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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US left with all bad options in Syria

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The disintegration of diplomatic talks with Russia has left the Obama administration with an array of bad options for what to do next in Syria.

Despite harrowing scenes of violence in Aleppo and beyond, President Barack Obama is unlikely to approve any dramatic shift in strategy before handing the civil war over to his successor early next year.

The options under discussion at the White House — limited military strikes, sanctions, more weapons for rebels, multiparty talks — have one thing in common: None appears likely to halt the bloodshed in the short term. The more aggressive proposals come with the added risk of pulling the U.S. into direct military confrontation with Russia, a threat illuminated by a string of recent taunts from Moscow.

Obama has wrestled for years with the Syria crisis and is deeply reluctant to entangle the U.S. in another Mideast war. After insisting the only viable path forward was U.S.-Russia-brokered talks that have since fallen apart, Obama faces the prospect of leaving office as a bystander to a carnage

that has killed an estimated 500,000 people and created 11 million refugees — half of Syria's prewar population.

Proponents of a more muscular U.S. approach, including Secretary of State John Kerry, are clamoring for a stronger response after the Syrian and Russian assaults on Aleppo punctured the veneer of a productive diplomatic track, and the U.S. withdrew from talks with Russia last week.

Evidence of the collapse of relations abounded Friday. The U.S. formally accused Russia of trying to meddle in the U.S. election by hacking U.S. political groups, and Kerry accused the Kremlin of war crimes in Syria. Russia, meanwhile, has suspended deals with the U.S. on nuclear research cooperation and disposal of weapons-grade plutonium.

The turn of events has led the White House to cautiously reconsider proposals that had been largely ruled out, including economic sanctions on Russia that the U.S. would have to orchestrate with Russia's larger trading partners. Senior U.S. officials said the administration was discussing options with European countries while U.S. intelligence

agencies map out companies and individuals that could be targeted.

Under another proposal, the U.S. would take narrow, short-term military action against Syrian President Bashar Assad's military, such as its air force assets, officials said. The goal wouldn't be to eliminate Assad's ability to attack opposition groups, but rather to scare Syria and Russia into returning to the negotiating table, said the officials, who weren't authorized to speak publicly about internal deliberations and requested anonymity.

Yet officials from multiple U.S. agencies said chances appeared slim that Obama would approve the strikes. Such a move likely would trigger at least a short-term uptick in violence, they noted, with long-term prospects for starting a peace process unclear.

Moreover, there is no U.N. Security Council resolution authorizing strikes against Syria, leaving the U.S. without a clear legal basis to act. Russia, meanwhile, has beefed up its capabilities in Syria with state-of-the-art S-300 missile defense systems, while warning it could fire back if Assad's assets come under U.S. attack.

Washington turns up heat on Russia as ties erode

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is turning up the rhetorical heat on Russia, accusing senior Russian officials of ordering the hacking of American political sites to try to interfere in the upcoming presidential election and suggesting that Russia's military is committing war crimes in Syria.

Friday's barrage of allegations from Washington — coupled with angry denials from Moscow — marked a descent to yet another low point in increasingly poor relations between the former Cold War foes, who are deeply divided over key international issues of war and peace and appear on

a path of one-upsmanship perhaps not seen since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The hacking allegations, made publicly for the first time since cyberattacks on the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee earlier this year, came amid pressure on the administration to call Russia out for the hacking, which has produced the release of embarrassing internal emails.

"We believe, based on the scope and sensitivity of these efforts, that only Russia's senior-most officials could have authorized these activities," the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in a joint statement with the Department

of Homeland Security. It said recent disclosures of alleged hacked emails on websites like DCLeaks.com and WikiLeaks, and by the Guccifer 2.0 online persona, are consistent with the methods and motivations of efforts directed by Russia, which has denied involvement.

"These thefts and disclosures are intended to interfere with the U.S. election process," the statement said. "Such activity is not new to Moscow. The Russians have used similar tactics and techniques across Europe and Eurasia, for example, to influence public opinion there."

The White House declined to say whether the formal attribution would trigger sanctions against Russia and senior officials said the U.S. would re-

spond at a time and place of its choosing, but stressed that any retaliation may not take place in the open.

Part of the difficulty with responding to cyberattacks is the lack of an official rulebook for doing so. Friday's announcement blaming Russia publicly appears to be continuing precedent, and the acknowledgment of at least one rule or line in the sand, under the Obama administration.

The U.S. has worked with countries around the world during the past five years to cultivate a set of voluntary norms, or guidelines, for cyberspace. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the allegations as "nonsense," but didn't deny Russian involvement.

Report: Fired Navy captain had misled officials

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

It wasn't an encounter with a female junior enlisted sailor that led the Navy to strip a captain of his command in August, it was his attempt to mislead investigators after being confronted about the incident.

According to a 40-page investigation received by The Virginian-Pilot through the Freedom of Information Act on Thursday, Capt. Anthony L. Simmons cast his visit to a Chesapeake Wild Wing Cafe as a 20-minute stop to pick up a take-out order during which he had a beer, spoke with the sailor and bought her and one other person a drink, all while his wife waited in the car.

But investigators found that Simmons entered the restaurant alone, dressed in civilian clothes, about 6 p.m. Aug. 5 and went to the bar. His take-out food sat there for nearly an hour after he initiated conversation with the female sailor from a few seats away.

As other patrons arrived at the restaurant, Simmons moved closer to her and attempted to buy her a drink.

Investigators describe an interaction that is occasionally marked by laughter from both parties but appeared to take an awkward turn at the end.

As he was preparing to leave the restaurant, Simmons wrote his phone number on a receipt for the woman and then went to the restroom. The woman went to an outside patio to avoid further interaction with him, investigators said.

She learned Simmons was a naval officer after she saw a photo of him in uniform on one of two phones he was carrying, the report said.

An internet search later confirmed his identity and status as a captain. The woman filed a sexual harassment complaint Aug. 8, the report said.

Simmons told investigators in an Aug. 12

interview that he initiated the conversation by asking her if she was OK after he spotted her sitting alone and "staring off in the distance," the report said. She confided in him that she felt out of place in the Navy. He said he gave her a pep talk and bought her a drink.

When he offered his phone number written on the receipt, the woman — who told him she didn't have a cellphone — at first refused. Simmons also told her "he was a Navy O-6 (captain) and didn't want to get into trouble by handing her his personal cell phone number," the report said.

The woman took the number after Simmons told her he didn't want her to take his offer out of "context," sharing with her his concern that "taking it out of context could get me in trouble." The woman finally accepted and told him "he could trust her," the report said.

Simmons told investigators he detailed the interaction to his wife on the way home from the restaurant, telling her he "thought he saved someone," the report said. The couple discussed the interaction and how it might be perceived as a judgment lapse but that "he would do it exactly the same."

After interviewing Simmons, investigators confronted him with security camera footage from inside and outside the bar that showed a different story, including the amount of time he spent at the restaurant, the number of drinks he ordered and where he was sitting as the conversation with the sailor ensued.

Navy investigators also found that Simmons' wife was not in the car. Security footage showed Simmons at the restaurant for about an hour and a half, according to the report.

Simmons "also admitted that the morning of the interview that he had asked him-

self, 'how much of the story should I tell?'" the report said.

Rear Adm. Roy Kelley, former commander of Carrier Strike Group 12, relieved Simmons of his command Aug. 24, citing loss of confidence in his ability to lead resulting from his failure to follow the exemplary conduct expected of commanders.

Simmons received a punitive letter of reprimand and was found guilty of making false statements and conduct unbecoming following an admiral's mast Aug. 31, Naval Surface Force Atlantic spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Myers Vasquez said Thursday.

Simmons was cleared of sexual harassment allegations. A preliminary investigation completed by Carrier Strike Group 12 also recommended he face a hearing to show cause for continuing his naval service, which Kelley disagreed with.

Simmons took command of the destroyer squadron, which includes the USS Mitscher, the USS Winston S. Churchill and the USS Forrest Sherman, in March. He was replaced by Capt. Erik Eslich, the Navy has said. Simmons was reassigned to Naval Surface Force Atlantic.

Simmons declined to discuss the report when reached Thursday but said he's a "natural leader" with 26 years of mentoring sailors "and that's what I'm going to continue to do."

The woman, who was not identified in the report, was not attached to any ships under Simmons' command, Vasquez said.

Simmons was commissioned in 1990, according to a Navy biography. He briefly commanded the guided missile destroyer USS James E. Williams in 2014 after leading an investigation into incidents aboard the warship.

IED wounds 2 US servicemembers in Afghanistan

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two U.S. servicemembers were wounded Saturday in Nangarhar province when the vehicle they were traveling in hit a roadside bomb, officials said.

The NATO-led Resolute Support mission said in an emailed statement that the two were wounded near Chapahar district during a routine security

patrol in the vicinity of Jalalabad Air Field, where U.S. troops are stationed.

It comes days after the first U.S. combat death in the fight against the Islamic State group, a "franchise" of the parent group operating in Iraq and Syria, that's made up of mainly Pakistanis who switched allegiance from the Taliban. Green Beret Staff Sgt. Adam S. Thomas, 31, died Tuesday from wounds from an improvised

explosive device while on a foot patrol in Nangarhar's Achin district.

Locals in Jalalabad this week said much of the province remains extremely volatile. On Sunday, the provincial governor resigned his post, citing a lack of cooperation and support from the central government in Kabul and residents' unhappiness with insecurity as reasons, local media reported.

In recent months, U.S. troops

have been helping Afghan forces battle the Islamic State group there, where it has established a foothold in about four districts. U.S. officials estimate the group has about 1,200 members, mostly in Nangarhar, with enclaves in neighboring Kunar province. That's down roughly 25 percent from earlier this year, after U.S. and Afghan operations killed about 300 fighters, including several high-level commanders and the group's top leader.

Trump will 'never' quit race

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A defiant Donald Trump insisted Saturday he would “never” abandon his White House bid, facing an intensifying backlash from Republican leaders across the nation who called on him to quit the race following the release of his vulgar and sexually charged comments caught on tape.

With Republicans from Utah to Alabama to New Hampshire turning their backs on their nominee, GOP loyalists such as House Speaker Paul Ryan refused to give up on Trump, who has long faced criticism from within his own party, but never to this degree. Frustration turned to panic across the GOP with early voting already underway in some states and Election Day one month away.

“As disappointed as I’ve been with his antics throughout this campaign, I thought supporting the nominee was the best thing for our country and our party,” Alabama Rep. Martha Roby said in a statement. “Now, it is abundantly clear that the best thing for our country and our party is for Trump to step

aside and allow a responsible, respectable Republican to lead the ticket.”

Trump was slapped by his own running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who said he was “offended by the words and actions” Trump described in the video.

“I do not condone his remarks and cannot defend them,” the Republican vice presidential nominee said. Having canceled a scheduled appearance in Wisconsin on Saturday afternoon, Pence cited Sunday night’s presidential debate as an opportunity for Trump to “show what is in his heart.” Several of the Republicans who want Trump out say Pence should take his place as the nominee.

Trump, though, declared he would not yield the GOP nomination under any circumstances. “Zero chance I’ll quit,” he told *The Wall Street Journal*. He told *The Washington Post*: “I’d never withdraw. I’ve never withdrawn in my life.” He claimed to have “tremendous support.”

In a videotaped midnight apology, Trump declared “I was wrong and I apologize” after being caught on tape brag-

ging about aggressively groping women in 2005. He also defiantly dismissed the revelations as “nothing more than a distraction” from a decade ago and signaled he would press his presidential campaign by arguing that rival Hillary Clinton has committed greater sins against women.

“I’ve said some foolish things,” Trump said in a video posted on his Facebook page early Saturday. “But there’s a big difference between the words and actions of other people. Bill Clinton has actually abused women and Hillary has bullied, attacked, shamed and intimidated his victims.”

“Certainly has been an interesting 24 hours!” he tweeted later in the day.

The latest explosive revelation marked a tipping point for some party loyalists, while forcing vulnerable Republican candidates to answer a painful question: Even if they condemn Trump’s vulgar comments, will they still vote for him?

The answer was “No” for a growing number of GOP senators.

Revelations in Clinton emails that were hacked

The Washington Post

Hillary Clinton’s paid closed-door speeches to Wall Street banks apparently included her dreams of “open trade and open borders” and a suggestion that bankers are best positioned to know how the industry should be regulated, according to hacked emails made public Friday by WikiLeaks.

The comments are drawn from an email describing speech transcripts that Clinton has refused to release despite months of intense criticism.

The email, apparently hacked from Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta, shows a staffer in the early stages of Clinton’s primary campaign against Sen. Bernie Sanders this year flagging speech excerpts that could be politically problematic.

Sanders had questioned what Clinton had said to the financial institutions that paid her hundreds of thousands of dollars in speaking fees between the end of her tenure as secretary of state and the start of her run for the White House.

The excerpts highlighted by the aide included comments on two front-burner election issues — Wall Street regulation and trade — on which Clinton has been on the defensive at times. Both Sanders and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump have attacked Clinton for her past support of global free-trade deals, tapping into a growing sentiment among many voters that such agreements have hurt their communities.

Clinton, for instance, described her free-trade ambitions during a 2013 appearance before the U.S. arm of a Brazilian banking group. Records show the group, Ita USA Securities, paid her \$225,000.

“My dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders,” she said, according to an email first reported by BuzzFeed.

Mylan agrees to \$465M Medicaid settlement

Associated Press

Drugmaker Mylan will pay \$465 million to settle allegations it overbilled Medicaid for its EpiPen, ending one of the controversies over the soaring price of the emergency allergy injection.

The settlement with the Justice Department follows news EpiPen has been incorrectly classified since late 1997 as a generic product under the Medicaid health program for the poor and disabled.

However, the federal government says EpiPen is a branded drug, meaning Mylan should have been paying Medicaid a far higher rebate under the government’s pricing rules. Drugmakers are required to pay Medicaid rebates of just 13 percent for generic products it purchases, versus a 23.1 percent

rebate for brand-name drugs, which cost far more.

Members of Congress have recently grilled the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services about the discrepancy and whether it was taking action.

Mylan has become the latest poster child for pharmaceutical industry price-gouging, for hiking the price of a pair of EpiPens from \$94 in 2007, when it acquired the product, to \$608 this year, despite making no substantive improvement to EpiPens over that stretch. Meanwhile, analysts and others have estimated it costs less than \$10 to produce one EpiPen.

Government health programs, particularly Medicaid, are major purchasers of EpiPens. The amount Medicare and Medicaid spent on EpiPens rose to \$486.8 million in 2015

from \$86.5 million in 2011, a jump of 463 percent.

While EpiPens have some competition, they’re so well known that they hold more than 90 percent of the market for epinephrine auto-injectors, which are jabbed into the thigh to halt runaway allergic reactions to insect bites and stings and foods such as nuts and eggs.

Multiple members of Congress have been investigating the exorbitant price hikes, and Mylan CEO Heather Bresch was called on the carpet for the price increases at a Sept. 21 hearing of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. It was later discovered that Bresch incorrectly claimed her company only made a \$100 profit on a pair of EpiPens, when the real profit was significantly higher.

Weakening Matthew rakes Atlantic coast

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A weakening Hurricane Matthew continued its march along the Atlantic coast Saturday, lashing two of the South's most historic cities and some of its most popular resort islands, flattening trees, swamping streets and knocking out power.

The storm was blamed for at least four deaths in the U.S., all in Florida. It also left at least 470 dead in Haiti in one hard-hit district alone, according to officials, with other stricken areas still unreachable four days after the disaster struck.

Matthew raked Georgia and South Carolina with torrential rain and stiff winds, and its storm center blew ashore, making landfall near the town of McClellanville, S.C., where it caused serious flooding.

Up until then, the center, or eye, mercifully stayed just far enough out at sea that U.S. coastal communities didn't feel the full force of Matthew's winds. As the storm passed one city after another, the reaction was relief that things were nowhere nearly as bad as

many feared.

As of late Saturday morning, Matthew was just barely a hurricane, with winds of 75 mph. That was down from 145 mph when the storm roared into Haiti.

Among the cities bracing for its effects later in the day were Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Wilmington, N.C. From there, the storm was expected to veer out to sea and loop back around toward the Bahamas.

In Savannah, Ga., a historic town of moss-draped squares and antebellum mansions, floodwaters several feet deep submerged a long stretch of President Street, which links downtown to the highway to Georgia's Tybee Island.

Matthew also brought some of the highest tides on record along the South Carolina coast. Streets in Charleston were flooded.

Leigh Webber watched the torrential rains from the porch of her home in the city's historic district.

"I feel badly for a lot of the businesses downtown that have been closed since Wednesday,"

she added. "I noticed a lot of hotels were completely closed. I know some weddings were canceled, and it was a huge financial loss for a lot of people."

South Carolina's Hilton Head Island also took a blow as the eye of the storm passed 20 miles to the east. At least one gust of 87 mph was recorded there.

The two roads onto the island of 40,000 people were blocked by fallen pine trees, and many roads were under water. Signs were blown over, and power was out across the island.

Residents of Brunswick, Ga., woke to roads covered by water or fallen trees and downed power lines. All access points to nearby St. Simons Island from the mainland were blocked. Tybee Island also took a beating, with gusts at 93 mph.

Nearly a half-million electric customers in South Carolina were left without power, and 250,000 were in the dark in coastal Georgia.

Matthew — the most powerful hurricane to threaten the Atlantic Seaboard in more than a decade — set off alarms as it closed in on the U.S., triggering

evacuation orders covering at least 2 million people.

In the end, the hurricane skirted Florida's heavily populated Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach area and sideswiped cities farther north, including Daytona Beach, Vero Beach, Cape Canaveral and Jacksonville, without its center coming ashore in Florida.

The damage consisted largely of fallen trees, downed power lines, eroded beaches and flooded roads. In northeastern Florida, the storm gouged out several large sections of the coastal A1A highway north of Daytona Beach.

South of the storm, things began returning to normal Saturday, with all three of Orlando's main theme parks, Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and SeaWorld, reopening.

The deaths in Florida included an elderly St. Lucie County couple who died from carbon monoxide fumes while running a generator in their garage and two women who were killed when trees fell onto a home and a camper.

Haiti faces new crisis in storm's aftermath

Associated Press

JEREMIE, Haiti — Jislene Jean-Baptiste and her neighbors had little before Hurricane Matthew, and now they have a lot less.

A grandmother who lives with her three daughters and their children in a one-room house in the devastated town of Jeremie, Jean-Baptiste on Friday was surveying what remained of her home after Matthew tore across southwestern Haiti three days earlier.

There wasn't much. Storm surge flowed across the road and drenched everything she owns in waist-deep salt water, washing away the stores of rice and sugar she sells at the market to support her family. Then the wind tore off her roof.

Many of her neighbors are in a similar situation because of a

storm that killed hundreds of people in Haiti. Its government has estimated at least 350,000 people need some kind of assistance in what is likely to be the country's worst humanitarian crisis since the devastating earthquake of January 2010.

Amid the suffering, aid began pouring into the coastal town of Jeremie, where thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed, and many people were running low on food and facing an increased risk for cholera. Dozens of young Haitians came to the small airstrip along the coast to watch as a helicopter was unloaded with crates of food and water.

"My home is totally wrecked, and I heard they were bringing food," said Richard David, 22, one of those who came to the airport. "I haven't had anything but water today, and I'm

hungry."

The country's Civil Protection Agency said the death toll was still at nearly 300, but officials conceded it was likely higher because the central government had not received totals from much of the Grand Anse region because communications were still largely down across the rural and mountainous area.

Saint-Victor Jeune, an official with the Civil Protection agency working in Beaumont, in the mountains on the outskirts of Jeremie, said 82 bodies found by his team had not been recorded by authorities in the capital because of spotty communications. Most appeared to have died from falling debris from the winds that tore through the area at 145 mph on Tuesday.

"We don't have any contact with Port-au-Prince yet, and

there are places we still haven't reached," Jeune said, as he and a team of Civil Protection agents in orange vests combed the area.

The storm left signs of devastation all around the southwestern peninsula. Outside Jeremie, home after home was in ruins. Drew Garrison, a Haiti-based missionary who flew in Friday, said several fishing villages were submerged, and he could see bodies floating in the water.

The Pan American Health Organization and others warned of a surge in cholera cases because of the widespread flooding caused by Matthew.

Sophia Cheresal, deputy medical coordinator of Doctors Without Borders in Haiti, said there were at least 18 cases of cholera at the Jeremie hospital. "It's getting worse and probably some people are going to die."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mom wants son, 12, to drive, be man of house

PA LATROBE — Police said a western Pennsylvania woman was caught teaching her 12-year-old son to drive — while she and four other children were passengers — because she wanted him to be the “man of the house.”

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported Latrobe police charged Carrie Geyer, 33, after investigating an incident in August when her car was stopped by an officer who saw it being driven erratically.

Police said the boy was driving, and Geyer was in the front seat with a 5-year-old in her lap. Three other kids, ages 4, 5 and 12 were in back.

Man uses front-end loader to assault bro

NH BOW — Police in New Hampshire said a man used a front-end loader at a recycling business to attack his brother before driving it toward officers and crashing into a building.

According to police, Peter Emanuel, 54, used the equipment Wednesday in Bow to topple a crane occupied by his sibling.

When police arrived, they said, he drove the front-end loader toward them. But he crashed into a building and abandoned it. He fled in a vehicle.

Emanuel was arrested later and charged with attempted first-degree assault, criminal mischief and resisting detention.

Place a love lock on bridge, face \$100 fine

NY NEW YORK — If you're thinking of

attaching a love lock on the Brooklyn Bridge be warned: There'll be a price to pay.

New York City officials on Friday announced a \$100 fine for proclaiming your undying love with a padlock on the famous span.

Officials removed hundreds of locks and placed signs on the bridge's pedestrian walk warning violators of the fine.

But the signs aren't without humor. One says, “No lock, yes lox” with a picture of a crossed-out padlock and a bagel and lox.

Last year, 11,000 locks were removed to a tune of \$116,000.

The locks can pose safety and structural hazards as happened in Paris in 2014 when a section of bridge fencing collapsed under the weight of the locks. It's a trend seen around the world.

Town to remove vet memorial with cross

NJ ROSELLE PARK — A New Jersey town will remove a veterans memorial depicting a Christian cross following a lawsuit that it excludes non-Christian veterans.

NJ.com reported the Roselle Park borough council voted unanimously Thursday to dismantle the statue outside the Roselle Park Veterans Memorial Library.

The statue depicts a soldier kneeling over a grave marked by a cross. Mayor Carl Hokanson bought it in July using his own money and had it installed on the library's front lawn.

The American Humanist Association along with Councilwoman-at-large Charlene Storey and her husband, Gregory Storey, sued the borough, saying the cross represents a government endorsement of religion.

Car fire leaves 100 vehicles stuck on road

NH GORHAM — Authorities said a car fire on New Hampshire's Mount Washington Auto Road left about 100 vehicles stranded as they were descending from the highest peak in the Northeast.

According to a state park official, the fire happened just before 4 p.m. Thursday in the middle of the 5-mile gravel section of the auto road.

The road closes at 4 p.m., so no one was heading up the mountain. The cars were stuck until about 5:30 p.m.

The park official said that, while smoke could be seen from surrounding towns, no one was hurt. It wasn't immediately known what caused the fire.

Dad in clown mask tails bus, is charged

MA AUBURN — Police in Massachusetts said they plan to pursue charges against a man who allegedly wore a scary clown mask and followed his child's school bus, frightening several children.

According to police, some of the middle-school-age children were so scared that they hid under a backyard deck.

Police said the man followed the bus on Tuesday, and they posted a picture on their Facebook page Thursday saying they intended to seek charges of disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace.

Because the charges have not been formally filed, the man's name was not made public.

Police wrote on Facebook, “We are hopeful that others will learn from this incident and not repeat these types of behaviors.”

Threatening clown sightings have been reported across the nation in recent weeks.

Driver pulled over, has wife's stolen wallet

ID TWIN FALLS — A Twin Falls police officer made a strange discovery when the person he pulled over offered a driver's license from his wife's stolen purse and wallet.

The Times-News reported that Twin Falls police Sgt. Ryan Howe on Monday pulled over a vehicle he believed was connected to his wife's stolen credit card and was proved right.

Howe's wife reported that someone broke into her car and made off with her purse, wallet, credit cards, driver's license, phone charger and more on Sept. 26. Throughout the course of the investigation they identified two suspects who often drove a Pontiac G6.

Howe pulled over the car on Monday for excessive tint and found one of the suspects removed his license from a wallet identical to the one that was stolen.

Two giraffes born at zoo 1 month apart

FL GULF BREEZE — A Florida Panhandle zoo is welcoming two baby giraffes, born about a month apart.

Northwest Florida Daily News reported that a male named Gibson was born Aug. 2 at Gulf Breeze Zoo. The latest arrival, a female named Kelly, was born just five weeks later on Sept. 6.

Following the births, the zoo now has five giraffes. Kelly's mother, Kenya, is a 7-year-old reticulated giraffe, and Gibson's mother is a 14-year-old female named Gabby.

Visitors can already view and feed the new babies.

From wire reports

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Kluber, Indians take command of series

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Corey Kluber didn't show a speck of rust. Well-rested and ready for the biggest start of his career, he wasn't going to let the Indians lose any momentum.

Cleveland's on some kind of roll.

Fueled by a crowd that included Cavaliers star LeBron James, Kluber carried a shut-out into the eighth inning and Lonnie Chisenhall connected for a three-run homer off post-season-cursed David Price, giving the Indians a 6-0 win on Friday over the Boston Red Sox and a 2-0 lead in their AL Division Series.

Looking healthy after a late-season leg injury, Kluber limited the AL East champions to three hits over seven innings as the overlooked Indians, who were given a slim chance of advancing before the series began, moved within one win of returning to the ALCS for the first time since 2007.

"We don't have the big names. We don't have the big contracts or any of that stuff,"

second baseman Jason Kipnis said. "But we have 25 guys who love to compete and have bought into this team. That's what we've got."

As the for the Red Sox, David Ortiz and his teammates are in serious trouble and have to hope they can get things turned around Sunday in Game 3 at Fenway Park or their turnaround season will be over and Big Papi's career will be done.

"Backs against the wall," manager John Farrell said. "It's pretty clear what lies ahead of us. We go home down 0-2. (Clay) Buchholz on the mound Sunday with an attitude of no tomorrow."

Chisenhall connected in the second inning off Price, who fell to 0-8 in nine playoff starts and must now face the wrath of Red Sox Nation. The left-hander lasted just 3 1/3 innings and once again crumbled with a chance to silence critics who say he can't pitch in the big game.

Despite the loss, a defiant Price is convinced he'll get another chance.

"I know my number is going

to be called again to pitch another game in 2016," he said. "I want it. I'll be ready."

The Indians strung together four straight hits — three of them soft singles — to put Price in a 4-0 hole after just two innings.

That's all Kluber needed. The Cy Young candidate, who hadn't pitched since straining his quadriceps on Sept. 26, had little issues with the Red Sox, who missed a chance to do some damage against him in the fourth.

Kluber created the jam with two walks before getting Ortiz to swing at the first pitch and pop out. Ortiz slammed his bat to the ground in frustration and Boston's anxiety grew when Kluber struck out Hanley Ramirez looking for the final out.

"We talked before the game about would he be a little bit rusty or would he be really good?" Indians manager Terry Francona said. "He answered that question. He was terrific. You go through that lineup and don't give up runs, you're pitching."

Chisenhall's start was somewhat of a surprise since he batted just .217 against lefties this season.

Francona, however, likes to put his best defense behind Kluber, plus Chisenhall came in batting .364 in his career against Price. The decision paid off in a big way early as Chisenhall's liner to right in the second gave the Indians a 4-0 lead.

As he neared first, Chisenhall raised his arms in triumph. The rest is a blur.

"I don't remember too much running around the bases," he said. "I remember seeing it go out and I knew it was a home run, so I slowed down pretty quickly. It was a quick run around the bases."

Before the Indians took the field, James, who led the Cavaliers to the city's first pro sports championship since 1964 in June, spoke to the crowd.

"It's always us against the world," James said.

Right now, Cleveland's on top.

Blue Jays light up Darvish, take 2-0 lead over Texas

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Talk about a 1-2-3 punch for the Toronto Blue Jays in these playoffs.

The wild-card Blue Jays have rediscovered their power stroke in October, and are going home with a chance to sweep the Texas Rangers in the AL Division Series after a 5-3 win Friday.

Edwin Encarnacion capped a three-homer burst in the fifth inning off Yu Darvish, and Toronto won on a dreary, misty afternoon for a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five matchup.

One important reminder, though: Last fall, Toronto lost the first two games of the ALDS at home against Texas, then rallied to win the series.

"I learned something last

year ... you got to win three games," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "They've got a great team over there. You don't lead the American League, powerhouse league, you don't luck into that."

Wearing spikes that had "No Panic" printed on them, closer Roberto Osuna got a five-out save that sent the Blue Jays home looking to clinch the series in Game 3 Sunday night.

Osuna entered after reliever Francisco Liriano was hit near the back of the head by Carlos Gomez's line drive. Liriano was taken by ambulance after the game to a hospital, where he was checked out and then cleared to fly home with the team that evening. It was Osuna's first appearance since he left the mound in the AL wild-

card win Tuesday night with a shoulder injury that left his status in doubt.

Kevin Pillar, Ezequiel Carrera and Encarnacion, who ended the wild-card game with a three-run homer in the 11th inning, hit solo homers in a five-batter span in the fifth. Troy Tulowitzki's two-run drive in the second put 20-game winner J.A. Happ and the Blue Jays ahead to stay.

"Getting behind in the count, and they were looking for fastballs," Darvish said through his interpreter. "When I left it on the plate, they got it."

Texas scored twice in the eighth, including Gomez's single that struck Liriano. The pitcher walked off the mound.

A day after Cleveland homered three times in an inning against Boston and won its

ALDS opener, the Blue Jays matched the feat against the team that won an AL-high 95 games this year. The home runs boosted the Blue Jays in a game in which they got outhit 13-6.

While Toronto finished the regular season fourth in the majors with 221 homers, only eight came in the last 11 games. They already have eight in three postseason games.

"Home runs are always a good thing," Gibbons said.

Texas has lost five straight ALDS games to the Blue Jays since winning the first two games in Toronto last October. The Rangers dropped to 1-11 in ALDS games in their home ballpark, including Cole Hamels' worst postseason outing in the 10-1 series-opening loss Thursday.

Lester, Cubs blank Giants, win opener

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jon Lester gave the Chicago Cubs a chance, Javier Baez supplied the power and Aroldis Chapman finished the job.

A positive playoff opener for a city draped in “W” flags and hoping for a historic championship.

Lester outpitched Johnny Cueto with eight sparkling innings, Baez homered in the eighth and Chicago beat the San Francisco Giants 1-0 in a tense Game 1 of their NL Division Series on Friday night.

Lester retired his last 13 batters in a dominant performance, but the game was scoreless when Baez sent a towering drive into a stiff wind. With a raucous crowd of 42,148 and every player anxiously tracking the flight of the ball, left fielder Angel Pagan ran out of room as it landed in the basket that tops the ivy-covered walls at Wrigley Field.

Baez thought it was surely gone as soon as the ball left the bat.

“I forgot about the wind,” he said. “The wind’s blowing

straight in, and I hit it really good. Good thing it just barely went.”

Chicago’s relievers in the bullpen in foul territory down the left-field line broke into cheers as Baez rounded the bases with the delirious crowd in a frenzy. Baez then came out of the dugout for a curtain call.

“Just waiting for him to make a mistake and he finally did,” Baez said.

Chapman allowed Buster Posey’s two-out double off the ivy in the ninth before Hunter Pence bounced to second for the final out, putting a bow on Chicago’s first meaningful game in weeks.

Lester’s \$155 million, six-year deal in December 2014 was a key moment in the Cubs’ turnaround from also-ran to contender. They clinched the NL Central title on Sept. 15 and led the majors with 103 wins this year, but have their sights set on the franchise’s first World Series crown since 1908.

“I kind of figured as we got going it would come down to one mistake and luckily we didn’t make one and they did,” Lester said. “And I think that’s

just kind of the beginning of the series.”

Cueto was outstanding, following up Madison Bumgarner’s four-hitter in San Francisco’s wild-card win at New York with his own gem. The right-hander, deftly varying his delivery to keep the Cubs off balance, struck out 10 and allowed three hits in his second straight complete game in the postseason.

“We both were pitching a great ballgame and obviously we knew — we were aware that one run was going to decide the game,” Cueto said through a translator.

Baez’s homer stopped San Francisco’s postseason scoreless streak at 23 innings dating to the World Series in 2014. The Giants also won it all in 2010 and 2012, leading to talk of even-year magic for manager Bruce Bochy’s club, but it was the Cubs with the good fortune in the series opener, a strange turn of events for the usually snake-bitten franchise.

The Giants had at least one hit in each of the first four innings, including leadoff singles in the first three, but Lester

held them off each time. The left-hander got some help from his usual catcher, with David Ross throwing out Gorkys Hernandez trying to steal second in the first and picking off wild-card hero Conor Gillaspie at first in the third.

San Francisco had runners on second and third after left fielder Ben Zobrist misplayed Pagan’s sinking liner into a fourth-inning double, but Brandon Crawford bounced out to end the inning.

“We had a couple chances there. We just couldn’t get the key hit,” Bochy said.

Cueto retired his first 10 batters and had the Cubs shaking their heads all night long. He also got some timely help from his defense.

Hernandez got revenge on Ross with an outstanding, sliding catch on the warning track in left-center in the third. Kelby Tomlinson, starting at second in place of Joe Panik with the lefty Lester on the mound, robbed Zobrist of a two-out RBI single in the fourth, then took a hit away from Anthony Rizzo with another diving stop in the seventh.

Kershaw good enough for Dodgers to beat Nationals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Clayton Kershaw was hardly at his best.

Nothing new when it comes to October.

He allowed eight hits and three runs. He needed 101 pitches just to make it through five innings. His career postseason ERA even rose a bit, up to 4.65.

Didn’t matter a bit to the lefty. Only this did: He earned a rare playoff victory.

Backed by early homers from rookie sensation Corey Seager and Justin Turner off Max Scherzer in a matchup of Cy Young Award winners that promised more than it delivered, Kershaw helped the Los Angeles Dodgers edge the

Washington Nationals 4-3 Friday in Game 1 of their NL Division Series.

“It was a grind. A lot of guys on base all the time. Definitely wasn’t easy,” Kershaw said. “As close as you can bend without breaking, I guess.”

His work done, Kershaw was able to relax in the dugout, chewing gum and blowing bubbles while watching relievers Joe Blanton, Grant Dayton, Pedro Baez and Kenley Jansen combine to give up one hit over four scoreless innings. Jansen got his first five-out save since April.

“Whatever we’ve got to do to win, right? Those guys are up to the challenge,” Seager said about LA’s bullpen. “And they’ve been up to it all year.”

Facing the NL East champs, Kershaw’s three runs might not sound like an exorbitant total, but an opponent scored that many only once in the lefty’s preceding 16 starts. And there was a stop-and-start feel to the evening, because of plenty of boo-inducing mound visits from catcher Yasmani Grandal.

“I wanted to be sure on the signs. We were trying to change ’em up pretty often,” said Kershaw, who improved to 3-6 in the playoffs, a far cry from his regular-season record of 126-60 with a 2.37 ERA and three Cy Young Awards. “It was mainly that I had so many guys on second base.”

Certainly did.

Kershaw left the bases loaded in the second, and stranded

two runners in both the third and fifth — striking out Danny Espinosa along the way each time.

“We had him on the ropes a couple times,” Nationals manager Dusty Baker said, “and, you know, the big hit just escaped us.”

There was also a baserunning blunder by NL MVP contender Daniel Murphy in the seventh inning.

Murphy, who hadn’t started a game since Sept. 17 because of a strained glute muscle, reached when Baez walked him, but then was thrown out trying to steal second. Baker said it was Murphy’s decision to run there and acknowledged being surprised by the attempt.

Watson, Clemson rout Boston College

Associated Press

BOSTON — By Tuesday, Clemson coach Dabo Swinney could tell his team needed a break. That victory against Louisville was dramatic and draining, and a long trip on short rest was looming.

Swinney eased up a bit on the third-ranked Tigers and they responded with a sharp performance when they easily could have come out flat, beating Boston College 56-10 on Friday night.

"It was a taxing week, but our guys didn't complain," Swinney said. "They just went through the grind. I love that mentality of that team."

Deshaun Watson threw for 266 yards and four touchdowns, and the Heisman Trophy hopeful even helped clear the way for Wayne Gallman's 59-yard scoring run with a solid block.

Clemson (6-0, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) extended its conference winning streak to 12 games and its road winning streak to eight, which matches a school re-

cord set from 1978-79.

"I've been doing this a long time. There's a reason that record's only eight. It's really hard to do," Swinney said, doing his postgame news conference with the big bronze O'Rourke-McFadden Trophy that goes to the winner of this rivalry sitting on the table next to him.

Clemson linebacker Ben Boulware said he planned to spend his rare Saturday off back home in Anderson, S.C., chowing down on some food from J.C.'s sandwich shop, riding his father's new dune buggy and watching college football.

"I'm super pumped," he said.

Boston College (3-3, 0-3) lost its 11th consecutive ACC game.

No. 19 Boise State 49: New Mexico 21: Brett Rypien threw five touchdown passes — three to Cedrick Wilson — and the visiting Broncos overwhelmed the Lobos.

Boise State (5-0, 2-0 Mountain West) scored touchdowns on seven consecutive possessions. New Mexico (2-3, 1-1) scored

on its second possession, and didn't reach the end zone again until the midway through the fourth quarter.

Rypien was 21-for-28 for 391 yards, and Wilson had nine catches for 167 yards. Thomas Sperbeck, who had 20 catches for 281 yards last season against New Mexico, added nine catches for 198 yards and two scores.

Lobos quarterback Lamar Jordan became the first opponent to rush for 100 yards against Boise State, finishing with 139 yards. But he only completed four passes for 39 yards.

After Boise State went three-and-out on its first possession, the Broncos benefited from several New Mexico miscues on its first touchdown drive.

Two facemask penalties kept the drive alive, and defensive back Daniel Henry dropped an interception. Two plays later, Rypien hit Wilson for the score.

Tyrone Owens got New Mexico even, busting up the wide-open middle on a read-option and going 62 yards untouched.

Knicks' star Rose 'assumed' consent from ex-girlfriend

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — There was no text message that specifically gave Derrick Rose permission to have sex with his ex-girlfriend, but for the NBA star the signs were clear, he testified in a lawsuit that accuses him and two friends of raping the woman.

It started with a morning text message from the woman saying Rose was the reason she "wakes up horny," including a photo of herself in her nightshirt and continued with other texts about sex throughout the day.

Rose said Friday he surmised that the "horny" text had triggered consent from that point on, and that was only reinforced for him by their sexual history, sex acts she engaged in with him and his personal assistant that night at his house and an invite hours later to her apartment.

"I was assuming that all of us going over there that she wanted to have sex with all of us," Rose testified in a matter-of-fact demeanor.

His description of the incident differed dramatically from the woman's testimony, which lasted a day and a half in Los Angeles federal court.

The 30-year-old woman denied having sex earlier in the evening at Rose's Beverly Hills mansion, though her testimony was clouded by her claims that she blacked out and could only piece together the evening

through short "flashes" of memory and by reviewing a flurry of text messages she apparently was able to send despite being drunk and, possibly, drugged.

At the end of testimony, Rose's lawyer asked a judge to declare a mistrial because of a profane text message that he said the woman's lawyers had failed to reveal until Friday.

The judge said he would take the issue up Tuesday morning before the Knicks point guard is scheduled to resume testimony. The judge ordered Rose to return to the stand even if it means missing a preseason game the night before in New York.

Rose, 28, was called to the stand by the plaintiff's lawyer as a hostile witness to help make the plaintiff's case that the woman never gave consent to have sex with him and his longtime friends and assistants, Randall Hampton and Ryan Allen.

Consent is the main issue for the jury of six women and two men. The men, all friends since adolescence in Chicago, have denied the allegations and said the woman consented.

The Associated Press is not naming the woman because it generally does not identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault.

Rose said the only time the woman said, "Stop" was after she let them in her apartment and they all headed for the bedroom together.

"She told us, 'One at a time,'" he said. He and Hampton waited on the sofa while Allen was inside.

The woman testified she never let the men in her place and remembers waking to see them all in her bedroom. She recalled Allen on top of her at one point and, at another, Rose pulling her to the side of the bed as she tried to roll off.

Rose said he never received any text from the woman telling him she wanted to have sex with him and the two others. But he had assumed from what had transpired and the fact she had never told him no.

"In my mind, she consented every time we had sex," he said. "Why wouldn't she do it that time?"

Rose said he once had feelings for the woman and thought they had a bond. He was once asked if he thought she was after his money.

"Not at that time," he said.

Defense lawyers have described her as a gold digger and suggested she had sued for money.

She denied that saying: "I didn't wish him any harm, I wanted him to be accountable."

The woman didn't report the incident to police until she filed suit more than two years later. Los Angeles police still have an open investigation.