroom at his office in Sapulpa, a Tulsa suburb.

Sumner shut the door and trapped the adult male cat inside until police and a game warden arrived. Wildlife control workers captured the bobcat in a cage and released it in nearby Pawnee County.

From wire reports

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# Notre Dame trying to maintain focus

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The noise about a playoff bid and the Heisman Trophy is getting louder around No. 5 Notre Dame as it prepares for Saturday's visit from Wake Forest.

Coach Brian Kelly and his staff are trying to tone down the hoopla surrounding the Fighting Irish (7-1), who have six impressive victories since losing by a point to No. 2 Georgia. Junior running back Josh Adams, fifth in the nation in rushing with 1,169 yards, has emerged as a legitimate contender for the Heisman and other post-season awards.

"We've made them aware of the fact that there will be more noise as you continue to win," Kelly said after Adams rushed for 202 yards, including a 77-yard touchdown, in a 35-14 victory over North Carolina State. "Our process is to refocus on what's important now. What's important now is our preparation."

And then, on Tuesday night, Notre Dame was ranked third in the initial College Football Playoff rankings, behind Georgia and Alabama and ahead of Clemson.

"I'm honestly giving you the truth in this answer: We just want to dominate this

weekend (against Wake Forest)," Kelly said shortly before the rankings were released. "If we do that, we'd like three more chances. And then at the end of the year, if they say that (Notre Dame's) one of the four best teams, that will be fine."

After the Demon Deacons, the Irish play at No. 9 Miami, host Navy and close the regular season at Stanford. Including Wake Forest, Notre Dame's remaining opponents have a combined winning percentage of .767 (23-7).

Kelly said he is confident his team knows exactly where it stands and how it needs to operate going forward.

"We talk about awareness," Kelly said. "You can't enhance until you're aware. They're aware. Look, if you embrace what you're doing, people embrace you. If you don't embrace what you're doing, they'll kick you to the curb. It's the way it goes. They understand that. I'm pretty confident that they understand how to keep this thing moving in the right direction."

Paced by a ball-hawking defense (11th nationally with 18

a ball-control offense that is averaging 317.9 rushing yards (sixth), Notre Dame has put together a website, 33trucking.

com, to tout the postseason award prospects of Adams, offensive linemen Mike McGlinchey and Quenton Nelson, linebacker Nyles Morgan and others.

The primary focus, of course, is the 6-foot-2, 225-pound Adams, who has six games with more than 100 yards, four touchdown runs of 73 yards or longer and is averaging 146.1 yards a game (sixth nationally) and 8.86 yards per carry (third).

"It really is about offense, defense, special teams," Kelly said Tuesday while speaking behind a rostrum on which sat a hat with the "33 Trucking" logo on it. "It's all [about] working together to provide the opportunity for a guy like No. 33 (Adams' jersey number) to be where he is. He doesn't get to where he is without all 33 coming together as one."

Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson noted the challenge of facing the Irish along with a number of other top offenses.

"Clemson, Georgia Tech, Louisville, Notre Dame," he said. "I don't know if we've ever defended a string of offenses like this in consecutive weeks that are all so different and all so efficient and so explosive and so good at what they do."

## Georgia, Alabama lead first CFP rankings

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A couple of games played during week two of the season had a major effect on the first College Football Playoff rankings.

Georgia, Alabama, Notre Dame and Clemson were the top four teams in the selection committee's initial top 25 released Tuesday night.

Oklahoma, Ohio State and Penn State were next as the committee members let head-to-head results and strength of schedule be their guide. The final rankings that will determine the participants in the College Football Playoff semifinals come out Dec. 3.

Georgia and Alabama, Southeastern Conference rivals, are both 8-0 and have been dominating their competition. The Bulldogs' one close game was at Notre Dame in September, a 20-19 victory.

Committee chairman Kirby Hocutt, the athletic director for Texas Tech, said the Bulldogs had a slight edge over the Crimson Tide because of their victory against the Irish on Sept. 9.

The Fighting Irish (7-1) have not lost since, including blowouts of Michigan State (24th), Southern California (17th) and North Carolina State (20th). Those victories and the close loss to Georgia made the Irish the highest ranked among one-loss teams.

"The teams ranked three through seven are very evenly matched," Hocutt said.

Hocutt said Clemson's six victories against teams with winning records, including Virginia Tech (13th) and Auburn (14th), outweighed a loss on the road to a Syracuse team that is 4-4. That's been a fairly consistent trend in the short history of the selection com-

mittee. The members tend not to get too caught up in the notion of a bad loss.

Hocutt also said Clemson (7-1) playing the second half against Syracuse without injured quarterback Kelly Bryant was a factor for the committee.

On the same night Georgia beat Notre Dame, Oklahoma (7-1) won 31-16 at Ohio State.

"For the teams five through seven, their head-to-head results were very important to the committee," Hocutt said.

Ohio State (7-1) rallied to beat Penn State (7-1) last Saturday, 39-38.

In the latest AP Top 25, Ohio State was No. 3, Penn State No. 7 and Oklahoma was No. 8. Those rankings had some Sooners wondering if the committee would do something similar.

"We all just watched it as a team just now," Oklahoma linebacker Ogbornia Okoronkwo said. "We were all just jumping

around yelling. Everybody's hungry. We feel like our foot's in the door, so we want to go ahead and make it happen."

The rest of the top 10 was TCU at eight, followed by unbeaten Wisconsin and Miami.

Hocutt pointed to strength of schedule as the problem for the Badgers, who were ranked fourth in the latest AP Top 25, and Hurricanes. The strongest team Wisconsin has defeated, Hocutt said, is Northwestern (5-3). Miami has only two victories against teams with winning records.

Over the first three seasons of the playoff, a total of five teams have been ranked in the top four of the initial ranking and gone on to reach the semifinals: Florida State (which was second) in 2014; Clemson (first) and Alabama (fourth) in 2015; and Alabama (first) and Clemson (second) in 2016.

# Dodgers chase Verlander, force Game 7

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Joc Pederson sliced a drive over the left-field wall, pounded his chest and danced around the bases, taking as many twists and turns as this World Series itself.

Of course, the Los Angeles Dodgers forced the Houston Astros to Game 7.

Chris Taylor hit a tying double off Justin Verlander during a two-run rally in the sixth inning, Corey Seager followed with a go-ahead sacrifice fly and the Dodgers beat the Astros 3-1 on Tuesday night to push this dramatic Fall Classic to the ultimate game.

Pederson homered in the seventh against Joe Musgrove, connecting off the right-hander for the second time in three games and making it a record 24 long balls that have been hit in this Series. Pederson pranced all the way to the plate, pointing at the Dodgers' dugout and rubbing his thumbs and index fingers together to indicate what a money shot it was.

"You kind of black out in a situation like that. So I'm going

to have to re-watch it to see what I did," Pederson said.

It was the third home run of the World Series for Pederson, demoted to the minors from mid-August until early September, then left off the NL Division Series roster. He had hit just one previous opposite-field homer in the big leagues this season, and teammates offered to pay him to go the other way.

"People are trying to get me encouraged to using the whole field," he said. "I'm not very good at it."

Yu Darvish starts Wednesday for the Dodgers, trying to win their first title since 1988, and Los Angeles ace Clayton Kershaw will be ready in the bullpen after getting knocked out in the fifth inning of Game 5.

"I can give you 27 innings," Kershaw said. "I'll be ready to go, whatever they need."

Lance McCullers Jr. gets the ball for the Astros in the first World Series Game 7 ever at Dodger Stadium and the first since 1931 between teams that won 100 games during the regular season.

Darvish was chased in the

second inning of Game 2, when McCullers pitched Houston to a 5-3 victory.

"You've got two teams with a bunch of dogs in the clubhouse. No one is afraid," McCullers said.

Two nights after a 13-12, 10-inning slugfest under the roof at Minute Maid Park, pitching dominated.

George Springer's third-inning home run against starter Rich Hill had given a 1-0 lead to Verlander and the Astros, trying for the first championship in their 56-season history. On Halloween night, a title for a team with orange in its colors seemed appropriate.

But it served only to set up the 10th blown lead of the Series, the fifth by Houston, as Verlander fell to 9-1 with the Astros.

Dodgers relievers combined for 4 1/3 scoreless innings. Brandon Morrow retired Alex Bregman on a grounder to strand the bases loaded in the fifth, winner Tony Watson got Marwin Gonzalez to line out to leaping second baseman Chase Utley with two on and two outs in the sixth, and Kenta Maeda

escaped two-on trouble in the seventh when third baseman Justin Turner gloved Jose Altuve's grounder and made a short-hop throw that first baseman Cody Bellinger scooped just in time.

"The pick is big," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said.

After wasting a ninth-inning lead in Game 2 and losing Game 5, Kenley Jansen retired six straight batters on 19 pitches for the save and ended it by striking out 40-year-old pinch-hitter Carlos Beltran.

This will be the third World Series Game 7 in four years. The home team had won nine straight since 1979 before San Francisco triumphed at Kansas City in 2014 and the Chicago Cubs captured their first title since 1908 at Cleveland last year.

Ten of the last 12 teams that won Game 6 to force a seventh game also won the title, but the Dodgers lost the previous six World Series in which they trailed 3-2. They have won just one of their six championships at home, in 1963.

## Bills acquire wide receiver Benjamin from Panthers

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — The Buffalo Bills' best start to a season in six years just got a little better.

General manager Brandon Beane reinforced the Bills' patchwork group of receivers by acquiring Kelvin Benjamin from Carolina in a trade that was completed just before Tuesday's deadline. Buffalo sent the Panthers third- and seventh-round picks in next year's draft.

For the Bills (5-2), Benjamin provides a boost to a team off to a better-than-expected start after Buffalo spent much of the offseason overhauling its roster. And his addition reverses a trend in which Beane spent much of the past three months trading away talent to stockpile

draft picks to rebuild a team in the midst of a 17-year playoff drought.

Receiver Sammy Watkins was traded to the Los Angeles Rams and cornerback Ronald Darby dealt to Philadelphia in separate trades made on the same day in August. Then, on Friday, Buffalo's top-paid player, defensive tackle Marcell Dareus, was dealt to Jacksonville.

"It probably saves me from getting my tail kicked from walking in there," Beane said with a laugh, referring to entering the Bills' locker room.

"Those guys are probably tired of me moving guys and not bringing anything in," he added. "We're always looking to add. But it has to be right. And the timing was right for this move for Kelvin."

Buffalo plays at the New York Jets on Thursday night, and Beane said it's up to coach Sean McDermott to determine whether Benjamin will play. Benjamin was scheduled to travel to Buffalo and take a physical on Wednesday.

The Panthers (5-3) parted ways with their 2014 first-round draft pick, who failed to consistently develop into Cam Newton's top target.

Benjamin made an immediate splash when he set Carolina franchise rookie records with 73 receptions for 1,008 yards and nine touchdowns. But the former Florida State star tore his ACL in training camp the following season and hasn't quite been the same since, often battling knee soreness and weight issues.

"Buffalo had expressed interest, and we wanted to put more of a mix of skill sets on the field and add some speed," Panthers GM Marty Hurney said. "We decided it was the right move."

Carolina has struggled finding a downfield threat who can stretch the field. Rookie Curtis Samuel and Russell Shepard are expected to help fill that void, with Devin Funchess taking over as the team's No. 1 receiver. Pro Bowl tight end Greg Olsen is eligible to return to practice this week from injured reserve but can't play until Nov. 25.

Benjamin becomes the Bills' leading receiver with 32 catches for 475 yards and two touchdowns this season.



## NHL roundup

## Rangers hand Knights another loss

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After two lackluster periods, the New York Rangers turned up the intensity in the third and rallied for a needed win.

Mika Zibanejad got the tie-breaking goal with 5:39 left and the Rangers scored four in the final period to beat the expansion Vegas Golden Knights 6-4 on Tuesday night.

Jimmy Vesey, Mats Zuccarello, Chris Kreider, Pavel Buchnevich and Michael Grabner also scored to help New York win for the third time in seven games (3-2-2). Zibanejad also had assists on the first two goals in the third.

"I think we responded great in the third and hopefully we can build off that," Zibanejad said. "We've got to find a way to bring it early on and maintain it to be a little more consistent throughout the game. Hopefully it's a step in the right direction."

Reilly Smith scored twice, Oscar Lindberg got a goal against his former team and

David Perron converted a penalty shot for Vegas, which has lost consecutive games after winning five straight. Maxime Lagace, the fourth goalie used by the Golden Knights this season, stopped 32 shots in his first NHL start.

Trailing by two, the Rangers received a power play after Perron was whistled for a double-minor early in the third, and Kreider pulled them to 4-3 as he took a pass from Zibanejad and beat Lagace from the left side for his third goal at 5:31.

"Until that penalty, we were in control of the game and playing well," Vegas coach Gerard Gallant said. "The rest of the period we looked like an expansion team. ... We didn't respond the right way and sat back instead of trying to attack like we did all game."

Buchnevich tied it nearly four minutes later, taking a pass from Zibanejad on the left side and putting it into the open net with Lagace out of position. It gave Buchnevich a goal for the third straight game.

Grabner added an empty-netter with 1:14 left to seal it.

"I think our group proved tonight that there's no quit," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. "There are some pieces of our game that are real good, others are not Picassos. We're trying to put it together. We're trying to work hard. We'll take the two points tonight and move on."

Trailing 2-1, the Rangers came out aggressively to start the second period and tied the score at 1:29. Kevin Hayes' shot from the left side behind the net went off Rick Nash's skate to Zuccarello, who put it in for his third.

The Golden Knights went back ahead 3-2 at 7:06 as Smith scored on a backhand from the right side for his fourth of the season.

**Jets 2, Wild 1:** Connor Hellebuyck made 28 saves, and Nikolaj Ehlers and Kyle Connor scored in visiting Winnipeg's win over Minnesota.

Ehlers scored his team-leading seventh goal and Connor

added his second for the Jets, who are 6-1-1 since an 0-2 start to the season.

Wild rookie Luke Kunin scored his second goal and Alex Stalock stopped 17 shots for Minnesota, which had won three of four. The Wild were 0-for-5 on the power play.

**Red Wings 5, Coyotes 3:** Anthony Mantha scored his team-leading fifth goal and Dylan Larkin added a goal and an assist as host Detroit beat Arizona.

Knowing the Coyotes (1-11-1) had played the night before in Philadelphia, where they won in overtime for their first victory of the season, the Red Wings applied pressure at the outset. They fired the first eight shots on goal and scored twice before the game was three minutes old.

Gustav Nyquist and Luke Glendening had early goals for Detroit. Darren Helm added a late empty netter.

Jason Demers, Nick Cousins and Clayton Keller scored for the Coyotes.

## NBA roundup

## Lakers take lead, never look back in rout of Pistons

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Lakers were locked in to deliver their best effort of the season. The Detroit Pistons were anything but ready, and the gap between the two mindsets was obvious.

Julius Randle scored 17 points, Lonzo Ball added 13 and the Lakers smashed the Pistons 113-93 on Tuesday night.

Pistons head coach Stan Van Gundy was unsure about how his team might handle the adulation associated with a surprising 5-2 start, and those concerns proved to be well-founded in a loss he described as a "humbling experience."

The Lakers used a 16-5 run in the first quarter to take a lead they never relinquished, eventually jumping out in front by as many as 23.

Another superb defensive effort keyed the win, as the Lakers allowed three free throws, the fewest in a game in franchise history.

"This is the way we want to play," said Lakers forward Brandon Ingram, who had 13 points. "This is kind of the identity we want to bring every single game."

Larry Nance Jr. had 14 points and 12 rebounds for his third double-double for the Lakers, who had lost the previous three

games against the Pistons. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 13 points in his first chance to play against the Pistons, who drafted him No. 8 overall in 2013.

**Thunder 110, Bucks 91:** Paul George scored 20 points, and Oklahoma City dominated the paint during a 16-0 run to take control early in a win over host Milwaukee.

Russell Westbrook had 12 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, while Carmelo Anthony scored eight of his 17 points in the pivotal first quarter.

**Pacers 101, Kings 83:** Bojan Bogdanovic scored 17 points to lead a balanced of-

fense and help host Indiana to a rout of Sacramento.

The Pacers (4-3) scored the first nine points and built a 55-30 lead at the half.

**Suns 122, Nets 114:** Devin Booker scored 32 points, Mike James added 24 and visiting Phoenix rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Brooklyn.

T.J. Warren scored 14 of his 20 points during the final period for the Suns, who squandered an 18-point lead in the third quarter when Brooklyn went on a 17-0 run. Phoenix seemed out of it after Ronda Hollis-Jefferson's basket gave Brooklyn a 106-98 lead with 6:35 left in the fourth.