

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Marines might scrap famed slogan

Alabama Media Group

The Marine Corps may scrap its iconic recruiting slogan, “The Few. The Proud. The Marines.”

The change is being considered ahead of a national advertising campaign slated to launch next year, according to reports in Marine Corps Times.

“‘The Few. The Proud’ does a great job distinguishing ourselves from the other branches and making us prestigious

to recruits, but it doesn’t say anything about what we do or why we exist,” Lt. Col. John Caldwell, a spokesman for Marine Corps Recruiting Command, told Marine Corps Times. “We believe the new campaign products require a unique tagline to achieve the effort’s objectives.”

The new advertising strategy — which will emphasize the fighting nature of the Marines — already has been approved

by Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller. Once developed, the new tagline would be used on recruiting materials, replacing the old slogan.

Caldwell said the change has nothing to do with the inclusion of women into combat jobs servicewide.

“It has everything to do with clearly defining who we are and what we do as United States Marines. It’s all about our irreducible fighting spirit. That’s

the fighting spirit of the organization, and that’s the fighting spirit of all its Marines,” Caldwell said.

The Marines’ best-known slogan has been in use since 1977, when it first appeared in a television commercial, although a version of the phrase can be found in a 1779 ad seeking members for the Continental Marines. In 2007, the slogan was added to Madison Avenue’s Advertising Walk of Fame.

Former NCIS agent gets 12 years in corruption case

The Washington Post

A federal judge sentenced a former Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent to 12 years in prison Friday for leaking confidential law-enforcement files to an Asian defense contractor who seduced him with cash bribes, booze and prostitutes.

John Beliveau Jr., a one-time NCIS agent of the year, received the most severe punishment imposed so far in a corruption scandal that has ensnared 16 other criminal defendants and rocked the Navy.

Beliveau, 47, who pleaded guilty shortly after the scandal became public in 2013, has admitted to leaking hundreds of sensitive NCIS files to Leonard Glenn Francis, a Singapore-based contractor who supplied Navy ships throughout Asia. Francis, a rotund and charismatic man known as “Fat Leonard,” exploited the leaked information to thwart NCIS investigations into his company for years.

Beliveau’s attorneys said he betrayed his country because he had a fragile psyche and became “clinically obsessed” with a crooked Asian defense con-

tractor who easily reeled him with bribes. They asked that he be spared any prison time, while prosecutors had sought a 15-year sentence. The punishment was handed down late Friday by U.S. District Court Judge Janis Sammartino in San Diego.

NCIS officials have described Beliveau as one of the worst traitors in the agency’s history. He met Francis after he was assigned to Singapore as a counterterrorism agent in 2008 and quickly fell under the defense contractor’s spell, according to his attorneys.

Francis was a legendary figure in Navy circles who treated officers to lavish meals and parties — featuring Cuban cigars, expensive champagne and strippers — when their ships made visits to Asian ports. In court papers, Beliveau’s lawyers described him as particularly susceptible to Francis’s charms because of his fondness for alcohol, a history of mental illness and a lifelong lack of sexual experience with women other than prostitutes.

According to his lawyers, Beliveau had struggled with obsessive-compulsive disorder since he was a child and was debilitat-

ed from cancer treatments when he arrived in Singapore. Soon, he contracted dengue fever during a visit to East Timor and also developed post-traumatic stress disorder after a bizarre incident during which he witnessed, up close, the beheading of a gang member.

Given his physical and emotional weaknesses, Beliveau became a “prime target” for Francis, who supplied him with sex workers, \$30,000 in cash and travel, alcohol and a “perceived friendship,” the agent’s attorneys said in court papers. Eventually, they added, Beliveau became “symptomatically obsessed with Francis, and overwhelmingly attached to the relief Francis could provide through the parties and prostitutes.”

Beliveau asked Sammartino to spare him prison time and sentence him instead to two years home confinement. He has been free on bond since he pleaded guilty to bribery charges three years ago.

“I have betrayed the badge I wore, the oath I took, my comrades,” he said in a letter to the judge. “I deserve and understand the feelings of anger, ven-

geance and disgust from others in my former field.”

In asking for a 15-year prison term, prosecutors noted that Beliveau “caused incalculable injury” to the reputation of NCIS and its long-standing efforts to prove that Francis was fleecing the Navy for supplies, fuel and port services.

In handing over so many confidential files over a two-year period, they said, Beliveau tipped off Francis to the identities of several cooperating witnesses, including some who had agreed to wear wires for NCIS, and also advised the contractor on how to erase incriminating evidence.

Prosecutors also said Beliveau was under no illusions about the nature of his transactional relationship with Francis, regularly demanding money and prostitutes in exchange for leaked material.

“I will always be your friend, but you will get nothing else ... until I get what you promise,” he said in an email to Francis in April 2012. “You give whores more money than you give me. ... I can be your best friend or your worst enemy. I am not an amateur.”

Mabus talks about Navy modernizations

The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va — Less than 48 hours after USS Nitze missiles destroyed radar sites in Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus reiterated a stern message pierside from the destroyer's home port.

"You attack us at your peril," Mabus said.

Mabus spoke Friday at a Norfolk Naval Station meeting with sailors and Marines.

He stopped short of saying whether the strike — a response to two earlier incidents this week in which missiles were lobbed at the Norfolk-based USS Mason from the rebel-held territory — indicated a deepening role for the Navy in Yemen's civil war. The Obama administration and the Pentagon promised Thursday to respond to any new provocations from the Houthis.

Mabus, a former surface warfare officer and governor of Mississippi, spoke with servicemembers just weeks after he and the Navy's top leaders announced the end of a 241-year tradition of referring to enlisted sailors by their job titles — known as rates — in favor of calling them by rank.

As part of that Sept. 30 announcement, Navy leaders also issued a plan to reclassify ratings into grouped occupational specialties and other modernizations intended to offer sailors greater flexibility and opportunities for promotion and cross-training. The moves are meant to retain sailors as well as to translate jobs to the civilian workforce better, and are expected to take several years to develop.

The announcements sent shock waves across the fleet and were met with backlash.

An online petition sprang up immediately asking the White House to reverse the rating-titles decision. More than 72,000 had signed as of Friday, with an Oct. 30 deadline to gather 100,000 total signatures to garner a White House response.

Mabus acknowledged the backlash but told sailors Friday "you're going to get more choices."

Petty Officer 1st Class Rod Thompson asked about plans to make sure sailors are able to keep their current jobs and not to be pushed out because there's no room at the top to grow. Several years ago, the Navy used enlistment retention boards and a plan called "perform to serve" as tools to boot out thousands of sailors because the service was overmanned in some jobs.

Mabus called both tools "terrible" and said there were "ab-

solutely no plans" to use either again, but added they were needed at the time to balance the force.

"One of the ways we're going to keep from doing that is by making ratings so that you can move between them, so that you can get qualified in more than one narrow rating," Mabus said, adding that future promotions will be based more upon merit.

Mabus also acknowledged the Navy's attempts in recent years to shorten deployments to a goal of seven months as part of a larger plan that seeks to better standardize a ship's progression through maintenance and training cycles. The goal is to make the process more predictable, Mabus said, though he warned, "It's not going to be perfect."

Iraq special operators prepare for Mosul fight

Associated Press

KHAZER, Iraq — A few hundred Iraqi special forces arrived Friday at the front line near militant-held Mosul, one small part of a series of troop movements that have massed thousands of soldiers ahead of an operation seeking to retake the country's second-largest city from the Islamic State group.

"Yesterday, our commander told us: This is it, the liberation of Mosul is beginning," a special forces sergeant said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

Officials from Iraq and the U.S.-led coalition have said preparations and planning of the operation are ongoing, but there is widespread speculation it will be launched this month.

The large volume of forces needed for the Mosul fight — Iraqi and coalition officials say

at least 30,000 will take part — has overcrowded the few bases that Iraq's military has along the Mosul front line.

Qayyarah air base south of Mosul is expected to be the main hub of operations, but Iraqi army convoys, including a unit of the elite special forces, could also be seen moving to front-line positions east of the city.

The coalition said Friday it also is conducting a larger number of airstrikes in the area.

Mosul fell to Islamic State fighters more than two years ago. The operation to retake it is expected to be the most complex yet for Iraq's military.

In addition to Iraq's conventional military, others expected to participate in the battle are Shiite militias, Kurdish forces known as the peshmerga, Sunni tribal fighters and federal police forces.

Army soldier in 'kill team' case may get a new trial

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — An Army veteran once cast as a Charles Manson-like figure who led a group of bored soldiers in schemes to murder Afghan civilians may get a new trial.

In a long-running appeal, a military court has ruled that former Staff Sgt. Calvin Gibbs may present new evidence that could get him another day in court.

Gibbs, a Montana native who is serving a life sentence for masterminding the murders of three Afghan boys in 2010, won the latest legal round at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

His attorney, Phil Stackhouse, said he made a formal request Wednesday for a "totally new trial" or an immediate hearing to examine new evidence in the case.

Two of Gibbs' former teammates now are offering statements supporting his argument that at least one of the killings took place in legitimate combat.

Prosecutors asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces to overrule the decision, saying the lower court exceeded its authority.

In the latest twist, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces disagreed, saying in a one-page ruling that the government's motion was "denied as moot."

Several of Gibbs' platoon mates said in court that he concocted schemes to slay innocent Afghans and provided "off the books" weapons for soldiers to carry out his plans. His "kill team" gained international attention after photographs showed them posing with Afghan corpses.

Emails: Speech by Bill Clinton raised concern

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton's campaign asked former President Bill Clinton to cancel a speech to a Wall Street investment firm last year because of concerns that the Clintons might appear to be too cozy with Wall Street just as the former secretary of state was about to announce her White House bid, newly released emails show.

Clinton aides say in hacked emails released Friday by the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks that Hillary Clinton did not want her husband to cancel the speech, but after a "cool down period" was eventually convinced that canceling was the right step.

Campaign manager Robby Mook said he realized canceling the lucrative speech would disappoint both Clintons, but "it's a very consequential unforced error and could plague us in stories for months."

The Clintons' paid speeches have been an issue throughout the campaign, particularly Hillary Clinton's private speeches to Wall Street firms. Hillary Clinton earned about \$1.5 million in speaking fees before launching her presidential campaign, while Bill Clinton reaped more than \$5 million from banking, tech and other corporate interests, according to financial documents filed by Hillary Clinton.

The campaign has never released transcripts of Hillary Clinton's speeches, but the hacked emails did reveal excerpts flagged by her advisers as potentially concerning. In the excerpts, Clinton talked about dreaming of "open trade and open borders" in the Western Hemisphere. She also said politicians sometimes need to have "both a public and a private position" on issues.

Bill Clinton was scheduled to speak to Morgan Stanley executives in April 2015, a few days after his wife was set to launch her bid for president.

"That's begging for a bad rollout," Mook wrote in a March 11, 2015, email.

In a later email, Mook said he feels "very strongly that doing the speech is a mistake," with serious potential consequences for Hillary Clinton's campaign. "People would (rightfully) ask how we let it happen."

Trump belittles his accusers

Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Donald Trump acted out on stage an accuser's allegations and suggested another wasn't worthy of his attention the same day two more women came forward with years-old stories of unwanted sexual encounters with the Republican presidential nominee.

With eight women accusing Trump of unwanted kissing, groping or more, the New York businessman maintained his innocence and his denunciation of opponent Hillary Clinton and an international media conspiracy aimed at denying him the White House.

"100 percent fabricated and made-up charges, pushed strongly by the media and the Clinton Campaign, may poison the minds of the American Voter. FIX!" Trump tweeted on Saturday morning.

Clinton maintained a relatively low profile as Trump stormed, but more hacked emails from WikiLeaks raised anew questions about her private-versus-public pronouncements.

Such revelations were no match for the sordid new accusations against Trump. Summer Zervos, a former contestant from Trump's NBC show "The Apprentice," said the series' star became sexually aggressive at a Beverly Hills hotel in 2007. He kissed her open-mouthed and touched her breasts in a private room, she said during a news conference.

Late Friday night, the Trump campaign re-

leased a statement in which a cousin of Zervos said he was "shocked and bewildered" by her account. John Barry, of Mission Viejo, Calif., said Zervos "wishes she could still be on reality TV, and in an effort to get that back, she's saying all of these negative things about Mr. Trump."

In a story published online Friday, Kristin Anderson told The Washington Post that she was sitting on a couch with friends at a New York nightclub in the early 1990s when a hand reached up her skirt and touched her through her underwear. She said she pushed the hand away, turned around and recognized Trump as the man who had groped her.

Trump called his accusers liars and "sick" women seeking fame or money. During a rally in North Carolina, Trump dismissed one of them by saying, "She would not be my first choice, that I can tell you."

In alleging a widespread conspiracy, Trump assailed The New York Times, in particular, noting its connection to Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim, a major shareholder in the media company. Spokesman Arturo Elias Ayub later said Slim doesn't know Trump at all "and is not the least bit interested in his personal life."

In remarks at a fundraiser Friday, Hillary Clinton spoke of a need for national healing. "I take no satisfaction in seeing what Trump does and says because it hurts — it hurts me and it hurts our country," she said.

3 in Kan. militia charged in bomb plot

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — Three members of a Kansas militia group are accused of plotting to bomb an apartment complex that's home to Somali immigrants in the western Kansas meatpacking town of Garden City, a thwarted attack prosecutors say was planned for the day after the November election.

A complaint unsealed Friday charges Curtis Wayne Allen, 49; Patrick Eugene Stein, 47; and Gavin Wayne Wright, 49, with conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction. The men are members of a small militia group that calls itself "the Crusaders," and whose members espouse sovereign citizen, anti-government, anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant extremist beliefs, according to the complaint.

Prosecutors said the men don't yet have attorneys. Publicly listed phone numbers for the men couldn't immediately be found. Their first court appearance is set for Monday.

The arrests were the culmination of an eight-month FBI investigation that took agents "deep into a hidden culture of hatred and violence," Acting U.S. Attorney Tom Beall said.

The complaint alleges group members

chose the target based on their hatred for Muslims, people of Somali descent and immigrants — and out of a desire to inspire other militia groups and "wake people up."

The FBI began a domestic terrorism investigation of the group in February, and a confidential source attended its meetings in southwestern Kansas.

In a June meeting, Stein brought up the Orlando nightclub shooting and proposed carrying out a similar attack against Muslim refugees in Garden City, according to the complaint. They ultimately decided to target the apartment complex because of the number of Somalis who lived there and the fact that one of the apartments was used as a mosque. The complex houses about 120 Somali residents, Beall said.

The complaint said Stein discussed the explosives used in the 1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City by Timothy McVeigh.

The men, who were arrested in Liberal on Friday morning, performed surveillance of the apartment building and prepared a manifesto, Beall said.

Tornado touches down in Ore.

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A tornado struck an Oregon beach town, sending debris flying and toppling power lines and trees as strong winds and heavy rain walloped the Pacific Northwest.

Thousands were without power as utility crews prepared for what's expected to be an even rougher storm Saturday.

In Seattle, a 4-year-old boy and his father were injured by a falling tree branch Friday. The Seattle Fire Department said the child suffered serious injuries and the father minor injuries.

The Coast Guard and other officials near Port Angeles, Wash., had made several trips to rescue 40 teenagers and six adults who became stranded at an outdoor recreation camp.

The National Weather Service in Portland, Ore., urged people to stay off roads as multiple streets were flooded and impassable after heavy rains

Friday evening.

The tornado was reported on the northern Oregon coast. Tillamook County Sheriff Andy Long said it touched down in Manzanita about 8:20 a.m. There were no reports of injuries.

The mayor declared a state of emergency — a necessary step for the small town to be eligible for federal disaster money.

Long said two businesses were destroyed, and one home is uninhabitable.

The National Weather Service said another twister made landfall about 9 a.m. near Oceanside, Ore., but no damage was reported. The heavy rain created dangerous conditions throughout the region as drivers tried to see out rain-pounded windshields and navigate through standing water.

In Oregon, Portland General Electric reported that more than 4,000 customers were without power early Friday. Pacific Power reported that 2,800

customers in coastal communities had no lights, down from more than 15,000.

The National Weather Service says a 103-mph wind gust was recorded at Oregon's Cape Meares.

Meteorologists expected a lull before the remnants of Typhoon Songda hit the Pacific Northwest on Saturday. Forecasters say wind gusts as high as 70 mph could sweep through Seattle.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was rushing to fix a 300-foot section of a rocky coastal retaining wall in La Push, Wash. The jetty had previously failed, and the only thing remaining was a gravel berm, according to spokeswoman Patricia Graesser.

The same weather system was expected to affect Northern California, bringing rain, wind and coastal flooding to the San Francisco Bay Area through part of Saturday.

2 state voter registration deadlines extended

Associated Press

Judges in Georgia and North Carolina on Friday ordered state election officials to extend voter-registration deadlines in some counties due to disruptions caused by Hurricane Matthew.

The judges' rulings came after Georgia's governor and North Carolina's state board of elections' executive director declined to extend the deadlines.

In North Carolina, a state judge ordered election officials to extend it until Wednesday in 36 eastern counties impacted by flooding from the hurricane.

In Georgia, U.S. District Court Judge William T. Moore Jr. ruled residents of Chatham County must be allowed to register through Tuesday, a week after the original deadline.

The two states join Florida and South Carolina in extending their deadlines. After Florida Gov. Rick Scott refused to extend his state's deadline, a federal judge first extended it by a day and then to Oct. 18. South Carolina extended its Oct. 7 deadline and will accept forms postmarked by Tuesday.

In North Carolina, a presidential battleground state, the state Democratic Party sued the state board's executive director Friday. Executive Director Kim Strach had agreed to accept mailed applications through Wednesday, but Democrats said that wasn't enough.

Wake County Superior Court Judge Donald Stephens said local election officials could face more administrative obstacles, but he said they were outweighed by the "right of the constitution to ensure that every voter that wants to vote is not precluded from doing so as a result of a natural disaster."

Stephens' order covers 36 counties that have received a disaster declaration.

In Georgia, Moore chose to limit the extra registration days to Chatham County. Election offices in Georgia's other coastal counties managed to reopen before the deadline.

Nev. wildfires destroy 22 homes

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — A trio of wind-whipped wildfires burning along the Sierra Nevada destroyed 22 homes north of Carson City, Nev., forced hundreds of evacuations at Lake Tahoe and temporarily closed a major highway connecting Reno to the mountain lake.

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval declared a state of emergency as hundreds of firefighters battled the most dangerous fire, which threatens hundreds of structures in the Washoe Valley.

Four firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation Friday, said Tia Rancourt, spokeswoman for the Sierra Front Interagency Fire Dispatch Center.

The wildland blaze that continued to burn out of control Friday night has charred about 3 square miles of brush and timber.

Federal disaster funds were approved Friday to help cover firefighting costs in the area.

About 500 firefighters were

on the scene Friday night at the Little Valley fire, which broke out about 1:30 a.m. in the mountains between Lake Tahoe and Washoe Valley.

Fire officials reported zero containment but said crews working in difficult terrain were aided by afternoon rains, and the winds that were gusting in excess of 50 mph died down.

More crews were on their way from as far away as the San Francisco Bay Area.

In addition to the homes, 17 outbuildings have burned. A fire engine also suffered damage.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore said the cause of the blaze was under investigation; it started in an area where a controlled burn was conducted earlier this week.

The powerful winds fanning the flames reached gusts in excess of 100 mph over the top of the Sierra early Friday.

Moore said emergency dispatchers received a report of "a

glow" in hills west of Washoe Valley at 1:38 a.m.

Crews arrived to find about 5 acres burning. But he said it "grew rapidly and quickly spread to 50 acres."

More than 100 homes and ranches are scattered throughout the rural valley bordering Washoe Lake. One belonged to Dennis Hof, who owns the Moonlite Bunny Ranch brothel east of Carson City.

He posted photos of it reduced to rubble on his Twitter account Friday afternoon.

Evacuation centers were set up in Reno and Carson City for displaced residents as well as pets and livestock.

The fire that prompted the evacuation of 500 homes on the south end of Lake Tahoe was estimated to be 25 percent contained. That fire has burned about 200 acres and forced the closure of part of California Highway 89, but fire officials said they were getting the upper hand on the blaze Friday evening.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Nipple bill' before judge once again

NH LACONIA — A New Hampshire judge once again is facing a case against women ticketed for going topless at a town beach, a case that led to a Facebook spat among legislators about a bill that would make it a misdemeanor for women to expose their nipples in public.

Three women supporting the Free the Nipple Movement were cited by police for being topless at Weirs Beach in Laconia over Memorial Day weekend. The Laconia Sun reported the women filed a motion this month to dismiss the charges.

Police said they violated an ordinance that prohibits women from going topless. The women said their constitutional rights were violated. A court hearing was scheduled Friday. The judge dismissed a similar case last year.

Experts: Tiny T. rex arms appear useless

IL CHICAGO — It turns out The Field Museum's T. rex Sue didn't use those tiny arms very much.

At least that's the initial conclusion from a detailed look at the fossil's right forelimb at the Argonne National Laboratory outside Chicago. Researchers there used a scan to generate a 3-D image of the arm bones down to the cellular level.

Final results will take months or years.

Pete Makovicky is associate curator of dinosaurs at the Chicago museum. He said Thursday there "aren't many signs of stress on the bones that would indicate frequent use."

Precisely why T. rex had forelimbs is one of the enduring mysteries of dinosaur paleontology.

Enraged school bus driver flashes gun

PA PHILADELPHIA — State police said a school bus driver and a motorist were arrested following a case of road rage in which police said the bus driver flashed a gun when the motorist tried to board the bus in Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported the motorist pulled over on Interstate 676 Thursday afternoon to confront the bus driver, who he said was tailgating.

State police said the motorist then tried to board the bus, prompting the bus driver to flash a handgun. Police said there were no children aboard the bus at the time.

State police are reviewing security footage from the bus.

Smoker using oxygen dies in house fire

MO JOPLIN — Authorities said a woman who was smoking while using oxygen to help her breathe has died in a southwest Missouri house fire.

The Joplin Globe reported that firefighters responded to the fire Wednesday morning. Fire Chief James Furgerson said Sandra Johnson, 71, was found on the living room floor and died at the scene. He said she had mobility issues.

No one else was home at the time of the fire.

Firefighters were able to bring the blaze under control in about 15 minutes. The department said the house sustained moderate heat and smoke damage.

Man who kept deer as pet is facing charges

NY SPRINGS — A New York man is accused

of numerous housing and code violations and illegally keeping a deer as a pet in his Long Island yard.

East Hampton police were called Wednesday after receiving a call of possible overcrowding at the Springs home.

Police said Angel Otavalo had illegally converted the basement into seven bedrooms. They charged him with failing to have a certificate of occupancy for various rooms, failing to have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and construction without a permit.

They also charged him with unlawful possession of wildlife.

Major mall closing on Thanksgiving Day

PA GREENSBURG — One of western Pennsylvania's largest indoor shopping malls is closing on Thanksgiving Day.

The Westmoreland Mall said on its website that it is closing so shoppers and employees can spend time "with family and friends and come in fresh and excited to spend Black Friday with us."

The mall in Hempfield Township, about 30 miles east of Pittsburgh along U.S. Route 30, is home to anchors such as J.C. Penney Co., Bon Ton, and Macy's, and scores of smaller shops.

The letter on the website from CBL & Associates Properties, which owns the mall, says, "Over the last few years, we've watched as the magic of Black Friday has been diminished by an earlier start to the holiday shopping season. ... Well, not this year." The mall will reopen at 6 a.m. Nov. 25.

FBI: Bank robbery was an inside job

NM RED RIVER — A New Mexico bank

employee and her cousin have been arrested after authorities concluded that a robbery was an inside job.

A FBI agent's affidavit said investigators reviewed video showing Jennifer Marissa Miera didn't bother to read the holdup note allegedly presented to her by Troy Montoya during the Thursday robbery of a People's Bank in Red River.

The affidavit also says investigators found incriminating items at Miera's home and that the defendants made admissions.

A third person also is charged in the case. Shawn Michael Goodrum Jr. is accused of knowing about the robbery but concealing it so he could blackmail Miera to get some of the loot.

Skis a sign campaign has gone downhill

VT BURLINGTON — Here's a sure sign the 2016 presidential campaign has gone downhill: A Vermont ski maker is out with a new pair featuring Hillary Clinton imagery on the left ski and Donald Trump on the right.

The Burlington Free Press reported that Renoun, of Burlington, has introduced the pair showing intricate artwork, with equal-opportunity dissing of both candidates.

The Trump ski shows him wearing a button with the message "#1 most disliked," while Clinton is wearing a "#2 most disliked" button. The Clinton ski features police tape, for those who think she's a walking crime scene, while the Trump ski features a border wall, for his widely panned anti-illegal immigration plan.

But at more than \$2,000 a pair, the skis may be only for moguls.

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Indians blank Jays in Game 1 of ALCS

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — When the ball disappeared over the outfield wall, Francisco Lindor raised his right fist and took off.

Smiling with every stride, Cleveland's superstar-in-the-making shortstop sprinted around the bases like he was being chased.

He and the Indians aren't slowing down for anything this October.

Lindor hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning and Corey Kluber silenced Toronto's booming bats, giving the Indians a 2-0 win over the Blue Jays in Game 1 of the AL Championship Series on Friday night.

Lindor connected on an 0-2 changeup from Marco Estrada and tore around the basepaths as the bend-but-don't-break Indians won their fourth straight playoff game in this most unexpected season.

"I believe in my team. I believe in what we have," said Lindor, the talented 22-year-old who plays as if he's been part of postseason games for a decade. "We're just trying to do our thing."

Kluber, Cleveland's solid and stoic ace, pitched 6¹/₃ spotless innings before manager Terry Francona turned things over to the Indians' best weapon — their bullpen. Andrew Miller made the Blue Jays look silly, striking out five of the six batters he faced, and closer Cody Allen got the save with a perfect ninth as the Indians extended their longest postseason winning streak since 1920.

The Blue Jays wasted some early scoring chances — they had six runners in the first three innings — against Kluber and their frustration only grew as the night went on. Toronto slugger Jose Bautista struck out three times and Edwin Encarnacion lost his cool when he was fanned in the eighth, jawing at plate umpire Laz Diaz.

"It wasn't like we faced the average Joe out there," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said of Kluber. "He's one of the elite pitchers in the game, as is Miller, as is Allen. We got some guys on base early. We couldn't get that big hit."

After getting their first ALCS win since 2007, the Indians tried to take a 2-0 lead Saturday with Josh Tomlin facing

Toronto's 20-game winner, J.A. Happ. Tomlin was originally scheduled to start Game 3, but was moved up when Trevor Bauer sustained an odd injury as he sliced open his right pinkie while repairing a drone.

Kluber kept flying in the postseason.

The right-hander has not allowed a run in 13¹/₃ innings this October and he kept the Blue Jays inside Progressive Field after they teed off against the Texas Rangers in the Division Series.

Estrada carried a four-hit shutout into the sixth before walking Jason Kipnis with one out. Lindor was in an 0-2 hole before the shortstop, who could become a household name before this series ends, drove his homer over the wall in right-center and ran like Usain Bolt wearing a Chief Wahoo cap.

"I thought (Kevin) Pillar was going to catch it," Lindor said. "As soon as it went out, I put my hands out. I looked at the dugout and everybody was going insane."

Estrada allowed six hits in Toronto's first complete game all year, but made one costly mistake.

"I was trying to bounce it, to be honest with you," Estrada said. "Good hitters are going to hit it out and he's a good hitter."

Kluber dodged some early trouble and held the Blue Jays, who hit eight home runs and scored 22 times in their ALDS sweep of Texas, to six hits in the first six innings. The Indians needed every out they could get from Kluber, who shut out Boston for seven innings in his postseason debut 10 days after he injured a quadriceps in a start against Detroit.

The 2014 AL Cy Young Award winner, who will certainly get votes this season after winning 18 games, has been the only dependable starter all season for Cleveland, which lost Carlos Carrasco and Danny Salazar to injuries in September and is now dealing with Bauer's bizarre mishap.

"I laughed when I heard," Kipnis said. "I don't care, as long as he can pitch for us. It's not as funny if he can't pitch. If he can, (I'll tell him), 'You're an idiot, but go get some outs for us now.'"

Toronto's bats go quiet with runners in scoring position

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — All those big sluggers and not one timely hit.

For the Toronto Blue Jays and their power-packed lineup, the first game of the AL Championship Series was about wasted opportunities.

The Blue Jays had runners in scoring position in each of the first four innings but left them there as Cleveland Indians ace Corey Kluber worked out of the jams. Toronto finished 0-for-5 in those situations and stranded eight in all during a 2-0 loss Friday night.

Francisco Lindor's two-run homer in the sixth was the difference as the Blue Jays lost for the first time in five games this

postseason.

Toronto squandered a six-hitter from Marco Estrada — the team's first complete game all year.

The Blue Jays will try to even the best-of-seven series Saturday when 20-game winner J.A. Happ starts against Josh Tomlin.

Toronto led all playoff teams by hitting .478 with runners in scoring position during the Division Series, after lacking that sort of production in the regular season. The Blue Jays batted .249 with RISP this year, which ranked 24th in the majors.

Over the final eight regular-season games, the Blue Jays were 13-for-66 (.197) with one double in those situations. They couldn't move runners past

second base on Friday, either, stranding six in the first four innings.

Their best opportunity came in the first inning when Josh Donaldson singled with one out and went to third on a double by Edwin Encarnacion. Kluber then struck out Jose Bautista and got Russell Martin to ground weakly to first.

In the second, Devon Travis grounded into an inning-ending double play with two on. Martin whiffed to end a threat with two on in the third.

"You always have your work cut out for you when Kluber is out there," Martin said. "Even with guys in scoring position, if he makes his pitches he's able to strike anybody out. Obviously we had our chances, we just

didn't come through."

Toronto also put runners on in the fourth, sixth and eighth but couldn't get anybody past second base.

In the eighth, reliever Andrew Miller gave up a single to Donaldson but then struck out the heart of the Blue Jays' order: Encarnacion, Bautista and Martin.

"I made some mistakes early on, and they were able to take advantage of them with base hits," Kluber said. "But it's really trying to stick with the same approach — get ahead of them and put them in defensive counts, so they're not key-holding one pitch."

Kluber struck out six while scattering six hits over 6¹/₃ innings.

Nashville tops Chicago with power play

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — P.K. Subban gave a glimpse in his regular-season debut of just how valuable he might be to the Nashville Predators.

Not only did the defenseman acquired in the offseason score the first goal of the season, he even arranged the order of the postgame interviews.

Subban sent Ryan Johansen with his three assists to speak in front of reporters and TV cameras followed by defensive partner Roman Josi. The defenseman finally stepped forward last to take questions himself after helping the Predators open the season by beating the Chicago Blackhawks 3-2 on Friday night.

“I wanted to get my feet under me, play hard and play physical and just try to do whatever the coaching staff asked me to do,” said Subban, who was taken off the ice on a stretcher March 10 and didn’t play another game last season.

Mike Fisher redirected Josi’s shot late in the second period for the game-winning power-play goal as the Predators got all three goals with the man advantage. Josi had a power-play goal.

Predators goaltender Pekka Rinne stopped a flurry of shots with Chicago on the man advantage over the final 1:46 to preserve the win. He stopped 12 of 13 shots in the third to help Nashville improve to 4-1-1 over its last six season openers.

“It was a great win I mean, and we had to work for it till the end, a full 60 minutes,” Rinne said. “I mean it was a great team win and what a great way to start the season and for our fans, too.”

Marcus Kruger and Niklas Hjalmarsson scored for Chicago, which has lost its first two games this season playing with six rookies in the lineup.

The Blackhawks have allowed six power-play goals in their first two games.

“Across the board we need to

be better,” Chicago coach Joel Quenneville said. “We need to be better with the puck and the discipline as well. We certainly had some opportunities to generate some more.”

Chicago won the season series between these Central Division rivals the past two seasons, including a 3-2 edge last season while finishing third in the Western Conference. Nashville finished fourth in the division and seventh in the West before beating Anaheim in seven games and losing to San Jose in another seven-game series.

Oilers 5, Flames 3: Connor McDavid had a goal and two assists for his second straight three-point game to lead visiting Edmonton past Calgary.

Leon Draisaitl had two goals and Jordan Eberle and Mark Letestu also scored to help the Oilers complete a sweep of the teams’ season-opening home-and-home series. Cam Talbot finished with 32 saves.

Sean Monahan and Michael

Frolik scored for the Flames, who fell to 0-5-1 in their last six home openers. Brian Elliott stopped 24 shots.

After scoring his third goal of the season in the first period, McDavid helped set up Eberle’s tying goal in the second and Draisaitl’s go-ahead score early in the third.

Flyers 4, Kings 2: Boyd Gordon and Sean Couturier scored 48 seconds apart to kick off Philadelphia’s four-goal second period against Los Angeles.

Couturier got two goals, Mark Streit also scored and Michal Neuvirth made 23 saves as the Flyers took a 4-0 lead while winning their season opener for the first time since 2011.

Drew Doughty and Brayden McNabb scored in the home opener for the Kings, whose 50th anniversary season is off to an 0-2 start.

Jeff Zatkoff made his home debut with 26 saves in his first game as the Kings’ presumptive starter in the absence of Jonathan Quick.

No. 7 Louisville returns from bye, barely beats Duke

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville’s lopsided victories had raised expectations so high for the No. 7 Cardinals that a close victory seemed unlikely against an outmatched opponent.

But a second straight defeat looked possible against Duke on Friday night until a late penalty by the Blue Devils allowed quarterback Lamar Jackson to seal a shaky win for the Cardinals.

Jackson provided a cushion with a 2-yard touchdown run with 1:32 remaining and Louisville held off Duke 24-14, and the outcome was all that mattered to the Cardinals.

“We didn’t blow them out, but we did win the game,” said Louisville coach Bobby Petrino, whose team had averaged a nation-leading 58 points coming in.

The Cardinals caught a

break after Evan O’Hara’s 46-yard field goal missed wide left as Duke’s Breon Borders was called for roughing the kicker. The penalty moved the ball to the 14 and Jackson did the rest with a 12-yard run followed by the short score that Louisville (5-1, 3-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) sorely needed.

“I wasn’t going to let my team down,” the Heisman Trophy contender said. “We were going down there to score.”

Jackson accounted for 325 yards of offense and two touchdowns, hitting Jaylen Smith with a 5-yard scoring pass on the opening drive. Jeremy Smith added an 80-yard TD run in the third quarter, and O’Hara kicked a 22-yard field goal as the Cardinals came off the bye and earned the program’s 500th victory.

Duke (3-4, 0-3) remained winless in ACC play but

gave Louisville more than it expected.

Poll implications

The Cardinals might lose some position after escaping with a close win despite being 35-point favorites. Petrino chose to focus on the bottom line and said, “our objective is to go win, keep ourselves in (playoff consideration), and I think we did that. We’ve just got to go play better.”

The takeaway

Duke: The Blue Devils weren’t intimidated by Jackson or the Cardinals. Jones was 14-for-21 passing for 129 yards, including a 51-yarder. Jela Duncan returned from a leg injury to rush for 44 yards on 12 carries. But they managed just two scoring drives despite controlling the clock and committed a costly penalty that could

have provided one last shot to win.

Louisville: The Cardinals never trailed and outgained Duke 469-239 but never seemed in full control. Two chances to gain breathing room in the third quarter ended with Brandon Radcliffe fumbling on one possession and O’Hara’s missing from 42 yards on the next.

“We lost our focus,” Jackson said. “We were driving the ball, hit a hump. (We’ll) watch film and get everything fixed. We were down there several times; we’ve got to get it right.”

Jackson seemed off on some throws but offset that with his speed and nifty footwork on several key fourth-quarter runs including their final drive. He completed 13 of 26 passes for 181 yards and rushed 21 times for 144. He is responsible for 30 touchdowns, 15 each passing and rushing.

Vegas stadium deal narrowly passes

Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Nevada took a giant step closer to becoming home of the Raider Nation on Friday, after state lawmakers narrowly approved a hotel tax increase that would put \$750 million in public money toward an NFL stadium partly funded by billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson.

A cadre of lobbyists for the project strained over the past week to overcome conservative anxiety over a tax increase and liberal objections to subsidizing one of the world's richest men, eventually securing the bare minimum number of Assembly votes to hit the required two-thirds majority. Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval, who views the \$1.9 billion stadium as a way to ensure Las Vegas' continued dominance in tourism, is expected to sign the deal Monday in Las Vegas.

Raiders owner Mark Davis praised Sandoval and lawmakers in a statement.

"All parties have worked extremely hard to develop and approve this tremendous stadium project that will serve as a proud new home for the entire Raider Nation," he said.

But it's far from settled that Oakland's team will move to Las Vegas, a city that's only now ending its drought of professional sports after landing an NHL expansion

team over the summer. Oakland still holds out hope that it can keep the Raiders from leaving them a second time, and a relocation needs the blessing of three-fourths of NFL team owners — a conservative bunch that's historically shunned Las Vegas because of its legalized sports betting.

Still, proponents who envision Raiders games in Sin City by 2020 will have a persuasive bargaining chip to show when NFL owners meet next week: The prospect of a sparkling, 65,000-seat domed venue close to the Las Vegas Strip, backed by \$650 million from Adelson, \$500 million from the Raiders and the NFL and a \$750 million public investment.

"It's exciting," said Andy Abboud, chief lobbyist for casino mogul Adelson's Las Vegas Sands, after the financing deal passed its toughest vote on Friday. "But this is really about jobs, and I think at the end of the day people saw this as a fantastic economic stimulus package."

Sandoval called lawmakers into a rare special session to consider the deal, which raises a 12 percent hotel tax in the Las Vegas area by up to 1.4 percentage points to fund the stadium and a convention center expansion. Casino industry heavy-hitters from Wynn Resorts, MGM Resorts and Caesars Entertainment urged lawmakers not to miss the game-changing business venture backed by their competi-

tor, Adelson.

Construction workers from the Laborers Union festooned the legislative building in Carson City with silver-and-black flags, pleading with lawmakers to give them back jobs that dried up in the recession and also threatening to sabotage the campaigns of Democrats who voted against the deal.

Eventually, the Senate voted 16-5 and the Assembly voted 28-13 for the bill. Opponents included both Republicans and Democrats, many of whom balked that the Legislature put new tax revenue toward a stadium instead of bolstering Nevada's bottom-ranking public education system and mental health services.

"We are funding luxury items before we're taking care of our needs," said Democratic Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson, who opposed the deal. "I don't let that happen in my home and I'm not going to let it happen ... in this house."

The public contribution will be larger in raw dollars than for any other NFL stadium, although the public's share of the costs — 39 percent — is smaller than for stadiums in cities of a similar size, such as Indianapolis, Cleveland and Cincinnati.

Tourists, mostly, will finance the improvements. They can expect to pay about \$1.50 more per night on their hotel bill for an average-priced room on the Las Vegas Strip.

Bengals' Dalton getting sacked at alarming rate

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The Bengals passed it off as an opening-game aberration when Andy Dalton was sacked a career-high seven times in a win over the Jets. It turned out to be the start of a trend.

Dalton has been sacked 17 times in five games, tied for second most in the NFL. Indianapolis has allowed 20 sacks.

Dalton has been sacked once every 12 pass attempts this season, which would be the worst rate of his career if it holds for a season. He was sacked a career-high 46 times in his second season of 2012. His best showing was 2014, when he went nearly 24 attempts between sacks.

Dalton was at 20 sacks last season before breaking his

right thumb against Pittsburgh in the 13th game. He's three sacks away from matching that total.

What's surprising is that the line is virtually intact from last season and has been generally healthy. The only switch is Cedric Ogbuehi, a first-round draft pick in 2015, taking over at right tackle for Andre Smith, who went to Minnesota. Even when he's not getting sacked, Dalton has been under steady pressure.

"I've got to get the ball out of my hands quicker," said Dalton, who leads the AFC with 1,503 yards passing. "There are a lot of things that we could do to fix it up. There's an importance on it, and we know that."

The Cowboys got consistent pressure on Dalton last Sunday without blitzing much during a

28-14 win, which was surprising given the depth of experience on the offensive line. The Bengals fell to 2-3 for the first time in six years, and the sacks are one of the most glaring issues.

"You've seen teams win Super Bowls with makeshift offensive lines and figure out ways to get it done," left tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "The reality is it's not just us, but we're a big component of it."

The Cowboys scored touchdowns on their first three drives and went after Dalton in the second half, knowing he'd have to throw after Cincinnati fell behind 28-0. Dalton was sacked three times in the second half.

"Inevitably, if you are down 20-something points and throwing it every play, people

are going to beat the offensive line up because they are giving up sacks in the fourth quarter," Whitworth said. "And all of a sudden it's their fault they lost the game. That's not the truth."

Ogbuehi had a particularly tough time Sunday against the Cowboys' pass rush.

"It's his first year actually playing and starting," Whitworth said. "He's going to have ups and downs."

The Bengals have a tough challenge against the Patriots (4-1) in New England, where Cincinnati hasn't won since 1986. When the Bengals played there in 2014, they got drubbed 43-17 as the Patriots held the Bengals to 0-for-7 on third-down conversions.