

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Ex-drill instructor guilty of recruit abuse

Associated Press

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — A Marine Corps drill instructor was convicted by a military jury of physically abusing young recruits, sometimes while drunk, and focusing his fury on three Muslim military volunteers.

The eight-man jury at Camp Lejeune, N.C., determined Thursday that Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Felix, 34, was guilty of hazing and maltreatment of recruits at the Marine Corps' Parris Island, S.C., boot camp. The jury of five sergeants and three officers decided Felix punched, kicked and choked military hopefuls.

The Iraq War veteran could be sentenced to military prison, financial penalties and a dishonorable discharge. The jury was to begin sentencing deliberations Friday.

Felix was accused in more than three dozen criminal counts of being a central figure in an abusive group of drill instructors at Parris Island that came to light after the March 2016 suicide of one of the three

Muslim recruits Felix targeted.

A hazing investigation led to charges against Felix, five other drill instructors and the training battalion's commanding officer. Eleven others faced lesser, administrative discipline. Felix also was convicted of lying to investigators.

Felix had pleaded not guilty and did not testify during his trial.

The lengthy list of charges against Felix included a series of disturbing acts against more than a dozen recruits. They included commanding recruits to choke each other, ordering them to drink chocolate milk and then training them until they vomited, punching recruits in the face or kicking them to the ground, and twice pressuring Muslim recruits into an industrial clothes dryer.

"He wasn't making Marines. He was breaking Marines," prosecutor Lt. Col. John Norman told jurors Wednesday. Felix was a "bully" who particularly "picked out three Muslim recruits for special abuse because of their Muslim faith," he said.

In one case, Felix was accused of ordering former trainee Lance Cpl. Ameer Bourmeche into a clothes dryer, which then was turned on as Felix demanded he renounce his Islamic faith. Bourmeche testified that he twice affirmed his creed and twice Felix and another drill instructor sent him for a bruising, scorching tumble inside the dryer. After a third spin, Bourmeche said he feared for his life and renounced his faith. The drill instructors then let him out, he said.

Felix was accused of maltreating Raheel Siddiqui, 20, a Pakistani-American from Taylor, Mich. He committed suicide in March 2016 by jumping off a stairwell after Felix barked at and slapped him, prosecutors said. Siddiqui's family last month filed a \$100 million wrongful death lawsuit against the Marine Corps, which is pending.

Felix also was convicted of drunk and disorderly conduct and making false official statements.

## Conviction over urination on slain Taliban tossed

The Washington Post

A panel of military judges has thrown out the conviction of a Marine Corps veteran who acknowledged urinating on Taliban corpses six years ago, saying it appears that the service's top general at the time meddled in his case.

The Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals ruled this week the case of Staff Sgt. Joseph Chamblin must be set aside because of apparent unlawful command influence, which occurs when a senior military officer uses his or her position of authority to influence legal proceedings. The ruling cited the actions of now-retired Gen. James Amos, who was commandant of the Marine Corps from 2010 to 2014, and some of his senior staff members.

Chamblin had pleaded guilty to several charges in connection with the incident, including dereliction of duty and violating a lawful general order. As part of a pretrial agreement in 2012, he was reduced one rank to sergeant and was fined \$500.

Navy Cmdr. Marcus Fulton, who filed the ruling on behalf of himself and two other judges, wrote that dismissing the case was a "drastic remedy" to what occurred but one that was necessary to "foster public confidence in the ... fairness of our system of justice." Fulton added that an outside observer looking at the situation would share observations made by some Marine Corps lawyers, who reviewed the case at the time and warned that it looked as if Amos and "lawyers who reported to him 'severely and

systematically interfered' with this case."

Amos did not respond to a request for comment.

Chamblin, who declined to comment Thursday, was in charge of a scout-sniper platoon in Afghanistan's Helmand province in July 2011 when he and other Marines killed three Taliban fighters, recovered their bodies, and then urinated on them while posing for photographs and video. The video was first posted by TMZ in January 2012, prompting an international backlash. Numerous Obama administration officials — and Amos, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — also expressed outrage.

Within days, Amos appointed then-Lt. Gen. Thomas Waldhauser to investigate the cases, giving him "sole and unfettered discretion" in how to handle

them. Amos was required to stay away, the ruling notes.

Waldhauser, now a four-star general overseeing U.S. Africa Command, later told Amos that he had decided against sending any of the Marines to a general court-martial, the military's most serious form of trial. Amos took umbrage, saying he wanted all of the Marines involved "crushed" and discharged from the service, Waldhauser acknowledged in a sworn statement.

"I responded, 'No, I'm not going to do that,' stating that I did not believe any of the cases warranted General Court-Martial," Waldhauser wrote. Amos, Waldhauser's statement said, then told him he could be removed from the case.

Eventually, that's what happened.

## Air Force IDs missile as Iranian

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran manufactured the ballistic missile fired by Yemen's Shiite rebels toward the Saudi capital, and remnants of it bore "Iranian markings," the top U.S. Air Force official in the Mideast said Friday, backing the kingdom's earlier allegations.

The comments by Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Harrigan, who oversees U.S. Air Force Central Command in Qatar, further internationalizes the yearslong conflict in Yemen — the Arab world's poorest country.

Saudi Arabia long has accused Iran of giving weapons to the Shiite rebels known as Houthis and their allies, though Tehran has just as long denied supplying them.

"There have been Iranian markings on those missiles," Harrigan told journalists at a news conference in Dubai ahead of the Dubai Air Show. "To me, that connects the dots to Iran."

There was no immediate reaction from Tehran.

Saudi Arabia says it shot down the missile Nov. 4 near Riyadh's international airport, the deepest yet to reach into the kingdom.

## Plan to let DOD use unapproved drugs in battle stirs controversy

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Should the Pentagon be allowed to authorize the use of unapproved drugs and medical devices on an emergency basis for combat soldiers?

That question sparked a furious battle this week among some of Washington's biggest power players, with the Defense Department and its congressional advocates on one side and the Food and Drug Administration and the health committees on the other.

The Capitol Hill clash was set off by a provision in the annual defense authorization bill.

The provision would allow the secretary of defense to authorize the emergency use of drugs and devices that have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The permission would apply to military personnel who are outside the U.S. The purpose, the bill says, would be "to reduce the number of deaths or the severity of harm to members of the armed forces ... caused by a risk or agent of war."

Under current law, the FDA has the sole authority to make decisions on medical products, including during an emergency. The Defense Department can ask the FDA to grant an emergency authorization to use unapproved drugs and devices if there's a threat of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear agent.

The FDA and leaders of congressional health committees say that giving the Pentagon the authority to decide whether to use unapproved drugs and devices could expose soldiers to dangerous products. Members of the defense panels and the Pentagon argue that the measure would save lives by ensuring that soldiers in combat situations get cutting-edge treatments.

Capitol Hill talks to resolve the dispute are

now underway. The FDA and the leaders of the health committees favor a different approach that would create an expedited process for the Pentagon's emergency-use requests. That would be similar to the FDA's "breakthrough" designation for promising drugs for serious or life-threatening conditions.

If lawmakers agree on new language, it could be offered as an amendment to the defense bill or in future legislation. The House-Senate conference report that includes the provision to allow unapproved drugs and devices, filed Wednesday, could be voted on by the House as soon as next week.

Regardless of the outcome of the talks, the disagreement, first reported by Politico, put on public display an internal rift within the administration and in Republican congressional ranks.

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, in remarks at an event on the opioid epidemic sponsored by Capitol Hill on Tuesday, expressed unhappiness with the defense bill's language, saying medical-product approvals should be kept under his agency's control.

"We think we provide a level of oversight that helps ensure the safety of products, helps follow-up to make sure that if there are adverse events we're monitoring them, we're collecting that information," he said.

Navy Cmdr. Gary Ross, a Pentagon spokesman, said the Defense Department, if given the emergency authorization, would exercise caution.

"Patient safety is at the heart of everything we do," he said. "If DOD is given this authority, we would work closely with our FDA colleagues to ensure lifesaving treatments are fielded quickly while protecting patient safety."

## Judge: Transgender ban stigmatizing, likely harmful

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's proposed transgender military ban stigmatizes an entire group of people and is likely already having a negative effect on active-duty servicemembers trying to plan for future military assignments, a federal judge said Thursday.

The comments from U.S. District Judge Marvin Garbis came during a court hearing in Baltimore in one of four cases throughout the country

brought by transgender servicemembers challenging the administration's policy slated to take effect in March.

"They are certainly suffering a stigma that exists by virtue of the president's statements," Garbis said.

Attorneys for the six active-duty servicemembers in Maryland are asking the judge to block the order that would prohibit transgender men and women from enlisting, possibly would subject current

servicemembers to discharge and would deny certain medical care. The order reverses an Obama administration policy allowing transgender men and women to serve openly and to receive funding for sex-reassignment surgery.

Government lawyers said in court filings that the challenge is premature because the president's policy is not yet in effect and is still being reviewed by the Defense Department. In the interim, the government said,

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has made clear that no servicemembers will be discharged or denied re-enlistment solely because they are transgender.

"The president did not decide to discharge all transgender people after March 23," said Justice Department lawyer Brett Shumate. "It is speculation, built on speculation."

More broadly, Shumate said the court should not second-guess the president when it comes to military affairs.



# US says deal with Russia on Syria is near

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and Russia are nearing an agreement on Syria for how they hope to resolve the Arab country's civil war once Islamic State is defeated, officials said Thursday.

If clinched, the deal could be announced by President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin after a meeting in Vietnam on Friday, four U.S. officials said.

The potential understanding comes as an array of forces are near a final defeat of ISIS, the extremist group that once controlled vast stretches of both Iraq and Syria. Fighting the group is no longer top priority, shifting the focus back to Syria's intractable conflict between President Bashar Assad's government and rebels — and to concerns that foreign powers such as Iran will now dominate the country's future.

The U.S.-Russian agreement being discussed would focus on three elements, officials said: “deconfliction” between the U.S. and Russian militaries, reducing violence in the civil war and reinvigorating U.N.-led peace talks. The officials requested anonymity.

The U.S. and Russian militaries have maintained a “deconfliction” hotline for years to avoid unintended collisions and even potential confrontations as they each operate in Syria's crowded skies. A heavy air campaign by Russia has been credited with shoring up the position of Assad, a close ally of Moscow.

With ISIS nearing defeat, the U.S. and Russia are losing their common enemy in Syria and will remain in a proxy battle in which Russia backs Assad and the U.S. lends at least rhetorical support to armed opposition groups fighting the government.

The agreement also seeks to build on progress in establishing “de-escalation zones” in Syria that have calmed some parts of the country. In July, when Trump held his first meeting with Putin in Germany, the U.S. and Russia announced a deal that included Jordan and established a cease-fire in southwest Syria. The United States has said that cease-fire has largely held and could be replicated elsewhere in the country.

A key U.S. concern, shared by close ally Israel, is the presence of Iranian-backed militias in Syria that have exploited the vacuum of power. The United States and

Israel have been seeking ways to prevent forces loyal to Iran — Israel's archenemy — from establishing a permanent presence. One idea hinges on a “buffer zone” along Israel's border with Syria.

Another element of the deal would reaffirm support for the United Nations effort being run out of Geneva to seek a political transition in Syria and resolve the civil war. The United States and Russia have been at odds for years over whether Assad could be allowed to remain in power in a future Syrian government.

The U.N. talks, which have come in fits and starts without yielding significant progress, aren't the only discussions about Syria's future. Russia, Turkey and Iran have been brokering their own process in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The U.S. views those talks warily because of Iran's involvement, though they've led to local cease-fire deals that have reduced violence, too.

The U.S.-Russia deal may also seek to expand the mandate of a joint “monitoring center” established this year in Amman, Jordan, to watch for cease-fire violations and other developments on the ground.

## ISIS leader may be holed up in eastern Syrian city

Associated Press

BEIRUT — A media outlet linked to the Syrian military said Friday that Islamic State's leader may be holed up in an ISIS pocket in the eastern town of Boukamal, which government forces and their allies recaptured this week before losing parts of it later.

The claim was denied by Syrian opposition activists who said the government is trying to make up for losses it suffered in Boukamal when large parts were retaken by the extremists again on Friday.

The whereabouts of al-Baghdadi are not known, and if he is killed or captured, it would be another blow for the organization.

Al-Baghdadi's whereabouts and the question of whether he is dead or alive have been a continuing source of mystery

and confusion.

The Syrian Central Military Media said that, as Syrian troops and their allies conducted search operations in Boukamal, they “got the information” that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi might be “in one of the pockets” in the town.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, and Omar Abu Laila, a Europe-based opposition activist originally from Syria's Deir el-Zour province, both denied the report that al-Baghdadi is in Boukamal.

Boukamal, ISIS' last major stronghold in Syria, was taken on Thursday after ISIS militants withdrew from it. Abdurrahman said ISIS launched a counteroffensive on Boukamal, capturing more than 40 percent of the town, mostly its northern neighborhoods.

## AFRICOM: Militants killed in Somalia drone strike

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — A U.S. drone strike killed “several militants” with al-Shabab in Somalia, the military said, as the Trump administration increasingly targets what has become the deadliest Islamic extremist group in Africa.

The strike was carried out Thursday afternoon in the Bay Region, about 100 miles west of the capital, Mogadishu, according to a statement by the U.S. Africa Command. A spokeswoman told The Associated Press no civilians were anywhere near the strike.

The U.S. military says it has carried out 22 airstrikes this year against the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab and the smaller Islamic State presence in Somalia after the Trump administration approved expanded military efforts.

The U.S. says the latest air-

strike, like others, occurred in cooperation with Somalia's government.

Earlier this month the U.S. military carried out its first airstrikes in Somalia against ISIS, which is a small but growing presence in the northern part of the Horn of Africa nation. Many of its fighters are reported to be former al-Shabab members who switched allegiances.

The Somalia-based al-Shabab has been blamed for the massive truck bombing in Mogadishu that killed more than 350 people in the country's worst attack. The extremist group often targets high-profile areas such as hotels in the capital.

While Somalia's president has vowed a “state of war” in response to last month's attack, concern is growing about the gradual security handover that has begun from a 22,000-strong African Union force to Somali national forces.

## In Vietnam, Trump rips multilateral trade pacts

Associated Press

DANANG, Vietnam — Promising to put “America first” in his trade practices, President Donald Trump used a speech in Vietnam Friday to denounce multilateral agreements embraced by the region and to deliver what appeared to be a rebuke to China, railing against trade practices he says have put Americans out of work.

“From this day forward, we will compete on a fair and equal basis,” Trump told a gathering of CEOs on the sidelines of the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vietnam. “We are not going to let the United States be taken advantage of anymore. I am always going to put America first.”

In his speech, Trump told executives gathered in the coastal city of Danang that he was happy to enter into bilateral trading agreements with any of the nations in the Indo-Pacific region — but only if they are reciprocal and fair.

## Accusations alter Senate race

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans weren’t supposed to have to worry about Alabama.

Yet in the span of a tumultuous afternoon, a low-profile special election became a Republican nightmare that threatens a once-safe Senate seat — and offers a new window into ugly divisions that continue to plague the GOP in the age of President Donald Trump.

Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore, 70, a former state Supreme Court justice, defiantly denied allegations of decades-old sexual misconduct with minors published Thursday in a Washington Post story. The revelations, a month before the Dec. 12 special election, triggered a sharp backlash from would-be Republican colleagues on Capitol Hill, who called on Moore to quit the race if the allegations were true.

But on the ground in Alabama, local Republicans showed little sign of turning their backs on Moore. Some lashed out at his reputed victims.

“If they believe this man is predatory, they are guilty of allowing him to exist for 40 years. I think someone should prosecute and go after them. You can’t be a victim 40 years later, in my opinion,” state Rep. Ed Henry told The Cullman Times.

“It’s mudslinging at its best,” said one of Moore’s neighbors, Chris Hopper, 45, of Altoona, Ala. He added, “Why not vote for somebody that’s got good, Christian values?”

In Washington, however, the controversy marked a bittersweet moment for some in the Republican establishment who argued that Moore, a Christian culture warrior twice removed from his state’s Supreme Court for judicial misconduct, never should have been the party’s Senate nominee in the first place. Some blamed Steve Bannon, Trump’s former senior strategist,

who broke from most GOP leaders — including Trump, himself — by cheering Moore’s candidacy earlier in the year.

“Dear GOP, send your thank you cards to the Breitbart embassy attn: Steve Bannon,” tweeted a sarcastic Josh Holmes, a former aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Moore is the latest soldier in Bannon’s self-described war on the Republican establishment. Frustrated that GOP leaders haven’t quickly executed Trump’s agenda, Bannon has vowed to defeat every Senate Republican up for re-election next year, save for Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

The White House said Trump believes Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore “will do the right thing and step aside” if sexual misconduct allegations against him are true. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters traveling with Trump in Asia that the president believes a “mere allegation” — especially one from many years ago — shouldn’t be allowed to destroy a person’s life.

Moore’s challenge in Alabama comes the same week that Republicans suffered sweeping election losses across several states, none more significant than Virginia, where Democrats seized the governor’s office and may have changed the balance of power in the state legislature.

Across Washington, the calls from anxious Republicans for Moore to step aside if the allegations proved true grew as the hours passed on Thursday. They included Trump, McConnell and Cruz, House Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., and Alabama’s own senior senator, Richard Shelby. Moore showed no signs of going quietly, vowing in a fundraising message distributed in the midst of Thursday’s chaos to “NEVER GIVE UP the fight!” as he cast his struggle as a “spiritual battle.”

## USAF expects report on Texas shooter by next week

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Air Force investigators have interviewed about 100 people about the failure to inform federal officials that the shooter responsible for killing rural Texas churchgoers Sunday was ineligible to own firearms, the service’s top civilian said Thursday.

Air Force officials anticipate completing a preliminary report into the circumstances that allowed Devin Kelley to purchase the semi-automatic rifle he used to attack a church in Sutherland Springs, just outside San Antonio. His 2012 court-martial conviction of assault against his wife and stepson

should have barred him from owning any guns, said Heather Wilson, the secretary of the Air Force. Kelley, who died Sunday, was dismissed from the service with a bad conduct discharge and was sentenced to one year of confinement for the assault conviction.

Wilson said the Air Force also is conducting a broader review to determine to how many other cases like Kelley’s exist.

“If we have problems that we find, we will fix them,” Wilson told reporters at the Pentagon.

She said the initial review will look at all military convictions since 2002, when the service shifted from submitting paper fingerprint sheets to an electronic fingerprint database. A

subsequent review will analyze cases dating back to 1996.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis this week also directed the Pentagon inspector general to review Kelley’s case to “define what the problem is.” The other military services have launched their own internal probes, defense officials said.

Convictions that bar individuals from gun ownership are collected in an FBI database known as the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Convictions must be reported to the FBI by individual jurisdictions to be included in the system. In Kelley’s case, his conviction was never recorded in the database.

The broader review will

comb three separate Air Force databases to determine how many other similar cases exist and correct the service’s information it provides to the FBI, Wilson said. She declined to provide an estimate when that probe might be completed, saying it would take a considerable amount of time.

“We are working, actually, 24-7 operations to go through the entire dataset,” she said.

Problems with reporting military convictions to the FBI have long existed. A 1997 Pentagon inspector general report found that fingerprint cards were not submitted to the FBI in more than 80 percent of Army and Navy cases and in 38 percent of Air Force cases.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man who tried to vote early charged with DUI

**PA** HARRISBURG — Police in Pennsylvania said they've arrested a man who showed up to an elementary school intoxicated on Monday, hoping to vote a day before the polls opened.

Authorities charged Douglas Shuttlesworth, 34, with a DUI after they found him at a school in Harrisburg on Monday.

According to police, Shuttlesworth appeared intoxicated, and they later found out he drove to the school thinking it was Election Day.

A woman who identified herself over the phone as Shuttlesworth's mother said her son mistakenly thought it was Tuesday. He was not available to comment on the charge.

## Man ticketed for honking horn at cop

**MO** ST. LOUIS — A St. Louis man is feeling pretty, pretty, pretty, pretty miffed over a recent traffic ticket.

In an instance of life imitating art — in this case, a recent episode of HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" — computer programmer Scott Smith said he was ticketed for honking his horn at a police officer.

Smith told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that he repeatedly honked at the officer in an unmarked car Friday because the light had turned green and the officer wasn't moving.

He was pulled over and used his cellphone to record the heated exchange with the plainclothes officer, who asked, "Is your horn stuck?" Smith replied: "Is your brake stuck?"

Smith was ticketed for excessive noise from a vehicle. He plans to file a formal complaint.

In the "Curb Your Enthusi-

asm" episode, Larry David's character also was ticketed for honking at a police car at a stoplight.

## Diner adding tips to bills of younger groups

**NJ** WAYNE — A New Jersey diner is adding an 18 percent gratuity to the bills of children who go there without their parents.

Melissa Desch told WCBS-TV she and her family have been eating at the Wayne Hills Diner and Restaurant for years and she was surprised when her 11-year-old daughter sent her a photo showing a 90-cent tip was added to her milkshake. Desch doesn't think it's fair to treat minors different than adults.

The diner's lawyer said kids have been showing up in groups of 20 or 30, staying for an hour or two and most don't leave a tip. He said it's not fair to the waiters and waitresses.

He also said the menu clearly states "management reserves the right to add (an) 18 percent gratuity."

## Man charged in Space Needle drone crash

**WA** SEATTLE — A Pasco man is accused of crashing a drone into the Space Needle's roof while pyrotechnicians were prepping for the annual fireworks display last New Year's Eve.

The Seattle Times reported that Cole Kelley, 20, was charged Wednesday with reckless endangerment.

Space Needle spokesman Dave Mandapat said the drone did not damage the needle.

The crash was captured on video by the drone's recording device.

The drone was turned over to Seattle police, who alerted the Federal Aviation Administra-

tion. Police said Kelly violated FAA rules by flying the drone above 400 feet.

## Man on trans-Pacific voyage is rescued

**HI** HONOLULU — The U.S. Coast Guard rescued a Chinese man off Hawaii who was voyaging from California to Asia in an ocean rowboat.

The Coast Guard identified him as Ruihn Yu, a Chinese national, who was rescued Tuesday about 35 miles northeast of the island of Maui.

A Coast Guard news release said Yu, 32, left California on June 9 and was headed for China and Taiwan when his 18-foot vessel developed communication failures and suffered a damaged rudder. Yu's friend notified the Coast Guard that Yu was in possible distress after receiving a text message from Yu on a two-way satellite communication device.

Coast Guard spokeswoman Tara Molle said Yu planned to continue to his final destination of Australia.

## Man faces charges in theft of \$14K flute

**MA** BOSTON — A man accused of stealing a \$14,000 silver flute from a Boston student months ago went to court this week.

The Suffolk district attorney's office said the Milton man faced arraignment Thursday morning on larceny charges. He has not been identified.

The instrument and an iPad were stolen when the Boston University music major stepped away from an empty classroom at the end of August. BU police said they checked security footage from the area and searched pawn shop databases to try and find the instrument.

University officers were even-

tually able to identify a suspect, who agreed to return the stolen items last month. According to police, the student was shocked when she learned officers had found the instrument.

## Police: Teen robbed bank twice in 2 days

**NY** MASTIC — Police said a Long Island teenager was arrested for robbing the same bank twice in two days.

Suffolk County police said Shakeem Smith, 18, was arrested Wednesday after robbing the HSBC bank on Montauk Highway in Mastic. They said he hit the same bank the day before by handing a note to the teller demanding cash.

The Mastic Beach teen was arraigned on robbery charges in Central Islip on Thursday.

## Roofer removes buzz from couple's attic

**NE** OMAHA — Home sweet home is more than just a warm and fuzzy saying for one Omaha couple.

Becky Reilly told Omaha television station KETV that thousands of honeybees had invaded her and her husband's attic and produced so much honey that it dripped down the side of the house.

They called in roofers to clean up the mess, repair the damage and install a new roof.

Takoda Green Roofing owner Jason Starkey estimated Thursday that he recovered 40 pounds of honey Oct. 26 as he removed the bees and their hive before making repairs.

A beekeeper friend of the Reillys is holding the winter-hibernating bees in his garage but will relocate them to the Reillys' backyard to pollinate their garden and produce more honey.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Sooners' Mayfield keeps focus on TCU

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla.— Many pundits across the nation have declared Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield the front-runner for the Heisman Trophy.

It makes sense — he passed for a school-record 598 yards and tossed five touchdown passes in last week's 62-52 victory at Oklahoma State. He already had a Heisman moment in the bank when he passed for 386 yards and three touchdowns in a 31-16 victory at Ohio State in September.

Experience has helped Mayfield put such chatter in perspective. He could become the fifth player overall and the first quarterback to finish in the top four in the Heisman balloting three times after finishing fourth in 2015 and third last year. Right now, he's focused on his team's next marquee moment, when the fifth-ranked Sooners host No. 8 TCU Saturday night. If he does his part and the team keeps winning, he figures awards will take care of themselves.

"You're going to have guys who have individual recognition, but right now, I'm not worried about that," he said. "The guys around this program know I'm not going to get caught up in that and I'm worried about winning ball games. I've always been a

team-first guy and the most important thing to me is winning. The Heisman won't come if we don't win Saturday."

Oklahoma left tackle Orlando Brown, who like Mayfield was named a first-team midseason All-American by The Associated Press, said he wants to get the Heisman for his quarterback. He said Mayfield deserves it for his production, attention to detail and work ethic.

"He may say it doesn't mean much to him, but as an offensive lineman, it means a lot to us," Brown said. "We want him to win the Heisman Trophy. We want him to win every award he can win. We want to send him out of this university as one of the best players of all time."

Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley has been around his share of productive quarterbacks, from his days at Texas Tech as a player and assistant coach to his time as offensive coordinator at East Carolina. He said Mayfield is the best yet.

"He's the best one I've ever coached," Riley said. "Probably the best one I've been around. Just the complete package. I've been around other guys who maybe did a few things better here and there, but you talk about the total package of intelligence, arm talent, leadership, drive and being able to move, he's the most complete

one I've been around."

Mayfield is on pace to break the FBS record for passing efficiency in a season he set last year.

He leads the nation in completion percentage (71.7), yards per pass attempt (11.9) and yards per completion (16.5). The Sooners lead the nation in total offense (608.2) and passing yards (395) per game and rank third in points per game (45).

Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy conceded that Mayfield does things that are difficult for a defense to account for. Oklahoma gained 785 yards against the Cowboys, the most Oklahoma State has ever allowed.

"He made some plays," Gundy said. "He's a really good player. He makes plays and throws when he breaks contain that are pretty unusual."

TCU will be Mayfield's toughest test. The Horned Frogs rank sixth nationally in points allowed and yardage allowed per game. He looks forward to facing TCU coach Gary Patterson's defense.

"They always have great players and are well-coached," Mayfield said. "It's just they're playing so well that they're giving their secondary opportunities to make plays and play aggressive."

## Briefly

# Olympian Raisman: I was abused by doctor

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Olympic gymnast Aly Raisman says she is among the young women abused by a former USA Gymnastics team doctor.

Raisman tells "60 Minutes" she was 15 when she was first treated by Dr. Larry Nassar, who spent more than two decades working with athletes at USA Gymnastics. He's now in jail in Michigan awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to possession of child pornography.

Raisman, the captain of the 2012 and 2016 Olympic gold-medal winning team, is the latest gymnast to claim she was abused by Nassar.

McKayla Maroney, who won two medals at the 2012 Games as Raisman's teammate, said last month she was molested

for years by Nassar.

## Paralympic decision on Russia by year's end

PARIS — The president of the International Paralympic Committee says a decision on whether Russian athletes will be allowed to compete in Pyeongchang will be made by the end of the year.

Speaking during a visit to Paris, Andrew Parsons says the IPC task force will meet in December following a meeting of the World Anti-Doping Agency's foundation board.

Parsons says he "can't speculate at this time what the outcome would be."

Russia's Paralympic team was barred from last year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics as punish-

ment for a state-backed doping program.

## Pitino lawyer: Charges 'false, misleading'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Rick Pitino's lawyer says allegations in an indictment that implies former Louisville men's basketball coach was involved and aware of money payments to recruits are "false, misleading and defamatory."

Steve B. Pence reiterated that Pitino had no knowledge of any payments to players. Christian Dawkins, who was indicted on Tuesday, says during a recorded conversation a coach agreed to call an Adidas executive for money to send the family of a recruit. Pitino is not named in the indictment.

Pitino was fired Oct. 16

by Louisville's Athletic Association after the school acknowledged that it was being investigated in a national federal corruption probe of college basketball. He is not named in the complaint or the indictment unsealed this week.

Pence in a release Thursday called Dawkins' allegation "wholly uncorroborated, inconsistent with other proof and, more importantly, false." Pence suggested that Dawkins dropped the coach's name "to enhance his stature with co-conspirators."

Pence's statement added, "Had Dawkins communicated with Coach Pitino, the FBI wiretap and phone records would have captured the conversation. They didn't."

From The Associated Press



## Cowboys' Elliott ineligible to play after appeal fails

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott's half-season run from his six-game suspension ended Thursday when a federal appeals court refused to let him play while it considers his appeal.

Elliott sat directly in front of a three-judge panel that considered a request from the NFL Players Association that he be allowed to play. But the court issued an order in less than an hour disqualifying him from Sunday's game at Atlanta. It appears he'll miss all of November's games since the court set a Dec. 1 hearing for oral arguments on the merits of the union's appeal.

The suspension was ordered in August as discipline after the league investigated allegations he used force against his girlfriend in summer 2016. Elliott vehemently denied the allegations as recently as last week, saying he was not an abuser.

A federal appeals court last month tossed out his court challenge in Texas, but the league's request for a New York court to affirm that it had acted properly led a Manhattan judge to rule last month that Elliott must begin his suspension. After the union appealed, the lower-court decision was temporarily stayed, allowing Elliott to play last Sunday.

By Thursday's ruling, Elliott had already left the courthouse without speaking to reporters, though he shook the hand of a person who shouted that he was a "huge fan" as Elliott raced down steps to a sport utility vehicle.

Although the league won the battle, the appeals judges took a few shots at the NFL for its handling of the suspension of a 22-year-old athlete who will be sidelined while he's second in the league with 783 yards rushing and tied for the league lead with seven rushing touchdowns.

Circuit Judge Dennis Jacobs told Paul Clement, the NFL's lawyer, that he found it odd that the issue was "such a frantic emergency that it can't wait another couple months."

"This is not just about Elliott and the Cowboys," Clement responded, noting that 100 players across the league had been suspended for a total of 500 games over the last two seasons.

Clement said it was important that players not be able to "game the system" by using the courts to delay suspensions until it is convenient for them or their teams.

Still, he noted, Elliott would start his suspension as the Cowboys enter the "easy part" of their schedule.

"This is the ideal time for him to serve the suspension," Clement said.

## Seattle loses CB Sherman in victory over Cardinals

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Richard Sherman limped off the field with a ruptured Achilles tendon, just one of a host of players knocked out of the Seattle Seahawks' 22-16 victory over the Arizona Cardinals.

"It's a good division win, a good team win," Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said afterward, "but it's hard to truly appreciate it when you see a lot of guys go down with minor injuries, serious injuries."

Players don't like Thursday night football, and the injuries that hit the Seahawks and Cardinals are examples of why.

It's just too difficult, they say, to play that soon after Sunday.

"It's kind of hard to get back out there and recover," Seattle defensive end Michael Bennett said. "That's why you see so many injuries on Thursday night. You want to give the fans what they want, but also be able to protect the players as much as you can."

"Sometimes I feel like Thursday night football doesn't give them the opportunity to protect them."

At least seven players left the game with injuries, including knee injuries to Arizona's starting left tackle, D.J. Humphries, and the team's leading tackler, safety Tyvon Branch. Both could be headed for injured reserve, Arizona coach Bruce Arians said.

Asked if Thursday night football is unsafe, Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said "It's a challenge."

"It's a real challenge for our players," he said. "Our guys did it and their guys did it. It's a great event for everyone, but it's very difficult and very challenging."

Should it be changed?

"I don't want to pay anything (in league fines) so I'm not going to comment on anything," Carroll said.

The game featured loads of penalties and sluggish play with one of amazing escape by Russell Wilson in a 54-yard pass to Doug Baldwin.

"He made a play that will probably go down in history," Arizona linebacker Karlos Dansby said.

The Cardinals sacked Wilson a season-high five times but couldn't get him down this time.

Retreating, spinning, slipping out of serious trouble, Wilson was on his heels when he threw to Baldwin. Defender Antoine Bethea went up to try to intercept, then slipped. Baldwin caught it and raced downfield to the Cardinals 2-yard line, set-

ting up Wilson's second touchdown pass to Jimmy Graham.

The Seahawks (6-3) bounced back from Sunday's home loss to Washington to climb within a half-game of the first place Los Angeles Rams in the NFC West. Arizona (4-5) has yet to beat a team that does not have a losing record.

Here are some things to consider from Seattle's Thursday night victory.

**Winning in Arizona:** As usual, there were plenty of Seahawks fans in the sellout crowd at University of Phoenix Stadium, and they watched their team — decked out in electric all-green uniforms — win again in the desert.

The Seahawks are 4-0-1 in Arizona since Bruce Arians became the Cardinals' coach in 2013.

The only time Seattle didn't win there was in last season's 6-6 tie.

Oddly enough, Arizona is 3-1 in its last four trips to Seattle. The teams meet again there on Dec. 24.

**Peterson's problems:** Adrian Peterson, playing four days after carrying a career-high 37 times for 159 yards in San Francisco, had a tough day.

He fumbled the ball the first time he touched it and wound up with just 29 yards on 21 carries.

"It was some missed opportunities on my part," Peterson said. "They did a great job defensively of containing us. We just really couldn't get into a rhythm."

**Kam's big plays:** Kam Chancellor was Peterson's biggest nemesis. The Seattle safety stripped the ball out of Peterson's hands and, later in the first half, tackled the running back in the end zone for a safety.

Chancellor finished with nine tackles and one assist.

**Fitzgerald's game:** Ageless Larry Fitzgerald had another prolific outing with 10 catches for 113 yards. In the process, he topped 15,000 yards receiving for his career. At 34 years, 70 days, he is the second-youngest player to reach that milestone. The only younger one was Jerry Rice (33 years, 72 days).

**Penalties, penalties:** Seattle did nothing to change its status as the most penalized team in the NFL. The Seahawks were penalized 12 times for 108 yards and have 28 penalties in their last two games. On Arizona's 75-yard TD drive in the first half, Seattle had four penalties for 41 yards, all of them resulting in a first down.



## NBA roundup

## Rockets beat Cavs

Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden had a triple-double of 35 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists to help the Houston Rockets beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 117-113 on Thursday night.

Harden also had five steals and a block as Houston extended its winning streak to four games.

LeBron James had 33 points for the Cavaliers, and Jeff Green added 27.

Houston led by seven after a layup by James with about 10 minutes left. The Rockets scored the next six points, capped by a three-pointer by P.J. Tucker to make it 111-98. The Cavaliers used a 13-1 run, with five points from James, to cut the lead to 112-111 with 90 seconds left.

Harden missed a layup after that, but grabbed a rebound and threw an alley-oop to Clint Capela, who finished for Houston's first basket since Tucker's three. He was fouled on the play and made the free throw to make it 115-111 with just over a minute remaining.

James made a layup on the other end, but Capela made another basket after grabbing the rebound on a miss by Harden to put Houston back up by 4 with 10.7 seconds left.

Capela, who finished with 19 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks, blocked a shot by James in the final seconds to secure the win.

Harden has scored 30 or more points in three of the last four games, highlighted by a 56-point performance in a win over the Jazz on Sunday. It's the second triple-double of the season for Harden and the 33rd of his career.

**Wizards 111, Lakers 95:** At Washington, John Wall's Wizards managed to make a double-digit edge hold up against the Lakers this time, with the All-Star point guard scoring 23 points and Bradley Beal 22 in a win over Los Angeles and cold-shooting Lonzo Ball.

Ball had 10 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. But the No. 2 overall draft pick out

of UCLA came in making just 29.5 percent of his field-goal attempts for the Lakers and he was worse against the Wizards, going 3-for-12 — 25 percent.

Washington's Otto Porter Jr. finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds, while Markieff Morris scored 16 points on 6 of 7 shooting, including a pair of threes to open the third quarter.

**Raptors 122, Pelicans 118:** DeMar DeRozan scored 33 points, Serge Ibaka had 19 and host Toronto beat New Orleans or its fifth straight win over the Pelicans.

Kyle Lowry scored six of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, and Jonas Valanciunas had 13 rebounds to help the Raptors win for the 13th time in 16 meetings with New Orleans.

Jrue Holiday had a season-high 34 points and 11 assists, and DeMarcus Cousins added 20 points and 15 rebounds for the Pelicans in the finale of a four-game trip.

**Kings 109, 76ers 108:** De'Aaron Fox made a 19-foot jumper with 13.4 seconds remaining to lift Sacramento over visiting Philadelphia, ending a five-game winning streak for the 76ers that marked their longest in six years.

Philadelphia center Joel Embiid missed a shot from the free throw line as time expired.

Two nights after rallying from 17 points down to upset Oklahoma City and snap a seven-game skid, Sacramento (3-8) pulled off another stunner by closing the game with a 7-0 run.

**Nuggets 102, Thunder 94:** Emmanuel Mudiay scored 10 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, including the go-ahead three-pointer midway through the period, and host Denver beat Oklahoma City.

Paul Milsap added 17 points and Nikola Jokic had 15 points to go with 11 rebounds for Denver. The Nuggets snapped a five-game losing streak at home to the Thunder, including a 106-105 setback April 9 on a last-second three-pointer by Russell Westbrook that eliminated Denver from playoff contention.

## NHL roundup

## Wild blank Canadiens

Associated Press

MONTREAL—Jason Zucker scored three goals in the third period, Devan Dubnyk made 41 saves and the Minnesota Wild beat the Montreal Canadiens 3-0 on Thursday night to end a three-game losing streak.

Zucker scored twice in a 4-2 loss at Toronto on Wednesday.

Dubnyk, now 7-1-1 against Montreal, had his first shutout of the season and the 25th of his career. Charlie Lindgren, who had won two starts in a row and was unbeaten in five career NHL games, made 32 saves for Montreal.

It was the Wild's second win in their last six games, both against Montreal. They beat the Canadiens 6-3 at home last week. Montreal has lost only twice in its last seven games, both times to Minnesota.

**Lightning 5, Kings 2:** Steven Stamkos, Nikita Kucherov and Alex Killorn each had a goal and an assist during Tampa Bay's four-goal first period, and the NHL-leading Lightning beat host Los Angeles in an early meeting of division leaders.

Victor Hedman also scored while Tampa Bay's stars led a fantastic four-goal outburst in just 2:02 to bury Jonathan Quick and the Pacific Division-leading Kings, who lost at home in regulation for the first time this season.

Vladislav Namestnikov added a third-period goal and Peter Budaj made 22 saves against his former Los Angeles teammates. The Lightning improved the NHL's best record to 13-2-2 with their third straight victory overall.

Oscar Fantenberg scored his first career goal and Quick stopped 38 shots for the Kings (11-3-2), who had won nine of 12 before falling into a huge early hole against the NHL's top team this season.

Kucherov leads the NHL with 16 goals in 17 games, and he has eight points in the last three games. Stamkos kept the overall NHL scoring lead with 30 points, but Kucherov is right behind with 29.

**Ducks 4, Canucks 1:** Jakob Silfverberg scored twice in 35 seconds early in the third period and Anaheim used three power-play goals to snap a four-game losing streak with a victory over visiting Vancouver.

Brandon Montour and Hampus Lindholm also scored for the Ducks. Backup goalie Ryan Miller made 19 saves.

**Blues 3, Coyotes 2 (SO):** Brayden Schenn and Alexander Steen scored in a shootout and Carter Hutton stopped both attempts he faced in tiebreaker to lead host St. Louis past Phoenix.

The Blues (13-3-1) beat the Coyotes for the 12th straight time and has won seven of eight overall.

Brendan Perlini scored twice for NHL-worst Arizona (2-13-3), which hasn't won in regulation this season. One of the Coyotes' wins came in overtime, the other in a shootout.

**Oilers 3, Devils 2 (OT):** Leon Draisaitl scored with 16.3 seconds left in overtime to lift visiting Edmonton past New Jersey.

The Oilers have won consecutive games for the first time all season. Anton Slepyshev and Milan Lucic also scored for Edmonton, and Cam Talbot made 32 saves.

The Devils have lost four straight to fall to 9-4-2.

**Flames 6, Red Wings 3:** Jaromir Jagr scored his first goal for host Calgary and added an assist to lead the Flames past Detroit.

The 45-year-old future Hall of Famer showed the type of finish around the net that has helped him score 766 goals, third on the career list behind Gordie Howe (801) and Wayne Gretzky (894).

**Flyers 3, Blackhawks 1:** Claude Giroux and Jakub Voracek each had a goal and two assists in Philadelphia's victory over visiting Chicago.

Brian Elliott made 38 saves and Sean Couturier also scored for the Flyers. They beat the Blackhawks for the 14th straight time in Philadelphia during the regular season.