

STARS AND STRIPES®

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Mabus defends unusual picks for ship names

Associated Press

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus has raised a few eyebrows with some of the names he has picked for naval ships.

Why, critics questioned, would he name a ship in honor of the late gay rights leader Harvey Milk or after former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords when there are plenty of military heroes to choose from?

Mabus has said he is honoring people who have shown heroism, just as past navy secretaries have done.

He said he believes that by looking outside the military at times for heroes, he can help connect people with the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Mabus is officially announcing five new ship names on visits to Mississippi and Massachusetts beginning Saturday. Among the group, a replenishment oiler will bear the name of abolitionist Sojourner Truth.

"I have named ships after presidents. I have named ships after members of Congress who have been forceful advocates for the Navy and Marine

Corps," Mabus said in a recent interview. "But I think you have to represent all the values that we hold as Americans, that we hold as a country. And so that's why I've named ships the Medgar Evers, Cesar Chavez, John Lewis, the Harvey Milk. Because these are American heroes too, just in a different arena."

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., objects to Mabus naming ships after Milk, farm labor leader Chavez and others. He wants ships to be named after servicemembers honored for valor to inspire their crews.

Evers and Lewis were civil rights activists. Lewis is now a Georgia congressman. A measure stalled recently in the House that would have prevented the Navy from naming ships after lawmakers who haven't served in the military or as president.

Retired Vice Adm. Doug Crowder questions naming a ship after Giffords, who survived after being shot during a constituent meeting. It's the secretary's right to name ships,

and previous secretaries have made political decisions, but there's an inherent risk in making a string of political statements, said Crowder, who was deputy chief of naval operations before retiring in 2010.

"It just doesn't help at all for what the basic sailor or officer thinks of his chain of command, up to the secretary of the navy," he said. "Is it catastrophic? No. But that's the risk you run."

Democratic Rep. Joe Courtney, though, argues the names are in sync with the military's embrace of a changing society. Chavez is an iconic name in the Latino community, as Milk's name is in the LGBT community, said Courtney, of Connecticut.

Mabus noted that he's naming nine ships after Medal of Honor recipients, including World War II Marine John Basilone.

A naval historian said Mabus follows naming conventions, for the most part.

"He has made some, what people would consider exceptions to the rules, because in his

view it was the right thing to do to reach out to different communities in the country," said David Winkler, of the Naval Historical Foundation.

It's also up to the navy secretary to choose sponsors to christen the vessels, and Mabus is willing to break with the tradition of having female sponsors. Mabus said he asked the male spouse of a female naval officer to sponsor a ship but was turned down.

Facebook's chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, and the women who integrated Little Rock's Central High School in Arkansas in 1957 are sponsoring submarines. Transgender Navy veteran Paula Neira and Sen. Dianne Feinstein are sponsoring Milk's ship.

On Saturday in Mississippi, Mabus plans to announce that two destroyers will be named after Medal of Honor recipients Jack H. Lucas and Louis H. Wilson Jr. In Massachusetts on Monday and Tuesday, he'll name replenishment oilers after Truth, suffragist Lucy Stone and Robert F. Kennedy.

Army OKs gender surgery; Manning to end hunger strike

Associated Press

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — A transgender soldier imprisoned in Kansas for leaking classified information to the WikiLeaks website will end a hunger strike after the Army agreed to allow her to receive medical treatment for her gender dysphoria, the American Civil Liberties Union announced Tuesday.

Chelsea Manning's medical treatment will begin with surgery that was recommended by a psychologist in April, the ACLU said. Manning began the hunger strike at Fort Leavenworth military prison on Fri-

day, vowing to continue until she received better treatment.

"I am unendingly relieved that the military is finally doing the right thing. I applaud them for that," Manning said in a statement. "This is all that I wanted — for them to let me be me."

"But it is hard not to wonder why it has taken so long. ... In any case, I hope this sets a precedent for the thousands of trans people behind me hoping they will be given the treatment they need."

Manning, who was arrested in 2010 as Bradley Manning,

was convicted in 2013 in military court of leaking more than 700,000 secret military and State Department documents to WikiLeaks. Manning was an intelligence analyst in Iraq at the time. She is serving a 35-year sentence.

Army spokesman Wayne Hall didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

ACLU attorney Chase Strangio said Manning should "enjoy some peace" knowing the medical care was coming.

"Thankfully, the government has recognized its constitutional obligation to provide Chelsea

with the medical care that she needs and we hope that they will act without delay to ensure that her suffering does not needlessly continue."

Strangio said it's troubling that Manning still faces administrative charges related to a suicide attempt on July 5 at the military prison. She wants the Army to drop those charges and stop efforts to have Manning to cut her hair to male hair length military standards.

The ACLU filed a lawsuit in 2014 against the Department of Defense over its refusal to treat Manning's gender dysphoria.

Carter-GOP rift could affect Clinton pick

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — If elected, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton could follow through on her desire to appoint the nation's first female defense secretary.

A widening rift between congressional Republicans and Defense Secretary Ash Carter, as well as Clinton's own differing worldview from Carter's, makes that more likely.

Since Clinton announced her candidacy last year, defense circles have buzzed with speculation that the first female president would likely want to nominate a woman to run the Pentagon, with Michele Flournoy, the former undersecretary of defense for policy in the first Obama administration, at the top of the list of contenders.

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, who has won praise even from some critics of that service during her nearly three-year tenure, and Republican Sen. Susan Collins, of Maine, have also been mentioned as possible candidates. The nomination of any of the three would likely meet little resistance from a Republican-

controlled Senate, defense observers say.

"I'm hearing that Flournoy is under very serious consideration," said one defense sector source with ties to the Democratic Party establishment. Flournoy, currently CEO of the Center for a New American Security, a think tank she helped launch in 2007, is informally advising Clinton's campaign.

Other defense sources expect a President Clinton to replace virtually every senior Obama administration official in a national security post.

"The Clintons like full control," a second defense source said.

Both sources spoke on condition of anonymity to be candid. A Clinton campaign spokeswoman declined to comment on Clinton's plans.

Other defense insiders suggest there is a case to be made for retaining Carter at the Pentagon, if Clinton is victorious. Carter advised Clinton when she was battling Barack Obama during the 2008 Democratic primary cycle.

"It isn't so obvious why she would want to replace a hard-

working, successful secretary with someone who is untested — especially when she will have so many other appointments to make," said Loren Thompson, chief operating officer at the Lexington Institute and a consultant to defense firms.

"I'm guessing Carter can stay on if he wants," said Thompson, before adding a major caveat: "That's assuming nothing big goes wrong between now and Inauguration Day."

Carter's spokesman, Peter Cook, did not directly say whether his boss would be interested in keeping his job in a potential Clinton administration.

Carter has seen it as "an honor for him to lead the Department of Defense under President [Barack] Obama," Cook said, adding that the fight against Islamic State and operations in Afghanistan, among other things, keep him "firmly focused on his current job."

On Capitol Hill, lawmakers are quick to say Clinton or Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump should have the leeway to select their Cabinet members. But it's apparent that some powerful GOP members with whom Clinton would

likely want to get off on a good foot have grown frustrated with Carter. Asked if he believes Carter has performed well enough to be retained, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry replied, "I don't know."

"There's areas I have concerns. Particularly, the relationship between Congress and the Pentagon is not what I had hoped when he took (over) there," the Texas Republican said last week. "I don't know if that's his responsibility or those around him."

Thornberry's remarks came a day after a Pentagon strategy memo surfaced that raised the prospect of playing the House and Senate against each other on defense spending, as well as of trying to undermine Thornberry. The memo assesses the Armed Services chairman as still "smarting" from losing a battle last year with the White House over Obama's initial veto of a defense policy measure.

"I hope that whoever is next, we have a more constructive relationship (with Congress) in looking after national security," Thornberry told Roll Call.

Trump child care plan breaks with conservative view

Associated Press

ASTON, Pa. — Donald Trump rolled out a plan Tuesday aimed at making child care more affordable, guaranteeing new mothers six weeks of paid maternity leave and suggesting new incentives for employees to provide their workers child care. Spurred on by his daughter, Ivanka, Trump waded into topics more often discussed by Democrats.

Trump unveiled the proposals in a speech in a politically critical Philadelphia suburb as he tries to build his appeal with more moderate, independent voters — especially women. Child care is one of the biggest

expenses many American families face, surpassing the cost of college and even housing in many states.

"We need working mothers to be fairly compensated for their work, and to have access to affordable, quality child care for their kids," Trump said in Aston, Pa.

Trump proposed guaranteeing six weeks of paid maternity leave to employees whose employers don't offer leave already. The campaign says the payments would be provided through existing unemployment insurance — though it has yet to spell out how the system would cover those costs.

Trump's Democratic oppo-

nent, Hillary Clinton, has called for 12 weeks' parental leave for both mothers and fathers paid for by taxes on the wealthy.

Trump previously proposed reducing child care costs by allowing parents to fully deduct the average cost of child care from their taxes. On Tuesday, he expanded that proposal to allow families with a stay-at-home parent to qualify for the deduction and to include costs associated with caring for elderly dependent relatives.

The deduction would apply only to individuals earning \$250,000 or less, or \$500,000 or less if filing jointly. But because Trump's proposal is a tax deduction rather than credit,

its greatest benefits would go to affluent households. More than 40 percent of U.S. taxpayers don't make enough money to owe taxes to the federal government, meaning they would not benefit from a deduction. Lower-income earners would receive child care spending rebates through expanding the existing Earned Income Tax Credit, the campaign said.

Trump also proposed incentives for employers to provide child care options at work. But some of his proposals to prod businesses and communities into providing child care and other services are anathema to conservative orthodoxy.

Commander champions airman with TBI

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany For nearly 10 years, Tech. Sgt. David Nafe was largely in the dark as he fought memory loss, migraines, mood swings and stigma.

Nothing was the same after a 2005 blast of incoming mortars at a base in Balad, Iraq, that left no outward injuries. For eight years until his head injury was diagnosed, birthdays were inexplicably forgotten, anniversaries missed and Nafe's job performance suffered.

Now, 11 years later, Nafe's war wound has finally been acknowledged with the Purple Heart, the result of a push from a Stuttgart special operations headquarters that has made the recognition and treatment of traumatic brain injuries among those in its ranks a centerpiece of the command's culture.

"TBI shows how someone can look completely normal on the outside but have injuries that aren't visible," said Nafe, who serves as a communications specialist assigned to Special Operations Command Africa headquarters in Stuttgart. "It's not feeling like yourself all the time anymore, but you can't really point to what it is."

Nafe, 32, was pinned with the Purple Heart during a ceremony Monday by Brig. Gen. Donald Bolduc, head of Africa Command's special operations forces, who summoned his Stuttgart staff to mark the occasion.

Nafe's difficulties match his own battle with a TBI, Bolduc said.

"I know the struggle you have been through personally," Bold-

uc said, turning to face Nafe. "The insidious part of this injury is that you look perfectly normal to everybody else, and they wonder what the heck is wrong with that guy?"

In 2001, Bolduc was a young Green Beret major, part of the first wave of forces into Afghanistan, where he would serve several combat tours. During one of those tours, Bolduc suffered a brain injury in a 2005 helicopter crash. He also suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and has chronic pain from a blast injury that required hip replacement, receiving treatment for both, Bolduc said.

Bolduc's TBI — a 9-millimeter injury to his brain — was diagnosed years later, in 2013.

"When he (Nafe) talks about memory loss, trouble communicating, mood swings, nausea — I had it all," Bolduc said in an interview. "Until you seek treatment for those types of issues, you aren't going to be able to deal with them effectively."

As he addressed his troops assembled to recognize Nafe, Bolduc did what he is often known to do when he travels to the Continent to meet forward-deployed troops in Africa, many of whom have served multiple combat tours over the years. The injuries unseen can be "just as crippling" as any other combat injury and need to be treated, Bolduc told the gathered troops.

"I know that personally because I am not only your commander, I am also a client of the traumatic brain injury clinic" at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, he said.

Such candor from a senior commander was almost unthinkable at the outset of the

wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, where more than 8,000 troops have died and thousands more been injured. Roadside bombs have made catastrophic wounds such as amputations defining battlefield injuries of the era. What also became clear was that the military was struggling to cope with wounds invisible to the naked eye, like TBI and PTSD.

Cases of soldiers' lives spiraling out of control as they wrestled alone with brain injuries grabbed headlines and put a spotlight on the military's medical shortcomings. As suicides in the ranks soared, the Pentagon was forced to confront how it dealt with PTSD and TBI. Gradually, the military's ability to diagnose TBI improved, and in 2011 the military expanded the criteria for the Purple Heart to better ensure the sacrifices of troops with TBI were acknowledged.

When Nafe arrived at SOCAF in 2014, he was quickly connected with the unit's medical team and said he noticed a command culture in which TBI was an issue discussed out in the open.

"Having him (Bolduc) talk about this, it opens the door for more members and people in the community to step up. And if they have the same thing, they can say, 'Hey I need this assistance as well,'" Nafe said.

Posters about TBI and PTSD awareness and programs are taped to the walls inside SOCAF headquarters, in the small command compound on Kelley Barracks. The latest push is to boost awareness for a new trial underway at LRMC studying the treatment of PTSD by injecting a local anesthetic into a group

of nerve cells in the neck, a procedure SOCAF's top doctor has been advocating for two years.

As Bolduc has climbed in rank over the years, he said, he feels compelled to speak out on issues like TBI and PTSD.

"As a senior leader, it is hugely important for me to share that information to minimize the stigma people feel associated with those injuries," he said. "They think people are going to think less of them, or prevent them from going someplace and doing something in the military."

Reservations about opening up also could be more acute in the military's special operational forces, where machismo runs high and talk of unseen injuries may be interpreted as weakness.

On a recent visit with troops in the field, Bolduc quizzed a group of 50 Green Berets as he tried to break through.

How many troops had been exposed to a blast?

"Most hands went up," Bolduc said.

How many had sought a diagnosis or treatment for TBI?

"Nobody's hand went up," Bolduc said.

Those troops, who were operating at an undisclosed location in Africa, were soon dispatched to LRMC, where several members were diagnosed with TBI and put on a program.

"I think the stigma is pretty close to being eliminated," Bolduc said. "There is always someone who is not going to get the word. Not going to be convinced."

"So it is our job to convince people."

USS San Antonio goes to the aid of an ailing sailor

Stars and Stripes

The amphibious transport dock ship USS San Antonio responded to a medical emergency involving a Polish crewmember of a cargo vessel in the Gulf of Aden, the Navy said in a statement Wednesday.

The warship responded to a distress call about 5:30 p.m. Monday, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command said.

The medical team boarded the Liberian-flagged motor vessel Fernando to provide assistance to the crewmember who was then transported to the San Antonio for further medical assistance.

The team determined that the crewmember needed hospital care and coordinated a medical evacuation to a hospital in Oman for treatment.

The San Antonio is one of three ships that make up the Wasp Amphibious Ready Group, which along with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, is deployed to the 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility.

Since 2012, 5th Fleet ships have provided assistance to mariners in distress on more than 30 separate occasions.

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N. Korea: US flyover a bluff

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea—North Korea claims the deployment of two U.S. supersonic bombers over the peninsula was a bluff, warning that such actions were escalating tensions “to the point of explosion.”

The powerful B-1B Lancers, flanked by U.S. and South Korean fighter jets, flew over Osan Air Base south of Seoul on Tuesday in a show of force and solidarity with Seoul four days after the North conducted its fifth and most powerful nuclear test.

Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of U.S. Forces Korea and the combined forces, called the test an “unacceptable threat” and said the bombers were just one example of the “deep arsenal” available to defend the peninsula.

North Korea said Wednesday the flyover was the latest example of what it calls imperialist plans for a pre-emptive attack. It also pointed to the latest round of annual U.S.-South Korean war games, which it considers a rehearsal for an invasion.

“They are bluffing that B-1Bs are enough for fighting an all-out nuclear war,” it said in a statement carried on the state-run news agency. “These extremely reckless provocations of the U.S. imperialist warmongers are pushing the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the point of explosion hour by hour.”

The B-1B was originally designed for nuclear capabilities

but switched to an exclusively conventional combat role in the mid-1990s, according to Boeing’s website.

The Korean Central News Agency report also warned that North Korea’s army has “all means for military counteraction to beat back any aggression and provocation at a single blow.”

North Korea frequently responds to U.S.-South Korean actions with bellicose statements that can border on comical. But the situation on the peninsula has grown increasingly tense. Friday’s underground blast was recorded as magnitude-5.3 and had the explosive power of at least 10 kilotons, far larger than previous blasts, according to preliminary findings.

North Korea also said it has the ability to produce nuclear warheads in significant numbers and mount them on strategic ballistic missiles.

Experts believe Pyongyang is years away from being able to effectively deploy a nuclear-tipped intercontinental missile that could reach the continental U.S.

But nuclear researcher Siegfried Hecker, who has visited North Korea’s nuclear facilities in the past, wrote on the 38 North website that the communist state may have sufficient fissile material to have about 20 bombs by the end of this year and add seven more per year. He also said the North appears to have nuclear warheads that can be mounted on some short-range and possibly medium-range missiles.

Russia says separating rebels from ‘terrorists’ is key for Syrian peace

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Russia said Wednesday that separating Syrian rebels from “terrorists” is a “key task” to ensure that the Russia-U.S.-brokered cease-fire continues to hold in Syria, where a relative calm has prevailed since the truce went into effect two days ago.

The cease-fire deal was reached over the weekend after marathon negotiations between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Underscoring the complexity of the new arrangement, the deal was not made public in its entirety even as it came into effect at sunset Monday.

By midday Wednesday, there were no reports of major violations of the agreement, which calls on all parties to hold their fire, allowing only for airstrikes against the Islamic State group and al-Qaida’s affiliate in Syria, known currently as Jabah Fatah al-Sham. One of Syria’s most powerful factions, Jabhat Fatah al-Sham’s battlefield alliance with other insurgent groups makes it difficult for the U.S. to target them without the danger of inflicting harm to other opposition groups.

The agreement is also to allow for humanitarian aid to

reach besieged areas, with the rebel-held part of the northern city of Aleppo as a priority.

However, some 20 trucks carrying U.N. aid and destined for rebel-held eastern Aleppo remained Wednesday in the customs area on the border with Turkey “because of lack of de facto assurances of safe passage by all parties,” Jens Laerke, deputy spokesperson for the U.N. office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs told The Associated Press in an email.

The trucks are carrying mostly food items, and are destined for the residents of eastern Aleppo, estimated at 250,000. Details of who is to distribute the aid are also still being worked out.

Meanwhile, Syrian state media reported violations of the cease-fire in central Homs, saying that rebels fired mortar rounds Wednesday in a rural part of the province. A day earlier, the government said rebels had targeted the Castello road, the only remaining artery by which aid reaches the eastern, rebel section of Aleppo.

For their part, opposition forces said they had recorded some 28 various violations by government troops on Tuesday.

Decommissioned frigate sunk as part of Valiant Shield

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

A decommissioned guided-missile frigate went down in about 30,000 feet of water Tuesday during a SINKEX drill connected to Valiant Shield exercises underway near Guam.

A number of Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps ships and air squadrons used gunfire and air-to-surface missiles to sink the USS *Rentz*, which was

retired in 2014 after nearly 30 years of service, a Navy statement said.

“This exercise provided an important opportunity for realistic at-sea training with live ordnance in a blue water environment,” Rear Adm. Brian S. Hurley, the U.S. Pacific Fleet Valiant Shield exercise lead, said in the statement. “This event refined our ability to work together seamlessly as a joint force to achieve a very

specific training objective.”

Rentz is credited with intercepting 14,000 pounds of cocaine during narcotics operations in 2003 and with the rescue of 90 Ecuadorian citizens from a distressed ship in 2005.

Many servicemembers and veterans shared their sadness about the *Rentz*’ demise in a Facebook group dedicated to the frigate.

“The *Rentz* was by far the greatest command I have ever

been a part of, and was very good to me,” a commenter said. “Many of my happiest Navy memories transpired within the skin of that ship.”

Former Navy vessels used in sinking exercises undergo rigorous cleaning to minimize environmental impact, and the area where the ship went down is thoroughly surveyed to ensure marine life will not be harmed, the statement said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

DA: Ex-cop accused of assault has violent past

PA PITTSBURGH — The district attorney said a fired Pittsburgh police officer awaiting trial on state charges he wrongly beat a drunken fan at a high school football championship game at Heinz Field last year has repeatedly used more force than necessary.

Allegheny County prosecutors said Stephen Matakovich used more than the minimum force necessary 56 times since 2011, including when he beat up a stadium security guard who was trying to break up a fight in December 2014.

The former sergeant faces trial next month in the November 2015 beating and arrest of Gabriel Despres, which has also resulted in criminal federal civil rights charges. County prosecutors want to use evidence of Matakovich's prior "bad acts" and detailed them in a pretrial motion filed Monday.

2 teens steal loader, lead officers on chase

ME LEWISTON — Authorities in Maine said two teenagers stole a front-end loader, led police on a chase and hit two cars on a highway before officers stopped the vehicle by shooting at its tires.

Lewiston police responded to a call early Monday to assist authorities in trying to stop a bucket loader that had been reported stolen.

Police said the driver refused to stop and swerved at police cruisers several times, eventually hitting one. The officer wasn't injured.

Police said the operator drove the wrong way on a one-way street and later deliberately struck a passenger car on the Maine Turnpike. They said an

officer fired three shots at the loader's tires, and the operator stopped.

Two 14-year-old boys were taken into custody. Police are still determining what charges they will face.

Man arrested in death of sheriff's deputy

KS OLATHE — The Johnson County sheriff says federal immigration authorities have placed a detainer on the man charged in the death of a sheriff's deputy killed when a pickup slammed into his patrol car during a traffic stop.

Adrian Espinosa-Flores, of Kansas City, Kan., is being held in Johnson County on \$2 million bond after being charged Monday with involuntary manslaughter/DUI in the death Sunday of Master Deputy Brandon Collins. Collins was making a traffic stop at the time.

Sheriff Frank Denning said Tuesday that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement placed a detainer on Espinosa-Flores.

He said the detainer is a request to local law enforcement agencies to hold a person for possible deportation once they've gone through the court system. Denning said the detainer also means Espinosa-Flores won't be released on bond.

Literal shotgun wedding: Couple marries at club

NY DEWITT — A New York couple has taken the idea of a shotgun wedding literally: They married at a shooting club five years to the day after they first met at a trap-shooting competition.

The Post-Standard, of Syracuse, reported that Lynn Mapstone, 36, donned her wedding

dress after outshooting Peter Derrigo, 47, at Sunday's shoot off at the DeWitt Fish and Game Club.

The two met at the club during a local trap-shooting league's annual championship shoot-off tournament.

It was Mapstone's idea to have a shotgun wedding at the same place and on the same day that they met.

Man gets 11 years for \$4.8M gold bar heist

FL MIAMI — A Florida man was sentenced Monday to more than 11 years in prison for helping plot and carry out the sophisticated armed robbery of gold bars valued at \$4.8 million from a truck that was stopped using remote-control devices along a remote stretch of Interstate 95 in North Carolina.

U.S. District Judge Joan Leonard said at a hearing that the actions of Adalberto Perez, 46, and two accomplices were "horrific" and sentenced Perez at the high end of federal guidelines following his guilty plea to theft and firearms charges.

According to court documents, the thieves installed a GPS tracking device on the TransValue Inc. tractor-trailer carrying a shipment of gold, silver and other metals from Miami-based Republic Metals to a processing plant in Bridgewater, Mass., on March 1, 2015.

The robbers also had secretly installed pepper spray canisters inside the truck's cab that could be set off by remote control. When the tractor-trailer reached a dark area along I-95 in Wilson County, N.C., the noxious gas coming through a hole in the cab's floor sickened the two TransValue employees inside.

Man found in basement by K-9 after wild chase

CA SANTA ANA — An armed suspect accused of leading police on a wild chase was arrested after being dragged from a family's basement by a police dog.

The Orange County Register reported that the 30-year-old suspect was arrested on suspicion of having a loaded firearm, drug possession, evading police and felony hit and run Friday.

Police said the suspect refused to stop when they tried to pull him over Friday evening and instead sped off. While fleeing, the suspect drove through a Santa Ana festival celebrating the independence of several Latin American countries, eventually crashing into a stage, which collapsed, injuring a 17-year-old boy.

The suspect continued to flee before crashing in a residential neighborhood and hiding in the attic, where he was found.

Police: Driver ran over woman multiple times

TX HOUSTON — Houston police said the driver of a pickup ran over a woman multiple times in an apartment complex parking lot.

Police Sgt. Joshua Horn told the Houston Chronicle the woman was run over late Sunday night. Police are searching for the driver. Police say the woman, who suffered cuts and head trauma, was taken to a hospital in critical condition with life-threatening injuries.

Witnesses told investigators the driver of the small pickup ran over the woman, drove to another part of the parking lot, revved his engine and ran over her again. He then reversed and ran over her a third time. Finally, he sped out of the parking lot, running over her again.

From wire reports

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Buckeyes' running game faces big test

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State coach Urban Meyer admittedly worries about everything, and near the top of the list this week is how the Buckeyes are going to run the ball Saturday against Oklahoma's huge and experienced defensive front.

After breaking school records for offense in its first game, No. 3 Ohio State (2-0) started slow last week against Tulsa and didn't get the train back on the tracks until the second half. Meyer knows the Buckeyes can't afford a slow start against the No. 14 Sooners, especially when it comes to establishing the run against their heavy, run-stuffing defensive linemen Charles Walker (6-foot-2, 304 pounds), Jordan Wade (6'3", 311) and Matt Dimon (6'2", 270).

"You have to be really on your target to run the football on them," Meyer said. "They're big, gigantic guys inside. Very

similar to Alabama defensive line. And obviously skilled secondaries. So I just think they're the whole package."

Ohio State redshirt freshman tailback Mike Weber has shown signs of brilliance in the first two games of his career, piling up 136 yards on 19 carries against Bowling Green and 92 yards on 17 carries in the victory over Tulsa. H-backs Curtis Samuel — perhaps the most valuable offensive player for Ohio State through two games — and Dontre Wilson also will test the Oklahoma front, not to mention fleet, slippery quarterback J.T. Barrett.

"I'm not worried by any means," center Pat Elflein said of the offensive line establishing the ground game. "We had a lot of stuff thrown at us (defensively) last week, and I think it was good to get some experience with that stuff. So I'm sure Oklahoma will see that, too, try to throw some of that stuff at us and catch us off balance a little bit. I think it was good we

saw all that with how young we are."

Of the Sooners' defensive front, Elflein said: "They're big, they're good with their hands, they play hard. Big strong dudes in there."

Ohio State defensive coordinator Greg Schiano said the real season starts Saturday.

"This is definitely a step up in athleticism we're going against," Schiano said. "It's no disrespect to the first two teams, this is big boy football now."

Elflein said preparations already feel different.

"You've always looked ahead to this game," he said. "You've seen it on the schedule, and now it's here. We know what the task is, and we know we're going down there at night, a big-time showdown, so it's a different feeling for sure."

Injury report. Meyer said linebacker Dante Booker, who injured a knee in the Bowling Green game, is probable for Oklahoma. He didn't play

against Tulsa.

Defensive backs on the rise:

Cornerback Marshon Lattimore was named the national Walter Camp Defensive Player of the Week for his performance against Tulsa. He intercepted two passes, including a 40-yard return for a touchdown with 33 seconds left in the first half to make it 20-3 and give the Buckeyes some breathing room going into halftime. Safety Malik Hooker leads the FBS with three interceptions. He also had a pick six last week.

The Ohio State connection.

Meyer said he's already talked to Tom Herman, the former Ohio State offensive coordinator who's now the Houston coach, about how to attack Oklahoma. Herman's Cougars upset the Sooners in the opening week, 33-23. The loss dropped Oklahoma out of the top 10. Meyer said the discussions centered on Oklahoma's defensive personnel.

Level of competition goes up for No. 10 Louisville

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The eye-popping statistics No. 10 Louisville put up in its first two games of the season doesn't mean there aren't areas the Cardinals can and need to improve on.

And they'll need to play better as the competition will step up this week.

Gaining big yardage and putting up a lot of points will be much harder for the Cardinals (2-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) in Saturday's nationally televised showdown against No. 2 Florida State (2-0, 0-0). Louisville knows that and is working to correct the flaws masked by those gaudy numbers against Charlotte and Syracuse.

Despite gaining a school record 845 yards and scoring at least 60 points for the second straight game, Louisville left last Friday's 62-28 throttling

of Syracuse with room for improvement. The Cardinals dropped passes, lost two of six fumbles and allowed some big plays along with 426 yards.

Coach Bobby Petrino blamed some of the drops on a lack of concentration and others on the receivers' ongoing process of developing timing with dual-threat sophomore quarterback Lamar Jackson. The coach also lamented some defensive lapses but noted how the unit made key plays when needed against the Orange.

The Cardinals may not have to be perfect against the Seminoles, but Petrino said there's little room for error.

"We do have to limit our turnovers, we have to take care of the football and we have to not hurt ourselves," Petrino said Monday. "I think that's the biggest thing, to not hurt ourselves."

Fortunately for Louisville,

mistakes have been minimal while winning its first two games by a 132-42 margin. High scoring has always been one of Petrino's priorities, so lighting up the scoreboard hasn't been a shock.

"We want to wear you out as much as we can and we're having fun doing it," said wide receiver Jamari Staples, who leads Louisville with 219 yards but is still looking for his first touchdown. "It's not arrogance, it's just something we like doing."

Offensively, the Cardinals believe they're just getting started.

That's saying something considering Louisville's offense averages a nation-leading 754 yards per game and ranks third in yards per play at 9.9. Jackson has already rushed and passed for 1,025 yards and 13 touchdowns — including his much-celebrated hurdle over a

Syracuse defender en route to a TD.

As dangerous as Jackson has been with his arm, quick feet and athleticism, Petrino has been pleased with the QB's decision-making and inclusion of multiple targets.

"Lamar is smart with the ball," said Florida State defensive tackle Derrick Nnadi, adding that Jackson is faster than Mississippi quarterback Chad Kelly. "When there are times he has to make a play he is going to carry it. Chasing him down is more like a running back. Last year he was more in the pocket."

As Louisville looks to Jackson to gain an edge against the Seminoles, the trick will be holding it after losing halftime leads versus Florida State the past two years. The Seminoles showed their knack for comebacks as they rallied from a 28-6 hole to beat Ole Miss 45-34.

Broncos refute claims of dirty defense

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Nasty, hard-hitting, wicked. Sure. But dirty? No way, say the Denver Broncos.

“I just don’t think that’s what we are,” linebacker Todd Davis said. “We’re not malicious. We don’t intentionally go to hurt anybody. We just play hard. We play physical.”

What about all those helmet-to-helmet hits on Cam Newton in the NFL’s season-opening game, then?

“Just because we hit Cam in the head a couple of times, that doesn’t make us dirty,” insisted linebacker Brandon Marshall, who had one of four helmet-to-helmet hits on Carolina’s quarterback in the Broncos’ 21-20 win over the Panthers on Thursday.

The brutality of the game sparked debates over league safety, sideline concussion protocol, the ability of Newton to survive, much less continue to thrive, as a read-option quarterback, and yes, whether Denver’s devastating defense crossed the line from dominant to dirty.

Although none of the helmet hits on Newton, the NFL’s Most Valuable Player last season, resulted in penalty yardage and none got him checked for a concussion, Marshall said he’s expecting a letter in his locker Wednesday informing him of

a hefty fine.

Safety Darian Stewart, whose helmet-to-helmet hit left Newton motionless on the ground in the game’s final minute, is bracing for such a letter, too. His hit drew a flag but it was negated by intentional grounding.

The other helmet-to-helmet hits came from Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Von Miller and cornerback Bradley Roby, who was fined \$24,309 for his illegal hit on Rams receiver Duke Williams in an Aug. 27 exhibition game — a sizable forfeiture given that NFL veterans make \$1,900 a week in the preseason.

Marshall said what he considers a dirty play is “stepping on somebody’s ankle at the bottom of a pile, twisting somebody around, something like that. We just play hard. We hit hard. We play fast. ... It’s the speed of the game. We’re a malicious group, but we’re not dirty.”

Marshall said the word dirty should only be used when a team deliberately breaks the rules. He said he meant to hit Newton hard but not in the head, and Stewart said he thought he led with his shoulder on his big hit.

Broncos coach Gary Kubiak also dismissed the notion of his defense being dirty, saying, “We play hard. We’re going

to continue to play hard.”

Kubiak called Newton the league’s best player and said when he leaves the pocket, “you better tackle him like a (running) back.”

Denver cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said nobody should have been surprised that the Broncos clobbered Newton the way they did.

“We’re getting called dirty? Did they not watch the 2015 Broncos? They act like they’ve never seen us play,” Harris said. “That’s how we won the Super Bowl.”

The Broncos crossed the line aplenty last season, when they were the league’s most heavily fined team, and “we’ll be fined again,” Harris said.

He wondered whether the Panthers guards would also face fines for their actions Thursday. Trai Turner drew a 15-yard taunting penalty for getting in the cornerback’s face after Harris surrendered Kevin Benjamin’s TD in the first half. And Andrew Norwell drew a 15-yard unnecessary roughness flag for jumping on Harris after his fourth-quarter interception.

“So, can you not say they were targeting me?” Harris asked. “I could have broken my ribs with a 300-pound guy jumping on top of me.”

NFL pledges \$100M to stymie head injuries

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL says it will spend an additional \$100 million to develop new technology and support more medical research into the growing problem of head injuries.

Commissioner Roger Goodell announced the “Play Smart. Play Safe” initiative in an open letter Wednesday.

He wrote: “When it comes to addressing head injuries in our game, I’m not satisfied, and neither are the owners of the NFL’s 32 clubs. We can and will do better.”

Under the initiative, \$60 million will be devoted toward developing technology such as improved helmets and \$40 million will be allotted for medical research.

The NFL and its partners already are spending \$100 million on research and technology. De-

spite that, the league has been heavily criticized in its handling of head trauma. It reached a settlement that will pay about \$1 billion over 65 years to more than 20,000 retired players.

Saints release running back Spiller

METAIRIE, La. — The New Orleans Saints have released running back C.J. Spiller, who signed a four-year, \$16 million free agent contract just last season.

Spiller was a healthy scratch Sunday, when the Saints opened the regular season with a 35-34 loss to Oakland.

When the Saints acquired Spiller, they hoped his versatility and his speed would allow him to fill roles similar to those of ex-Saints Reggie Bush and Darren Sproles.

Spiller needed arthroscopic

knee surgery and has contributed relatively little to New Orleans’ prolific offense.

Hackers leak medical data for Biles, Venus

GENEVA — Confidential medical data of gold medal-winning gymnast Simone Biles, seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams and other female U.S. Olympians was hacked from a World Anti-Doping Agency database and posted online Tuesday.

WADA said the hackers were a “Russian cyber espionage group” called Fancy Bears.

They revealed records of “Therapeutic Use Exemptions” (TUEs), which allow athletes to use otherwise-banned substances because of a verified medical need.

Williams, who won a silver medal in mixed doubles at the

Rio Olympics last month, issued a statement in which she said she was granted TUEs “when serious medical conditions have occurred,” and those exemptions were “reviewed by an anonymous, independent group of doctors, and approved for legitimate medical reasons.”

Williams revealed in 2011 she had been diagnosed with Sjogren’s syndrome, an energy-sapping disease.

In a statement, USA Gymnastics said Biles — who won five medals, four gold, in Rio — was approved for an exemption and had not broken any rules.

She wrote on Twitter that she’s taken medication to treat ADHD since she was a child.

“Please know I believe in clean sport, have always followed the rules, and will continue to do so as fair play is critical to sport and is very important to me,” Biles posted.

Arms doom Giants in ninth inning

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Giants' bullpen had another tough night and squandered a chance to close in on the NL West lead.

Ryan Schimpf hit a go-ahead three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning, and San Francisco's relievers gave up a lead and chance to gain ground on the division-leading Dodgers in a 6-4 loss to the San Diego Padres on Tuesday night.

"It's a punch in the stomach," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "You've got to bounce back."

Hunter Strickland (3-3) started the ninth and allowed two runs, three singles and a bases-loaded walk to Wil Myers, then Steven Okert entered to try to get the final out. Schimpf clobbered the fourth offering and

sent it into the center-field bleachers for his 19th homer.

Jake Smith (1-0) pitched the eighth for his first career victory after San Diego claimed him from the Giants in July, then Kevin Quackenbush finished for his second save as some Giants fans booed.

"Schimpf really did all the work. I just threw up a zero," said Smith, who was once on the grounds crew for the Giants' Class A Augusta affiliate.

Okert offered no excuses. He was ready to go despite the short notice to warm up.

"It's September, we're in the playoff race, you're checked in the whole game," he said.

There were two bloopers and a ground-ball Buster Posey stopped at first base only to have the ball ricochet off his glove on a failed play. The Giants blew their sixth

save in 10 September opportunities.

Angel Pagan homered leading off the fifth and Gorkys Hernandez also homered for the Giants, who stayed four games back of NL West-leading Los Angeles after the Dodgers lost earlier at the New York Yankees. San Francisco remained percentage points ahead of the Mets for the top NL wild-card spot.

Hunter Pence hit a run-scoring double and Brandon Crawford had an RBI single for San Francisco, which will host St. Louis for a four-game weekend set and still must play six with the Dodgers among the final 18 games of the season.

"That's just buzzard luck that inning for Strick early," Bochy said. "Up until that inning it couldn't have gone better."

Orioles top BoSox, cut gap in AL East

Associated Press

BOSTON — One night after being embarrassed in the series opener, Baltimore overpowered Boston this time and preserved the jumble of teams contending for the AL East.

J.J. Hardy hit a three-run homer and Nolan Reimold added a two-run shot later in the second as Baltimore beat Boston 6-3 Tuesday night and pulled within two games of the division-leading Red Sox.

Jonathan Schoop added a solo homer in the ninth for the Orioles, who evened the series after getting rocked 12-2 Monday in the opener. With Toronto's 6-2 loss to Tampa Bay, the Orioles pulled even with the Blue Jays for second in the division and tied for the two AL wild-card berths.

"We get a chance to win another series on the road, which is something we knew we were going to have to do," manager Buck Showalter said.

Orioles rookie Dylan Bundy (9-5) survived a rocky second inning and pitched into the sixth, holding Boston to three runs on six hits over 5¹/₃ innings.

"The second inning was probably one of the keys to the game," Showalter said. "He didn't let it get away from him."

Zach Britton pitched a scoreless ninth for his 42nd save.

Xander Bogaerts homered for Boston, which had won five of six and missed a chance to gain a little space in the crowded field of division leaders with just 18 games remaining.

The Red Sox had as many hits as the Orioles, both finishing with nine, but Boston was woeful with runners on base. The Red Sox were 1-for-10 with runners in scoring position and left nine runners on base.

"Five runs in Fenway Park is nothing. We didn't think that was going to be enough to win tonight," said Travis Shaw, who was 3-for-4 and scored a run for Boston. "Unfortunately, offensively, there was a couple times we had guys in scoring position and we just didn't come up with the hits."

Cardinals 4, Cubs 2: Brandon Moss broke out of a lengthy slump with a tiebreaking home run and Aledmys Diaz connected in his return to the starting lineup, leading host St. Louis over Chicago.

The Cardinals ensured that the runaway Cubs won't clinch the NL Central at Busch Stadium. Chicago's magic number is three, and the series in St. Louis wraps up Wednesday.

Mariners 8, Angels 0: Taijuan Walker pitched a three-hit-

ter for his first career shutout as visiting Seattle won its season-high seventh straight.

Yankees 3, Dodgers 0: Jacoby Ellsbury and Didi Gregorius came off the bench and hit back-to-back homers in the seventh inning, sending the host Yankees over the NL West leaders.

Rangers 3, Astros 2: Jurickson Profar hit a tiebreaking single and visiting AL West-leading Texas rallied for two runs in the ninth inning.

Rays 6, Blue Jays 2: — Drew Smyly pitched 5²/₃ innings to remain unbeaten at Rogers Centre, Alexei Ramirez and Steven Souza Jr. hit home runs and Tampa Bay stopped Toronto.

Adrian Beltre led off the second with his 30th homer for Texas (87-59). Beltre fell to a knee after swinging, but his towering shot traveled all the way to the Crawford Boxes in left.

Mets 4, Nationals 3 (10): T.J. Rivera hit his first major league home run, connecting for the visiting Mets in the 10th off Washington closer Mark Melancon.

Twins 8, Tigers 1: Jorge Polanco homered and drove in four runs and Brian Dozier added three more hits to his torrid second half for visiting Minnesota.

Athletics 5, Royals 4: Pinch hitter Yonder Alonso delivered a two-run double in the eighth inning to rally visiting Oakland.

White Sox 8, Indians 1: Todd Frazier and Carlos Sanchez each drove in two runs in a seven-run sixth inning and host Chicago handed AL Central-leading Cleveland its second straight lopsided loss.

Marlins 7, Braves 5: Ichiro Suzuki scored two runs and drove in another in the 900th multihit game of his career and visiting Miami boosted its fading wild-card hopes. Miami is five games out of a playoff spot.

Pirates 5, Phillies 3: Sean Rodriguez had a pinch-hit three-run homer in the ninth inning to lift visiting Pittsburgh.

Reds 6, Brewers 4: Joey Votto homered and drove in two runs, Dan Straily pitched a career-high eight innings and host Cincinnati took advantage of some sloppy Milwaukee fielding for its fifth straight win.

Diamondbacks 11, Rockies 4: Jean Segura homered twice and Brandon Drury added his second homer in two nights to lead host Arizona.

Segura hit solo shots off starter Jorge De La Rosa (8-8) in the first and fourth innings, setting a career high with his 13th and 14th homers.