

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Iraqi forces begin move to regain Mosul

Associated Press

KHAZER, Iraq — Columns of Iraqi and Kurdish forces backed by U.S.-led airstrikes slowly advanced on Mosul from several directions on Monday, launching a long-awaited operation to retake Iraq's second-largest city from the Islamic State group.

As airstrikes sent plumes of smoke into the air and heavy artillery rounds rumbled, troops pushed into abandoned farming villages on the flat plains outside the city. But they were slowed by roadside bombs and suicide car and truck bombs hurled at them by the militants.

The unprecedented operation is expected to take weeks, even months. Although some of the forces are less than 20 miles from Mosul's edges, it was not clear how long it will take to reach the city itself. Once there, they have to fight their way into an urban environment where more than 1 million people still

live.

Aid groups have warned of a mass exodus of civilians that could overwhelm refugee camps.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the start of the operations on state television, launching the country's toughest battle since American troops withdrew from Iraq nearly five years ago.

"These forces that are liberating you today, they have one goal in Mosul, which is to get rid of Daesh and to secure your dignity," al-Abadi said, addressing the city's residents and using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. "God willing, we shall win."

Mosul fell to the Islamic State group in the summer of 2014 as the militants swept over much of the country's north and central areas. Weeks later, the head of the extremist group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, announced the formation of a self-styled

caliphate in Iraq and Syria from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque.

If successful, the liberation of Mosul would be the biggest blow yet to the Islamic State group. Al-Abadi pledged the fight for the city would lead to the liberation of all Iraqi territory from the militants this year.

In Washington, Defense Secretary Ash Carter called the launch of the Mosul operation "a decisive moment in the campaign" to defeat the Islamic State group. The U.S. is providing airstrikes, training and logistical support, but insists Iraqis are leading the charge.

More than 25,000 troops will be involved in the operation, launching assaults from five directions, according to Iraqi Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil. The troops include elite special forces who are expected to lead the charge into the city, as well as Kurdish forces, Sunni tribal fighters, federal police and state-sanctioned Shiite militias.

The Kurdish forces, known as peshmerga, advanced in long columns of armored vehicles followed by hundreds of pickup trucks on a cluster of some half-dozen villages east of the city on Monday.

Airstrikes and heavy artillery pounded the squat, dusty buildings. The area — historically home to religious minorities brutally oppressed by the militants — was almost completely empty of civilians, allowing air power to do much of the heavy lifting.

But Lt. Col. Mohammad Darwish said the main roads and fields were littered with homemade bombs and that suicide car bomb attacks slowed progress.

Fighters entered the villages in Humvees but did not get out of their vehicles because it was too dangerous, a Peshmerga major said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to brief the press.

Activists: Airstrikes in Aleppo province kill at least 36

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Airstrikes on rebel-held areas in the northern province of Aleppo, Syria, on Monday killed at least 36 people, including children, opposition activists said, as violence in Syria continued while a major operation began against the Islamic State group in neighboring Iraq.

Most of the deaths were in the village of Oweijel, just west of the city of Aleppo, where at least 23 people were killed in an airstrike that also wounded dozens, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Another monitoring group, the Local Coordination Committees, said the air raid was carried out by Russian warplanes and put the death toll at 30.

More than a dozen people were also killed in a besieged eastern rebel-held neighborhood in Aleppo. The eastern parts of the city, Syria's largest, have been subjected in recent weeks to the worst aerial attacks

in years. The airstrikes have claimed hundreds of lives, wounded many others and demolished entire buildings. Opposition activists have blamed Russian and Syrian government warplanes for the strikes.

The Observatory said Monday's airstrikes hit in the Marjeh neighborhood. The Aleppo Media Center, an activist collective, said those killed included 11 people with the same family name of Qabs, ranging from a month-old girl to a 25-year-old man.

There have been concerns the government in Damascus could press its onslaught in Aleppo while world attention is diverted to developments in Iraq.

Also Monday, Syrian state media claimed 49 rebels were killed and wounded in fighting in neighborhoods on the southern edges of Aleppo.

In the nearby province of Idlib, a U.S.-led coalition drone struck a car, killing all inside, according to the Observatory and a jihadi official.

No Russia sanctions from EU

LUXEMBOURG — The European Union urged Russia to bring an end to the bombing of Aleppo in Syria but refrained from imposing any sanctions on Moscow.

At a regular meeting of foreign ministers from the EU's 28 member states Monday, several said sanctions would have no impact and could even be counterproductive in the search for an overall settlement.

"At present, I don't see how sanctions, with a possible long-term effect, are supposed to contribute to improving supplies to the civilian population," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said. "So I am not the only one who, in this case, is rather skeptical about sanctions."

Russia has been heavily involved along with the Syrian regime in the onslaught of Aleppo over the past few weeks.

From The Associated Press

Servicemembers with Haiti ties give aid

BY DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Vladimir Massillon was in college in the U.S. in 2010 when a powerful earthquake struck this place where he was born.

His mother was safe. But one of his cousins had been standing outside his home in the capital with his wife and two of his six children when the quake struck, collapsing the house and killing their four children inside — just beyond their reach.

Massillon, 29, who was born in the U.S. to Haitian parents but grew up in Haiti, watched from afar as the U.S. military helped his homeland and it left an impact on him. “They were helping a lot of people and really enjoying what they were doing,” he said.

A year later, he joined the U.S. Navy.

Two weeks ago, as Hurricane Matthew tore its way through the Caribbean and up the coast of Florida, Massillon made sure his wife and two children were safely evacuated from their home in Jacksonville. Then he joined the military relief effort in Port-au-Prince, part of a small cadre of Haitian servicemembers who volunteered.

Massillon has remained in the capital, his language skills needed to translate conversations between military and Navy officials. It isn’t high-profile work, but he is satisfied knowing he was here, helping, he said.

“No matter where I go or what I do, I think this is going to be the highlight of my career,” he said. “Because I was able to help the country that molded

me into the person with the values I have today. Just to be able to be part of this effort made my day.”

Since days after the Oct. 4 hurricane hit Haiti, the U.S. military has been operating an emergency response mission out of the international airport in Port-au-Prince, using its helicopters and logistics to help ferry U.S. Agency for International Development relief supplies to the hardest hit parts of the country.

In that time, the operations involving all four branches of the U.S. military have flown 212 hours and delivered more than 507,000 pounds of supplies to the stricken southwest peninsula, where Hurricane Matthew cleared miles of trees, flooded roads, destroyed homes and left 1.4 million people in need of assistance.

As those efforts wind down and the military shifts the remainder of its relief mission to a Navy ship offshore, Haitian servicemembers reflected on what it meant to them to be part of the response in a country so close to their hearts.

Staff Sgt. Vladimir Dorcelus, 35, a Marine reservist in Combat Logistics Battalion 23, was born in Florida, but raised in Haiti. His language skills were also needed in Port-au-Prince, but he went on one delivery flight to the fingertip of the southwest peninsula. Seeing the destruction was hard.

“It was actually devastating just looking at it,” he said. “You feel so bad.”

“At the same time, it was refreshing, because the people were so happy. It made me feel better. It made me not take anything for granted.”

Navy in 1st phase of rate revamp

BY TYLER HLAVAC
AND CHRIS CHURCH
Stars and Stripes

The Navy has released a timeline for its Enlisted Rating Modernization plan, which led to widespread confusion about how it would be implemented, emphasizing that changes will be phased in gradually over a number of years.

“While there is rarely a right or perfect time to roll out a plan as significant and ambitious as this rating modernization effort, I firmly believe this change needs to occur, and now is the right time to do so,” Vice Adm. Robert Burke, chief of Naval Personnel, said in a statement Sunday.

The Navy’s plan to implement these changes is a six-phase approach. Since it announced the changes late last month, the Navy has begun to implement phase one, which includes identifying cross-community occupation opportunities, career field groupings and developing

links to civilian career fields.

Phase two, which sees drastic changes in business practices, will include reviews of and revisions to the advancement system, recruiting and pay processes. That phase will run through 2018.

Other changes will be reflected through updated policies and instructions, IT solutions and updated uniform insignia.

“The Navy’s working group on this project will be significantly expanded in the coming months to ensure [sailors] have a voice,” a Navy statement said. “While we have a good path forward, it will take several years to make all the changes to policies and IT systems that currently rely on rating titles and support the way the Navy does business today.”

The Navy’s recent decision to abandon its enlisted ratings system is unpopular with many sailors who feel the changes disregard centuries of the service’s history. An internet petition posted to whitehouse.gov

demanding the return of the traditional rating system had more than 74,000 signatures as of Monday.

The new system groups enlisted sailors into broad occupational specialties, similar to the Army and Marine Corps’ military occupational specialties and the Air Force’s Air Force Specialty Code systems. Enlisted sailors will also be addressed only by their attained military rank, similar to how servicemembers in the other branches are recognized.

Sailors in pay grades E-1 through E-3 will be addressed as seaman. Those in pay grades E-4 through E-6 will be called petty officer third class, second class and first class, respectively. Sailors in the senior enlisted pay grades of E-7 through E-9 will be addressed as chief, senior chief or master chief.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus had ordered the review of Navy titles in January as part of the plan to open all positions to women.

Yokota crash kills airman

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — An airman assigned to the 374th Maintenance Squadron died in a one-vehicle crash early Sunday near the southern overrun of the runway that cuts through the middle of Yokota Air Base.

First responders pronounced Airman 1st Class Isaac Colligan, 21, dead at the scene of the accident, which happened about 2:30 a.m.

An investigation is underway into the cause of the crash.

“Team Yokota is united in supporting Airman 1st Class Colligan’s friends and family,” said Col. Kenneth Moss, the 374th Airlift Wing commander. “His loss leaves a deep scar, but we will come together in this time of mourning, honor and cherish our memories of him and begin the painful process of healing.”

The south overrun was closed until mid-afternoon Sunday.

Marines may be based in Norway

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — The United States and Norway are considering basing a rotational force of up to 300 Marines in the Nordic country, but the measure still requires the approval of the Norwegian parliament, media reports say.

The move would place Marines, who have a long-standing training partnership with their Norwegian counterparts, at a military compound about 700 miles from the Russian-Norwegian border, the newspaper *Adresseavisen* reported.

The plan doesn't call for a permanent basing of U.S. forces in the country. Instead, rotational troops would offer more opportunity for training as well as storage of equipment, defense officials told Norwegian media.

During the Cold War, Norway was extensively used by NATO forces for cold weather

training — surviving and operating in the harsh, freezing conditions. Troops were taught practical skills such as skiing, using snowshoes, and building snow caves, as well as surviving avalanches.

With 300 Marines as a steady presence on the Norwegian frontier, the U.S. troops could serve as a trip-wire force in place to back up Norway in the event of a crisis.

The potential moves come at a time when relations between the West and Russia are at a post-Cold War low. Since Russia's 2014 intervention in Ukraine, the U.S. has sought to beef up its presence along NATO's eastern edge in the Baltics. Next year, the U.S.-led NATO alliance will establish multinational battalions in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland, where a contingent of U.S. Army cavalrymen will serve as the U.S. contribution to the NATO plan.

In Norway, officials have expressed growing concern over Russia.

Last week, Norway unveiled a plan to increase 2017 spending on its armed forces by \$230 million as well as a more comprehensive plan to boost expenditures over 20 years.

The Marines already store tanks, artillery and other armored vehicles in climate-controlled caves in Norway as part of a pre-positioning program that dates to the Cold War. For the Corps, that has cut down on costs when it trains in the region and serves as ready weaponry in the event of a crisis.

For U.S. European Command, building up weapons stockpiles is a key part of its strategy to establish a more combat-ready force. U.S. Army Europe also is moving forward with plans to warehouse tanks, artillery and other fighting vehicles at locations around Europe.

AF wants to train on preserve land in Nev.

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Air Force wants to extend a training area onto a portion of the 1.6 million acres that make up a massive wildlife refuge north of Las Vegas.

Defense Department plans announced in August would expand the Nevada Test and Training Range by more than 300,000 acres.

About 278,000 acres are on part of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, the biggest wildlife refuge in the Lower 48 and Hawaii. About half the 1.6 million acres of the refuge are blocked from the public and controlled by the military.

A public hearing in North Las Vegas on Thursday wraps up a series of meetings to get input from residents, reported the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

Refuge manager Amy Sprunger and her boss, Christy Smith, are worried about the proposal's impact on wildlife and public access. "In the desert, once you damage it, it's done," Smith said.

Sprunger said the refuge is home to as many as 700 bighorn sheep and is one of the few places near the Las Vegas Valley where people can find seclusion.

Air Force civilian project manager Mike Ackerman says the expansion would allow faster, higher-altitude training exercises that more closely resemble real life.

"There's not a whole lot of ground disturbance associated with what the Air Force wants to do," he said. "Less than one-quarter of 1 percent of the ground would be disturbed."

Ackerman said the Air Force is partnering with wildlife officials on the state and federal level to track bighorns in the Sheep Mountains.

He said people will be able to provide more input after the Air Force releases a draft environmental impact statement, likely later this year.

LCS Coronado arrives in Singapore

By ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The littoral combat ship USS Coronado arrived in Singapore on Sunday as Navy officials continue to express confidence in the ship program amid concerns.

The Coronado is the first trimaran-hulled variant of the fast, shallow-draft ships to deploy to Southeast Asia on a two-crew, rotational basis.

"There's a huge amount of demand for the littoral combat ship by every nation out here in terms of exercise and integration," Rear Adm. Don Gabrielson, commander of Task Force 73, told reporters Sunday, according to Bloomberg News.

Coronado takes the place of the USS Fort Worth, which returned to its San Diego homeport Oct. 7 after 23 months away.

Damage to the Fort Worth's propulsion gears while in port in January delayed the ship's return after what was scheduled

to be a 16-month deployment.

The Coronado's deployment is expected to last 14 to 16 months, although that could change based on operational requirements, CTF-73 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Arlo Abrahamson said Monday.

The Coronado's design allows for a larger flight deck than the Fort Worth, giving it the ability to deploy dual MQ-8B Fire Scout unmanned helicopters.

The ship also has an embarked MH-60S Seahawk helicopters, which is a first for an LCS deployed to Singapore.

Coronado, an Independence-class LCS variant, also has a larger fuel capacity than the Freedom-class littoral ships, according to a Navy statement.

The Coronado's surface-warfare package includes two boarding teams, two rigid-hull inflatable boats, two 30 mm machine guns and the helicopters.

It's a design meant for taking on swarms of smaller craft, particularly in nearshore waters where destroyers can't safely navigate.

However, the LCS was also meant to replace the service's aging mine-countermeasure ships and take on an anti-submarine role.

Development testing for the delayed anti-submarine package is now estimated to be completed in 2018, according to a June Congressional Research Service report.

The original mine-countermeasure package included a remote mine-hunting system with "significant reliability issues," according to the CRS report, leaving the Navy to look for other technologies before adding a mine-hunter capability to the littoral ships.

Concerns in Congress and from some in the Pentagon over the ship's survivability led to changes in the LCS program that will build the final 16 of the 40-ship program as heavier frigates.

The frigates won't be relied upon for mine countermeasures but are expected to have more built-in defenses for submarines and aircraft, the CRS said.

Trump lashes out at 'naive' GOP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump lashed out on Monday at Republicans who have tried to tone down his rhetoric about election fraud, calling his party's leaders "so naive" and claiming without evidence that large-scale voter fraud is real.

Trump's claims were part of a Monday morning blast of tweets that took on his party, the women who've accused him of sexual misconduct, the media and Vice President Joe Biden.

The defensive barrage, interrupting a relatively quiet day on the campaign trail, comes as Republicans are under pressure to rebuke Trump's claims that the presidential election is "rigged" in Hillary Clinton's favor. The push reflects growing worries that their nominee's unsubstantiated rhetoric could erode public trust in elections and lead to damaging disputes if he loses.

Trump's running mate, Mike Pence, declared Sunday the ticket will "absolutely accept the results of the election." But Trump seemed to brush back against his vice presidential pick.

"Of course there is large scale voter fraud happening on and before election day. Why do Republican leaders deny what is going on? So naive!" he tweeted Monday.

There is no evidence to back up Trump's claim of widespread voter fraud. A study by a Loyola Law School professor found that out of 1 billion votes cast in all American elections between 2000 and 2014, there were only 31 known cases of impersonation fraud.

Pence and other Republicans have tried to argue that Trump is claiming that media bias is rigging the election in Democrats' favor, particularly in the reporting of allegations by several women that Trump had sexually assaulted them.

Trump pushed back against those women Monday, tweeting: "Can't believe these totally phoney stories, 100% made up by women (many already proven false) and pushed big time by press, have impact!"

In another tweet, Trump linked to a video montage of Biden greeting and hugging women at various events. The Democrat has not been accused

of sexual improprieties, but has raised eyebrows for his lingering or awkward embraces of women.

The tweets abruptly returned the focus to the Republican candidate's list of troubles on an otherwise quiet day on the campaign trail ahead of the final presidential debate Wednesday. Trump was spending much of the day out of sight before campaigning in Green Bay, Wis., on Monday evening. Clinton was slated to spend Monday preparing with advisers near her home in New York.

As the candidate prepares, Clinton's campaign continues to have to answer for the contents of hacked emails being released by the thousands by WikiLeaks. The most recent batch showed Clinton generally avoided direct criticism of Wall Street as she examined the causes and responses to the financial meltdown during a series of paid speeches to Goldman Sachs.

WikiLeaks said Monday that founder Julian Assange's internet access has been cut by an unidentified state actor. Few other details were immediately available.

Local NC GOP office firebombed

Associated Press

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. — Authorities are investigating after a local Republican Party office in North Carolina was vandalized and set on fire in what a state GOP official called an act of "political terrorism."

A bottle filled with flammable liquid was thrown through the window of the Orange County Republican Party headquarters overnight, damaging the interior before burning out, according to a Sunday news release from the town of Hillsborough. The office was empty and no one was injured.

Also, someone spray-painted "Nazi Republicans leave town or else" on a nearby wall.

There were no new developments overnight in the investigation, Hillsborough Police Chief Duane Hampton said in an email Monday morning.

The violent act in the key battleground state has been condemned by public figures across the political spectrum.

A tweet from Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton on Sunday said the attack "is horrific and unacceptable. Very grateful that everyone is safe." An hour later, Trump tweeted, "Animals representing Hillary Clinton and Dems in North Carolina just firebombed our office in Orange County because we are winning."

At a news conference, state GOP executive director Dallas Woodhouse urged Republicans to respond peacefully by turning out to vote in November. He said he'd received messages of support from Democrats.

Democrats also joined a campaign to raise \$10,000 to reopen the GOP office, meeting the goal in less than 40 minutes and "showing that Americans are thirsty for civility and decency, and that we love our democracy above all differences," said the GoFundMe drive's creator, David Weinberger, a researcher at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University.

Comey: Lack of data fuels views on police

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dramatic videos of deadly law enforcement encounters and the absence of reliable data about how often police use force contribute to a regrettable narrative that "biased police are killing black men at epidemic rates," FBI Director James Comey said.

That story line has formed amid a lack of comprehensive, national data about how many citizens are killed or injured at the hands of police officers.

Videos of fatal police encounters that capture the public's attention and are shared broadly across the internet can fuel the perception that "something terrible is being done by the police," even if the data aren't

there to back it up, Comey said Sunday, speaking in San Diego during a gathering of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

"It is a narrative driven by video images of real and gut-wrenching misconduct, by images of possible misconduct, by images of perceived misconduct," Comey said. "It's a narrative given force by the awesome power of human empathy."

Americans "actually have no idea if the number of black people or brown people or white people being shot by police is up, down or sideways over the last three years, five years, 10 years," or if black people are more likely than white people to be shot during police encounters, Comey said.

That narrative creates a

wedge between law enforcement and the public, keeping "good officers in their car" and perhaps causing them to think twice before making a certain traffic stop at midnight, Comey said.

"Our officers see the videos. They desperately do not want to be in one. They think about that all the time," he added.

On the other side of the divide are distrustful community members who stay quiet instead of sharing information with the police after a crime, he said.

"And so into the chasm, into that gap of distrust, fall more dead young black men. In places like Chicago, we know what the chasm looks like and how much pain it causes," the FBI director said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

School apologizes for 'Hitler' football play

CT GREENWICH — The headmaster of a Connecticut high school has apologized after its football team named one of its plays "Hitler."

Chris Winters, of Greenwich High School, issued the apology Friday. He called the designation offensive and said the practice has been stopped.

A Trumbull mother told the Connecticut Post her son's freshman football team was playing Greenwich on Thursday when the players charged onto the field shouting, "Hitler!" Debbie Levison said the signal for the play was an index finger laid across the upper lip.

The football team and coaches met with the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League to make sure they understand why it was offensive.

Workers defiant after death at paving site

IN HOBART — A union spokesman said highway workers are refusing to return to an Interstate 65 construction zone unless a buffer is added after the death of a fellow worker Wednesday.

The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported that the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the death of Brandon Beau Dewayne Fiscus, 35, of LaPorte at the construction site after a motorist lost control and struck him as he worked along I-65.

Ed Maher, of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, said other workers for E&B Paving, of Anderson, have refused to return to work. Indiana Department of Transportation spokesman Matthew Deitchley said the agency and contractor decided to halt work through the weekend in memory of Fiscus.

Judge rebukes state's top election official

FL ORLANDO — A federal judge on Saturday issued a scathing rebuke to Florida's top election official in an order canceling a hearing on a lawsuit over vote-by-mail ballots.

U.S. District Judge Mark Walker accused Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner of delaying a hearing on the lawsuit "so that he could use every second available to run out the clock" so there wouldn't be enough time to address problems raised in the lawsuit. The judge also said Detzner's actions amounted to an "undeclared war" on the right to vote in Florida, the largest swing state in the presidential election.

The judge in Tallahassee said he will make a decision on the lawsuit without a hearing that had been set for Monday.

Memo: Inmate moved for writing to paper

MS GREENWOOD — A Department of Corrections memo shows an inmate was transferred to a separate unit inside the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman for writing a newspaper letter that criticized Corrections Commissioner Marshall Fisher.

The Greenwood Commonwealth reported that it published a letter Sept. 27 from Tim Turner, 52, who's serving a 20-year sentence for a 2012 drug conviction in Itawamba County. Turner's letter said Fisher excessively uses lockdowns and revokes inmates' privileges to try to curb violence and contraband.

The newspaper obtained a memo showing Turner was transferred inside the prison Sept. 30. The memo, signed by Parchman Superintendent

Earnest Lee, cited Turner for writing the letter and said he violated a rule banning "unauthorized communication with any member of the public, staff or between inmates."

Police: Attack might have been recorded

NJ NEWARK — Newark police are seeking a man who is suspected of beating a woman and firing shots at a group of men who apparently captured the attack on video.

Bail was set at \$100,000 for Akim Fairley, 26. He is charged with aggravated assault and two weapons offenses stemming from the incidents Friday.

Witnesses say Fairley was repeatedly punching a woman when he saw the men in a parked car and noticed they apparently were recording the assault with their cellphones. Fairley allegedly fired some shots at the men, who quickly drove away.

Authorities were asking the men to contact them as part of the ongoing investigation.

City: Old template led to threatening tickets

IA CEDAR RAPIDS — The city of Cedar Rapids says staff error led to thousands of wrongly worded traffic-camera speeding tickets being sent to drivers.

Cedar Rapids television station KCRG reported that 4,800 of the tickets include language that threatens the recipient's credit score if the fine isn't paid on time. The city said a staff member accidentally used an old template.

The Iowa Attorney General's Office reached out to the city after it received complaints from people who received the citations from Cedar Rapids. The office says an agreement enacted last year prohibits traffic camera citations from being

sent to collection agencies.

A Cedar Rapids representative said the error has been fixed.

Deputy's misconduct charge is dropped

WA TACOMA — A deputy who was accused of agreeing not to arrest a woman in exchange for sex is no longer facing a felony charge.

The News Tribune reported Deputy Joey Tracey, 35, pleaded not guilty earlier this year to first-degree custodial sexual misconduct and official misconduct.

John Sheeran, of the Pierce County prosecutors' office, said evidence did not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Tracey had sex with the woman while she was detained. The sexual misconduct charged was dropped Oct. 4.

Defense attorney Brad Meryhew said he gave prosecutors text-message conversations between the woman and the deputy that called into question who initiated the contact and whether it was consensual.

Cattle dead after eating battery in feed

IA ALVORD — Officials in the northwestern corner of Iowa said about 40 head of cattle died after eating from a feed wagon that contained a ground-up battery.

The Lyon County Sheriff's Department is investigating the incident at the Alvord farm.

Farmer Joel Moser said about 100 head of cattle have been affected by the tainted feed. He said that about 40 had died.

Sheriff Stewart Vander Stoep said investigators are trying to determine whether the incident was accidental or foul play.

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Ace Kershaw, Dodgers shut out Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — So much for the October closer. With his Dodgers desperate for a win, Clayton Kershaw delivered the best start of his checkered playoff career.

The ace left-hander pitched seven sparkling innings, Adrian Gonzalez homered and Los Angeles beat the Chicago Cubs 1-0 Sunday night to tie the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

Kershaw retired his first 14 batters and allowed just two hits in his first outing since he pitched three times in the NL Division Series, including a two-out save in Game 5 on Thursday night in Washington. The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner struck out six and walked one while throwing just 84 pitches in a brisk outing that could help when he returns later in the NLCS.

“It was one of those games where one pitch could have been the deciding factor,” Kershaw said. “So, really just kind of couldn’t look up for a minute for air and just kind of kept going through it and fortunate to get through it tonight.”

Kenley Jansen then struck out four in two perfect innings for his third save of the play-

offs. The teams combined for just five hits for the lowest total in a playoff game since the Cardinals and Pirates had four in Game 4 of their 2013 NL Division Series.

“I think that you couldn’t have scripted it any better,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “And it was just another fun ballgame.”

Roberts almost went to Jansen with a runner on first and two out in the seventh, but Kershaw argued successfully to stay in the game. Javier Baez then hit a drive to the warning track in deep center, but Joc Pederson was there for the catch.

“He hit it pretty good,” Kershaw said. “And yeah, after Dave came out and that, I kind of talked my way into it. I really wanted to — he was probably not going to trust me again after that, but, fortunately, he hit it at somebody, so it was good.”

Baez’s drive was one of a precious few hard-hit balls for the Cubs. Kershaw was that good.

The Dodgers needed a clutch pitching performance after their heartbreaking 8-4 loss in the series opener. And Kershaw responded with a gem that continued his reputation repair after a handful of playoff duds over the years. He was just 3-6 with a 4.79 ERA in 16 career

postseason games coming into this series.

“I feel like every start he has the chance to be great,” catcher Yasmani Grandal said. “It’s just unbelievable to see him pitch; it’s unbelievable to see him compete.”

Game 3 is Tuesday night in Los Angeles. Cubs right-hander Jake Arrieta, who pitched a no-hitter at Dodger Stadium last August, faces left-hander Rich Hill.

The Cubs lost a 1-0 game in the postseason for the first time since Babe Ruth and the Boston Red Sox blanked them in the 1918 World Series opener.

“Playoffs is always about pitching and defense,” said Miguel Montero, the Game 1 star for the Cubs. “Tonight we played great defense as well and we couldn’t score.”

Chicago, trying for its first pennant in 71 years, wasted a solid start by major league ERA leader Kyle Hendricks, who pitched 5 1/3 innings of three-hit ball in his first outing since he left his Division Series start against San Francisco with a bruised right forearm.

Hendricks’ only mistake was a second-inning fastball that Gonzalez drove over the wall in left-center for his second homer of the playoffs. Gonzalez also

had a tying two-run single in the eighth inning of the series opener, but Montero’s pinch-hit grand slam was the big blow in a dramatic win for Chicago.

A day later, the Cubs couldn’t get anything going against Kershaw.

“He kept the ball off the fat part of our bat,” manager Joe Maddon said. “He threw strikes like he normally does. So despite not having rest, his command and velocity were still good.”

Slumping slugger Anthony Rizzo just missed a home run with a foul drive in the fourth, and then bounced out. Baez and Willson Contreras hit consecutive two-out singles in the fifth for Chicago’s first baserunners, but Jason Heyward fouled out to third.

Nothing seemed to bother Kershaw on a muggy night at Wrigley Field. After Grandal dropped a foul popup in the seventh, Kershaw responded with a wry grin, and then struck out Ben Zobrist.

“I honestly thought with him pitching with a couple of days’ rest, he wasn’t going to be that nasty,” Baez said, “but obviously he came ready for us and he just did his job.”

Harvick advances to next round of Chase

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — After departing the celebration in Victory Lane at Kansas on Sunday, Kevin Harvick reflected on how his Stewart-Haas Racing team always seems to rally when its back is against the wall.

Chase Elliott and Brad Keselowski just may need to follow suit.

Harvick dealt with a mechanical issue a week ago at Charlotte that put him in a big hole heading to the second stop in the Chase’s round of 12. But he rebounded by winning the Sprint Cup race at Kansas, not only locking up his spot in the next round but taking the pressure out of Talladega.

“Things are going to happen,” said Harvick, who also rebounded from a poor Chase opener to win at New Hampshire. “Things can break and you just have to be

able to rebound from them.”

Elliott and Keselowski are in precisely that situation.

While several contenders were busy wrapping up top-10 finishes — Carl Edwards was second, followed by Joey Logano, Charlotte winner Jimmie Johnson, Kyle Busch and Austin Dillon — Elliott and Keselowski had been snared by late-race trouble that leaves them in desperation mode.

Elliott was running near the front when his left rear tire began rubbing on his fender, forcing a stop that left him a lap down. He managed to get back on the lead lap, only to have the same issue with another set of tires that forced him into another unscheduled stop.

He wound up finishing 31st and is now 25 points out of the eighth and final spot

in the next round, which basically turns the unpredictable race at Talladega into a must-win scenario.

“Race our hearts out and try to win, I guess,” he said. “That’s about all we can do.”

Keselowski had a similarly dreadful day. He began wiggling with 78 laps left and Denny Hamlin was unable to check up in time, the gentle tap sending the No. 2 car shooting down the track. He slammed into the grassy turf and tore up the front of his car.

Keselowski wound up 38th, putting him seven points out of the final Chase spot.

“I like Talladega. Talladega has been good to me,” said Keselowski, who has won four times there, including earlier this year.

Seattle tops Atlanta in eventful game

BY TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Matt Ryan dissected the best defense in the NFL for 15 memorable minutes. Richard Sherman unloaded on his teammates with an intense sideline tirade rarely seen in public. And Russell Wilson led another fourth-quarter comeback.

Eventful would be one way to describe Seattle's 26-24 win over Atlanta on Sunday.

But it was also validating. At this point of the season, the Falcons and Seahawks are clearly among the handful of contenders in the NFC.

Yes, both have flaws that were displayed at times in Seattle's win. Both also showed they have the ability to overcome them.

"I like where our team identity is now, so badly that I want the identity to happen right away," Atlanta coach Dan Quinn said. "It's growing stronger, that toughness, that resolve where we can attack in all three phases. That identity, I am pleased we are starting to become."

That sounds like something Seattle coach Pete Carroll might say. But the Seahawks' identity has been proven over time and was shown once again against the Falcons. Wilson led Seattle on a 70-yard touchdown drive midway through the fourth quarter to pull within 24-23. Then it was Richard

Sherman and Earl Thomas teaming up to intercept a pass that slipped through Julio Jones' fingers and set up Steven Hauschka's 44-yard field goal that proved the game-winner.

The victory was Wilson's 20th fourth quarter or overtime comeback. Seattle's been down the path of being in close games in the fourth quarter against good teams and finding a way to pull out a win beginning in Wilson's rookie season. Sunday was the second time in five games this season Wilson led the Seahawks to a go-ahead score in the final 2 minutes.

That would seem to be the next step for the Falcons to learn.

"We had a really nice first half. Then came back when we needed to in the fourth quarter to get the stops we needed to get it done, and we made the one kick we needed to make," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "Very difficult game. Dan's team is playing like crazy. They were hard to beat today."

Here's what else to know from Seattle's victory:

Ripping Ryan: Ryan's third quarter was stunning. He was 13-for-17 for 220 yards and three TDs. Ryan found Jones for a 36-yard score on the first drive of the second half; found Mohamed Sanu on a 10-yard TD; and later connected with Levine Toilolo on a 46-yarder as the Falcons rallied from a 14-point halftime deficit to lead 24-

17 going to the fourth quarter.

"They started making catches, started making deep throws and they made some good plays you have to give them that. That's a real good team over there," Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said.

Here's Jimmy (again): Jimmy Graham continues to show his importance to Seattle's offense.

Graham finished with six catches for 89 yards, his third straight game with six receptions. He nearly became the first player in team history to top 100 yards receiving in three straight games, but fell just short.

It's the first time Graham has caught five or more passes in three straight games since early in the 2014 season, when he was still in New Orleans.

No flag: Atlanta probably has a right to be upset with the decision not to flag Sherman for pass interference on its final offensive play. Replays showed Sherman clearly pulling at Jones' arm on the deep throw before the ball arrived. The Falcons sideline screamed begging for a call, but no flag ever appeared.

Sherman did not believe he got away with one.

"No. I felt like we won the ballgame," he said.

Panthers fall to 1-5 with loss to Saints

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — After Drew Brees broke another NFL record with his latest 400-plus-yard passing performance, he stood on a podium and moved his right hand in an ascending motion while discussing the direction of the New Orleans Saints.

"We want to be on this trajectory," Brees said as he moved his hand up and away from his body. "I feel like we are."

Brees passed for 465 yards and four touchdowns, Wil Lutz kicked a 52-yard field goal with 11 seconds left, and New Orleans pulled out a 41-38 victory.

With his 15th 400-yard game, Brees broke a tie with Peyton Manning for the most all time in the regular season.

Brees also led the Saints (2-3) to a second straight victory while Carolina (1-5) lost its

fourth straight despite the return of quarterback Cam Newton, who missed last week's loss to Tampa Bay because of a concussion.

Giants 27, Ravens 23: Odell Beckham Jr. reined in some of the emotions, the exaggerated behavior, the penalties and on-field feuds. Then he did what he does best — make big plays.

Beckham turned a short fourth-and-1 pass into a winning 66-yard catch and run with 1:24 to play as New York snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over visiting Baltimore.

Chiefs 26, Raiders 10: Spencer Ware ran for a career-high 131 yards and a touchdown and Alex Smith picked apart host Oakland's struggling defense.

Redskins 27, Eagles 20: Kirk Cousins threw for 263 yards and two touchdowns and host Washington ran roughshod over one of the NFL's top

defenses.

Texans 26, Colts 23, OT: Nick Novak made a 33-yard field goal in overtime to give Houston a comeback victory over visiting Indianapolis.

Bills 45, 49ers 16 LeSean McCoy scored three times and host Buffalo extended its winning streak to four. McCoy had 140 yards rushing and shook off what appeared to be a frightening injury to his right knee late in the second quarter.

Patriots 35, Bengals 17: Playing in his first game in Foxborough since the end of his "Deflategate" suspension, Tom Brady had three touchdown passes and went over 5,000 completions for his career.

Lions 31, Rams 28: At Detroit, Matt Prater made a tie-breaking, 34-yard field goal with 1:29 left and Rafael Bush followed with a victory-sealing interception two plays later.

Titans 28, Browns 26: Marcus Mariota threw for 284 yards and three touchdowns, and host Nashville got its second straight victory — the first time it's won consecutive games since the end of the 2013 season.

Jaguars 17, Bears 16: Blake Bortles threw for 271 yards and hit a slipping Arrelious Benn for a 51-yard touchdown in the closing minutes of visiting Jacksonville's win.

Cowboys 30, Packers 16: Rookie Dak Prescott threw for 247 yards and three touchdowns, and visiting Dallas forced four turnovers in a win over Green Bay.

Dolphins 30, Steelers 15 Host Miami left Ben Roethlisberger limping, and the rest of his teammates didn't look much better in a loss to the underdog Dolphins.

Potential for chaos in ACC Coastal Division looms again

Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Chaos rested last season in the Atlantic Coast Conference's Coastal Division.

It may reign again this year.

North Carolina, a team in fourth place in the division two weeks ago, is now on top. Virginia Tech and Virginia, the last Coastal unbeaten, are perfect no more in league play after Saturday defeats. And for the 10th time in 12 years, the Coastal representative in the league title game will get there with at least one conference loss.

In other words, here they go again.

"The ACC is up in the air," Miami quarterback Brad Kaaya said.

He's likely right, though the Tar Heels have taken a big step toward successfully defending their Coastal title with wins at Florida State and now-reeling Miami in the last three weeks.

A year ago, North Carolina made it look easy with an 8-0 record in Coastal play — emerging

unscathed from a division that had a three-way tie for first in 2012 and sent two-loss champions to the title game in 2013 and 2014. No Coastal club is getting to Orlando unblemished for this year's title game, and there's still potential for a logjam at the top when it's all said and done.

More than half the league season remains, but players know that every week might mean everything.

"Guys knew that if we didn't come out of here with a win, we'd be hard-pressed to get to Orlando," North Carolina receiver Ryan Switzer said after the Tar Heels held off Miami 20-13 on Saturday.

There are only two games affecting the Coastal this coming week. North Carolina goes to Virginia on Saturday, a game where most of the division will likely be pulling for the Cavaliers. But first, Miami visits Virginia Tech on Thursday night — and it's not a stretch to say it's a must-win for the Hurricanes' divisional hopes.

"We've got to find a way," Virginia Tech coach Justin Fuente said.

Bailey OT goal lifts Islanders

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Islanders coach Jack Capuano thought Josh Bailey could give New York a spark, and Bailey delivered for the team's first win of the season.

Bailey scored 54 seconds into overtime to give the Islanders a 3-2 victory over the Anaheim Ducks in their home opener Sunday night.

Capuano bumped Bailey to the top line with captain John Tavares and Andrew Ladd during regulation. In the 3-on-3 extra period, Bailey skated with Nick Leddy and Cal Clutterbuck.

Capuano was pleased with his changes.

"[It was] something that we wanted to try going into tonight's game and I thought they played well," he said. "It was one of the better camps that [Bailey's] had. ... If he plays with confidence as I told him, and his work ethic that he has, he's a skilled player and he has the ability to play on that line."

Tavares and Brock Nelson also scored for the Islanders, who recovered after giving up a two-goal lead in the third period to get the win after opening with two losses.

Sabres 6, Oilers 2: Ryan O'Reilly had two goals and two assists and Buffalo pounded host Edmonton for its first victory of the season.

Brian Gionta also scored twice, and Kyle Okposo and Matt Moulson had Buffalo's other goals. Robin Lehner made 31 saves.

Canucks 4, Hurricanes 3 (OT): Brandon Sutter scored 32 seconds into overtime and host Vancouver erased a three-goal deficit.

Sutter beat goalie Eddie Lack on a quick shot on a 2-on-1 run rush for the Canucks' second straight comeback win.

Markus Granlund had a goal and an assist and Bo Horvat and Ben Hutton also scored for Vancouver, which got 19 stops from Jacob Markstrom.

Kyrgios suspended, fined for 'tanking'

Associated Press

LONDON — Nick Kyrgios will miss the rest of the season after being suspended by the men's tour and fined an additional \$25,000 on Monday for "tanking" a match and insulting fans in the mercurial Australian's latest run-in with tennis authorities.

The ATP said Kyrgios was sanctioned for "conduct contrary to the integrity of the game" following an investigation into his behavior during a second-round loss to German qualifier Mischa Zverev last week at the Shanghai Masters.

Kyrgios gave little effort during the 6-3, 6-1 defeat, even patting easy serves over the net and turning away before his opponent's serve had crossed the net.

The 21-year-old Australian had already been fined a total of \$16,500 for failing to give a full effort, unsportsmanlike conduct and verbal abuse of a spectator.

The ATP said Monday that, in addition to the extra \$25,000 fine, Kyrgios was handed an eight-week suspension lasting through Jan. 15 — a day before the start of the Australian Open, the year's first Grand Slam tournament.

However, the tour said the suspension will be reduced to three weeks if Kyrgios agrees to enter "a plan of care under the direction of a sports psychologist or an equivalent plan approved by the ATP." That means he would be eligible to return on Nov. 7.

There are no regular tournaments on the schedule after Nov. 7. The only event in November is the ATP finals in London from Nov. 13-20. The 12th-ranked Kyrgios has not qualified for the eight-player finals, so he will have to wait until next year in any case to return to the tour.

Kyrgios issued a statement Monday offering another apology for his conduct in Shanghai

and saying he will be back in 2017. He did not say whether he would enter the treatment program mandated by the ATP.

"I regret that my year is ending this way and that I will not have a chance to continue chasing the ATP finals," Kyrgios said. "This was an important goal for me. I do understand and respect the decision by the ATP and I will use this time off to improve on and off the court. I am truly sorry and look forward to returning in 2017."

During the match, Kyrgios was cautioned by the chair umpire about his conduct as a professional and booed and jeered by the crowd. He responded angrily to the taunt of a fan by shouting, "You want to come here and play?"

In other tennis news:

■Serena Williams will miss the season-ending WTA Finals for the second year in a row, citing a right shoulder injury.