

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## US, S. Korea suspend exercise amid negotiations with North

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and South Korea have canceled an annual air exercise scheduled for December, the Pentagon announced Friday, emphasizing ongoing diplomatic discussions with North Korea.

The Pentagon and South Korea's military will not conduct Exercise Vigilant Ace as the two nations negotiate with North Korea over its nuclear program, said Dana White, a Pentagon spokeswoman. It's at least the fourth military exercise that the nations have canceled since President Donald Trump unexpectedly announced he was suspending military "war games" on the peninsula after his June summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

White, who was in Singapore on Friday with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis for an annual meeting of top Asian defense officials, said Mattis and South Korean Minister of Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo agreed to suspend the upcoming exercise "to give the diplomatic process every opportunity to continue."

The announcement on Friday came less than two months after Mattis told reporters that the Pentagon had not planned to cancel upcoming military exercises with South Korea but would defer to the State Department, which has continued talks with North Korea.

Last year's version of Vigilant Ace included about 230 American and South Korean aircraft. Among the U.S. warplanes that participated were F-22 Raptor, F-35 Lightning II, F-16 Fighting Falcons, F-15 Eagles and F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets, according to the Defense Department. The South Koreans flew F-15K Slam Eagles and F-4 Phantom IIs. The exercise is designed to ensure the two nations' aircraft can operate together in joint missions.

This year would have marked the 10th consecutive year the exercise, originally known as Exercise Beverly Bulldog, occurred on the Korean Peninsula.

While large-scale exercises have

been halted since Trump's announcement, small-scale training of tactical level ground units has continued, the Pentagon has said.

Nonetheless, officials have expressed concern that the continued suspension of large exercises could impact the combat readiness of the roughly 28,500 American troops stationed in South Korea.

Army Gen. Robert Abrams, who is slated to take command of American and United Nations forces in South Korea in the coming weeks, has warned prolonged suspension of those exercises could hurt combat readiness. He told lawmakers last month that assessing the combat proficiency of troops in Korea would be among his first duties when he takes command. The Pentagon has not announced when he would officially begin his next job. He relinquished command of U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg in North Carolina on Tuesday.

Trump said Oct. 10 that he intends to hold a second summit with Kim sometime after the Nov. 6 midterm elections. The White House has not announced a location for that second meeting.

Following the two leaders' first meeting, Trump called the U.S.-South Korean military exercises, which have been conducted for decades, "provocative" and "very expensive." The Pentagon announced later that the cancellation of Ulchi Freedom Guardian, a command-and-control operation involving tens of thousands of troops and held annually since 1976, saved the Defense Department about \$14 million.

The Pentagon has not announced the fate of larger exercises slated for next year, including the annual Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, which are massive simultaneous joint U.S.-South Korean defensive operations typically held in February.

U.S. officials have announced they seek the "complete, verifiable and irreversible" denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in exchange for the lifting of stringent economic sanctions. North Korea has also said it desires a formal end to the Korean War, which ended in an armistice in 1953.

## Helo crash on Reagan flight deck hurts 12

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Twelve people were injured Friday when a Navy MH-60 Seahawk helicopter crashed on the USS Ronald Reagan's flight deck in the Philippine Sea, according to Task Force 70 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Matt Knight.

The cause of the mishap, which happened during an emergency landing shortly after takeoff about 9 a.m. Friday, is under investigation, a Navy statement said.

Knight said there were four aircrew members aboard the helicopter when the crash happened.

The severity of the injuries "ranged from minor abrasions and lacerations to fractures," according to an updated Navy statement released Friday night.

"The most seriously injured were medically evacuated off the ship to a hospital in the Philippines, while remaining injured are under evaluation by Ronald Reagan medical staff," the updated statement said.

The Navy had notified the victims' families by Friday evening, according to the updated statement.

Knight said maintenance crews are assessing the extent of the damage to the helicopter, which is assigned to the "Saberhawks" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 77. He said the Ronald Reagan "sustained minimal damage" in the crash but remains "fully mission-capable" and "resumed flight operations within a matter of hours."

The nation's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier was conducting "routine operations" in the Philippine Sea with its strike group when the incident occurred, the statement said.

Last week, it visited South Korea's Jeju Island to participate in the country's International Fleet Review events, according to the ship's official Facebook page.

In November, a C-2A Greyhound cargo plane carrying 11 people went down in the Philippine Sea while flying to the Ronald Reagan from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

Eight passengers survived, but three sailors died in the crash.

# Pentagon considers plan to buy carriers

BY TONY CAPACCIO

*Bloomberg*

The Pentagon's No. 2 civilian is reviewing a Navy proposal to buy the third and fourth vessels in the Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier program under one contract to assess whether the arrangement will save money as the service claims.

"We are conducting an evaluation to ensure we have the warfighting capabilities to compete and win," Deputy Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan said in a statement to Bloomberg News. "Any decision will factor in strengthening the industrial base and delivering best value for taxpayers."

Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc., the builder of the new carrier class expected to cost \$58 billion, would benefit if the Navy commits to the purchase of an additional two carriers, which the service has said it's exploring whether significant savings in labor and money can be achieved.

While the Navy has yet to submit such a plan to Congress, lawmakers approved the block buy in the fiscal 2019 defense policy and spending bills. The service has cited a need to deploy 12 aircraft carriers, up from the 11 today, as key to its push to expand its fleet by 25 percent to 355 vessels.

But the carrier program remains trou-

bled, with Huntington Ingalls falling short of the Navy's demand to cut labor expenses on the second of the warships to stay within an \$11.39 billion cap mandated by Congress.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer told reporters in August that the Navy's preliminary estimate is that a two-vessel contracting purchase could save the service \$2.5 billion, and "we are trying to get it higher."

Captain Danny Hernandez, a Navy spokesman, said in an email the proposal is still under review and "we expect to have a decision in mid-fall."

## 'Very busy' Trump hasn't visited troops overseas

BY RACHEL DESANTIS

*New York Daily News*

President Donald Trump has yet to make a trip overseas to visit the troops because he is "very busy."

The commander-in-chief spoke to The Associated Press on Tuesday and said that while he doesn't feel it's "overly necessary" to pay a visit to a military base in a combat zone like Iraq or Afghanistan, he plans to at some point in the future.

"I've been very busy with everything that's taking place here," he said, before diving into a rambling boast about the state of the country's economy and unemployment rates.

"I'm doing a lot of things. But [visiting] is something I'd do. And do gladly. Nobody has been better at the military. Hey, I just got them a pay raise. I haven't had a pay raise in 11 years. I have done more for the military than any president in many, many years."

Trump also noted that he needs to keep the troops abroad for the sake of the country's safety.

"The main thing I have to see is, I have to see safety at home. If I think people are likely to do some very bad things in faraway places to our homeland, I'm going to have troops there for a period of time," he said.

For some veterans, Trump's promises to one day pay the troops a visit ring hollow.

"Veterans aren't surprised Trump has

no interest in going to war, after he used his wealth and elite connections to avoid the draft five times while working-class people went in his place," Alexander McCoy, a former U.S. Marine Corps sergeant and spokesman for Common Defense, a grassroots progressive veterans organization with 150,000 members, told the New York Daily News.

"What makes us even more furious isn't that he won't visit us in combat zones now but that he continues to recklessly escalate and extend the pointless quagmire wars he's making us fight, while back at home, he's using us as political props for his agenda of using bigotry to divide us so he can give tax cuts to himself and his fellow billionaires."

## Submarine movie 'Hunter Killer' has Pearl Harbor ties

BY WILLIAM COLE

*The Honolulu Star-Advertiser*

"Hunter Killer," a post-Cold War submarine and Navy SEAL commando action thriller coming out Oct. 26, dives deep with Pearl Harbor's "silent service" submariner community.

Scottish actor Gerard Butler — most famous for his role in "300" — plays Capt. Joe Glass, an American submarine captain on a hunt in the Arctic for a U.S. sub in distress when he also discovers that a secret Russian coup is in play.

"With crew and country on the line, Capt. Glass must now assemble an elite group of Navy

SEALs to rescue the kidnapped Russian president and sneak through enemy waters to stop (World War III)," the film's website states.

At an unusual Pentagon news conference on Monday — showing the movie's close ties with the U.S. Navy — Butler fielded questions with Vice Adm. Fritz Roegge, the former commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet submarine force at Pearl Harbor.

Butler noted how he went out for three days on the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Houston out of Pearl Harbor on a familiarization cruise, get-

ting an eyeful of life beneath the waves.

The movie features the USS Arkansas, a newer Virginia-class attack submarine not yet built, but Pearl Harbor's USS Texas is the body double in the film, the Navy said. Butler told the Pentagon press corps "Hunter Killer" was "a chance to bring the submarine genre into the 21st century (along with) the submarine culture, and go into these new style of subs and go down and really see how these people think, work, their courage, their intelligence."

He was given access to many

of the unclassified functions on the Houston — which has since been decommissioned — an experience he likened to being in "another world."

"I felt like I could spend a year just in sonar, trying to pick up what it is they do," Butler said. The three days spent under water gave him a greater appreciation "for what these people do every day, unsung and unseen."

When on a submarine, "you realize the dangers, because you are 1,000 feet under water, and you go, 'OK, what are the different ways things can go wrong,'" Butler said.

# Trump praises congressman for body-slam

Associated Press

MISSOULA, Mont. — President Donald Trump praised a Republican congressman for body-slaming a reporter last year, calling him a “tough cookie” and saying he thinks it might have helped him win the election in Montana.

At a campaign rally in Missoula on Thursday, Trump lauded Rep. Greg Gianforte, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault for an attack on Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs. The attack came a day before Gianforte won a 2017 special election to serve the remaining 18 months in the House term vacated by now-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

“Any guy that can do a body slam — he’s my kind of guy,” Trump said to cheers and laughter from the crowd. “He’s a great guy,

tough cookie.”

His remarks praising Gianforte come amid an international furor over the apparent assassination of a Washington Post columnist who, according to an account in Turkey’s Yeni Safak newspaper, allegedly had his fingers cut off and was decapitated inside a Saudi consulate in Istanbul two weeks ago.

In the case of Gianforte, witnesses including members of a Fox News crew say Gianforte became enraged over what he perceived as biased coverage before body-slaming Jacobs, throwing him to the ground and punching him.

Gianforte initially misled investigators about what had happened, falsely claiming that Jacobs had grabbed him by the wrist and pulled both of them to the floor,

according to documents released under a court order following requests from news agencies.

The president said he was in Rome with other world leaders when he heard about what had happened.

“And I said, ‘Oh, this is terrible. He’s going to lose the election,’” Trump recalled. “And then I said, ‘Well, wait a minute. I know Montana pretty well. I think it might help him. And it did.’”

Gianforte pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge in June 2017 and said in an apology letter that he alone was responsible for the attack. He paid a \$385 fine and completed 40 hours of community service and 20 hours of anger management counseling. He also donated \$50,000 to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

# Trump blames Democrats for migrant ‘caravan’

Associated Press

MISSOULA, Mont. — President Donald Trump is suggesting without evidence that Democrats or their allies are supporting a “caravan” of Central American migrants who are traveling north, aiming to enter the United States.

Addressing thousands of supporters at a campaign rally in Montana on Thursday, Trump said immigration is now one of the

leading issues in the 2018 midterms, and he accused Democrats of supporting the migrants because they “figure everybody coming in is going to vote Democrat.”

The comments mark the injection of one of Trump’s signature 2016 campaign themes back into national conversation as he looks to boost Republican turnout to maintain their congressional majorities in 2018.

Trump was in Montana to boost GOP

Senate candidate Matt Rosendale, who is running against Democratic Sen. Jon Tester — a lawmaker the president says has been a “disaster for Montana.”

The president blames Tester for the backlash against former White House doctor Adm. Ronny Jackson, whom the president had tapped to serve as Veterans Affairs secretary. Jackson was forced to withdraw after facing ethics allegations.

# Trump says Saudis could face ‘severe’ consequences

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has acknowledged it “certainly looks” as though missing Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi is dead, and he threatened “very severe” consequences if the Saudis are found to have murdered him. His warning came as the administration toughened its response to a disappearance that has sparked global outrage.

Before Trump spoke Thursday, the administration announced that Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin had pulled out of a major upcoming Saudi investment conference, and a U.S. official said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had warned the Saudi crown prince that his credibility as a future leader is at stake.

Pompeo said the Saudis should be given a few more days to finish and make public a credible investigation before the U.S. decides “how or if” to respond. Trump’s

comments, however, signaled an urgency in completing the probe into the disappearance of the journalist, last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2.

The messaging underscored the administration’s concern about the effect the case could have on relations with a close and valuable strategic partner. Increasingly upset U.S. lawmakers are condemning the Saudis and questioning the seriousness with which Trump and his top aides are taking the matter, while Trump has emphasized the billions of dollars in weapons the Saudis purchase from the United States.

Turkish reports say Khashoggi, who had written columns critical of the Saudi government for The Washington Post over the past year while he lived in self-imposed exile in the U.S., was killed and dismembered inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul by members of an assassination squad

with ties to Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman.

The Saudis have dismissed those reports as baseless but have yet to explain what happened to the writer.

Trump, who has insisted that more facts must be known before making assumptions, did not say on what he based his latest statement about the writer’s likely demise. Asked if Khashoggi was dead, he said, “It certainly looks that way. ... Very sad.”

Asked what consequence Saudi leaders would face if they are found to be responsible, he replied: “It will have to be very severe. It’s bad, bad stuff. But we’ll see what happens.”

Vice President Mike Pence said earlier in Colorado that “the world deserves answers” about what happened to Khashoggi, “and those who are responsible need to be held to account.”

# Turkey looks into possibility writer's remains were moved

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — A Turkish official said Friday that investigators are looking into the possibility that missing Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi's remains might have been taken to a forest outside Istanbul or to another city after his suspected killing at the consulate earlier this month. Ankara's top diplomat, meanwhile, denied sharing any audio from the Saudi Consulate with U.S. officials.

The official told The Associated Press that police have established that two vehicles belonging to the consulate left the building on Oct. 2 — the day Khashoggi had walked into the consulate and vanished.

One of the vehicles traveled to the nearby Belgrade Forest, while the other traveled to the city of Yalova, across the Sea of Marmara from Istanbul, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the secrecy of the ongoing investigation.

It was not immediately clear whether police already had searched the areas.

Turkish reports say Khashoggi was murdered brutally and was dismembered inside the consulate by members of an assassination squad with ties to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The Saudis have dismissed those reports as baseless but have yet to explain what happened to Khashoggi, a contributing columnist for The Washington Post who wrote critically of Mohammed's rise to power.

President Donald Trump, who first came out hard on the Saudis over the disappearance but has backed off since, said Thursday that it "certainly looks" as though Khashoggi is dead and that the consequences for the Saudis "will have to be very severe" if they are found to have killed him.

Saudi Arabia has not responded to repeated requests for comment from the AP in recent days over Khashoggi's disappearance.

The pro-government Turkish newspaper Yeni Safak on Wednesday reported that an audio recording of Khashoggi's slaying suggests a Saudi team

accosted him after he entered the consulate, cut off his fingers and later decapitated him.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who visited Saudi Arabia and Turkey this week, told reporters on a plane to Mexico that he's neither seen nor heard such a recording. Citing an anonymous senior Turkish official, ABC News reported on Thursday that Pompeo heard the recording during meetings in Turkey and received a transcript of it.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu also denied sharing any audio recordings with U.S. officials.

On Friday, Turkey's pro-government Sabah newspaper printed more surveillance camera photographs showing members of a Saudi team who it said were brought into Turkey to dispose of Khashoggi.

A leaked surveillance photo published by the same paper on Thursday showed that a member of Mohammed's entourage during several trips abroad had walked into the Saudi consulate just before the writer disappeared there Oct. 2.

## Frustration, fears in Fla. after storm

Associated Press

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. — Missing relatives and worries that looters are just outside the door. Dirty clothes. Hourslong lines for gasoline, insurance adjusters, food and water. No power, no air conditioning, no schools, no information and little real improvement in sight.

Daily life is a series of fears and frustrations, both large and small, for thousands of people living on the edge, more than a week after Hurricane Michael flattened thousands of square miles in the hurricane zone of the Florida Panhandle.

Erin Maxwell waited in line for fuel for more than an hour Thursday at a gasoline station that never opened. "I'm tired and want to go to sleep. I don't want to wait in another line," said Maxwell, eyes closed and her head tilted back on the seat.

Meanwhile, husband Mickey Calhoun fretted over the fate of his mother, Anita Newsome, 74. The retired sheriff's deputy was last seen when officers took her to a hospital the day before Michael made landfall, her son said.

"We can't find her or get word anywhere," said an exasperated Calhoun, 54, wearing stained khaki pants and a dingy towel draped around his neck.

A few miles away, Ed Kirkpatrick, 70, and his wife, Sandra Sheffield, 72, huddle together in a splintered mobile home surrounded by fallen pine trees. A noisy generator powers the old box fan blowing warm air across their den. They're both afraid to leave because of widespread reports of looting.

Kirkpatrick, a diabetic who has a big scar down the middle of his chest from heart surgery, needs medical attention and ice to refrigerate his insulin, said Sheffield, who has a pacemaker. But getting out in traffic takes hours and precious fuel, she said, and looters could show up at any time.

"I don't want to go anywhere because I know I'm safe here," Sheffield said, burying her head in a twisted towel to cry.

## House panel's foreign agent probe decried

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An environmental group has denounced a House oversight committee for suggesting the organization's efforts to block construction of a U.S. military base on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa may require it to register as a foreign agent.

In a bluntly worded letter delivered earlier this week, the Center for Biological Diversity accused the Republican chairman and another senior GOP member of the Natural Resources Committee of pursuing a "politically motivated abuse of authority" and for operating outside of their jurisdiction. The environmental group has been part of a long-running

fight to protect an endangered marine mammal.

The harsh response from the Center for Biological Diversity, headquartered in Arizona, is the group's latest salvo at the panel, which is investigating whether nonprofit groups are being manipulated by foreign governments or entities that want to undercut U.S. interests. The committee didn't provide a comment on the letter. But a GOP congressional aide who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity called it unproductive.

At the center of the fight is the Foreign Agents Registration Act, an 80-year-old law that requires people to disclose when they lobby in the U.S. on

behalf of foreign governments or political entities. For decades, the statute languished in obscurity, and criminal prosecutions under the law were exceedingly rare.

But special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe pushed the law, known as FARA, into the spotlight as his team of prosecutors revealed how foreign parties often work unnoticed to sway political agendas and shape public thinking.

President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, recently admitted he'd failed to register as a foreign agent when he directed a multimillion-dollar lobbying operation for Ukrainian interests.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## TSA officers buy shirt for traveling boy

**NY** NEW YORK — Transportation Security Administration officers in New York bought a shirt for a shirtless boy who was traveling to Denver.

The TSA said the boy and his father arrived at a checkpoint at LaGuardia Airport on Wednesday, and officers noticed the child did not have a shirt when he removed his coat for screening. The father told officers all their clothes were in a checked bag and he didn't realize his son wasn't wearing a shirt.

Officers were concerned because temperatures in Denver were cold, so two of them went to an airport shop and purchased an NYPD T-shirt.

## Sheriff: Woman struck repo man with shovel

**NC** WINSTON-SALEM — A North Carolina woman is accused of using a shovel to clobber a man trying to repossess a vehicle and then attacking responding deputies.

The Charlotte Observer cited a Davidson County Sheriff's Office release that says charges for Michelle Beck, 43, also stem from incidents outside her house before 7 a.m. Tuesday.

The statement says Beck initially confronted and then wielded a shovel against Jacob Wahl, of Premier Recovery, a "collateral recovery company" specializing in repossessions. The sheriff's office said she fled when responding deputies attempted to detain her and then assaulted them while they tried to arrest her.

She's charged with assault with a deadly weapon, assaulting government officials and resisting arrest.

## Nobel Prize winner honored with bike spot

**MO** COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri is honoring its Nobel Prize-winning scientist with an unusual accolade: a dedicated spot in a bicycle rack.

George Smith learned this month that he'll share this year's Nobel Prize in chemistry with two other scientists.

Other schools have recognized their Nobel laureates with a dedicated parking space. But Smith, 77, is, by his own assessment, "not a good driver."

Smith told The Kansas City Star he's no "bike enthusiast" but that he lives less than a mile from the Columbia campus and bikes to work every day.

His spot will be in a standard bike rack, the same as those used by other bicyclists on campus. But the university plans to post a sign letting everyone know one particular space belongs to a Nobel laureate.

## Officers grow beards to fund kids' groups

**NH** PORTSMOUTH — Police officers in New Hampshire and Maine are putting down their razors to raise money for children's advocacy groups.

The Portsmouth Herald reported police officers are letting their beards grow this month to support centers that provide services for abused children in Maine's York County and New Hampshire's Rockingham County. Female employees are participating by wearing blue nail polish. The Rockingham County center raised \$18,000 through the "Beards for Bucks" fundraiser last year.

Kittery police Lt. John Desjardins said his beard is "a little bit itchy," but the fundraiser is a great cause.

## Meat plant: Worker urinated at station

**VA** SMITHFIELD — A Virginia meat-processing company said more than 50,000 pounds of product has been discarded after an employee is alleged to have urinated while working on a production line.

Smithfield Foods Inc. spokeswoman Lisa Martin told news outlets in a Tuesday statement that the employee was filmed urinating at the packing plant in Smithfield the previous weekend. She said he has been suspended while the company investigates.

Martin said it was isolated, and the company has taken appropriate measures to ensure product quality. She said the facility had halted production immediately and sanitized all equipment several times before operations resumed.

## Suspect arrested in molestation of horse

**DE** CAMDEN — Delaware State Police have charged a suspect in the sexual assault of a miniature horse and a subsequent burglary at the same barn several weeks later.

Authorities said Tuesday that Adelio Guzman, 45, of Camden, was released on \$11,750 bond after surrendering Friday.

Guzman is charged with animal cruelty, attempted animal cruelty and engaging in or trying to commit a sexual act involving an animal. He also is charged with burglary, criminal trespass and criminal mischief.

Guzman is accused of assaulting the horse in August at a home near Dover. On Oct. 2, he was shot by the property owner, 73, after an alarm indicated there was an intruder in the same barn.

## Judge explains 'close your legs' comment

**NJ** TRENTON — A New Jersey family court judge who told a woman she could "close your legs" to stop a sexual assault said he was trying to elicit more details from her.

Judge John Russo on Wednesday appeared before a committee on judicial conduct that is reviewing four counts of judicial misconduct against Russo.

The woman appeared before Russo in 2016 seeking a restraining order against a man who she claimed forced her to have sex. Russo told the panel he felt the woman was withholding information.

Russo said he was trying to be a "fact-finder" and was not trying to "humiliate or embarrass" the woman.

## Woman has offer to help find son's killer

**NC** CHARLOTTE — A North Carolina woman has made a unique offer in hopes of finding the person who shot and killed her son on Labor Day.

WBTV in Charlotte reported Lajuana Hill said she and her family will pay to relocate anyone who provides information in the death of Juordan Malik Hill, and even will pay their first month's rent, "whatever you need to get you out of that environment."

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police Detective Luke Peden said the suspect fired five shots from more than 30 yards away. Peden said two of those shots hit Juordan Hill, who was visiting with friends in an apartment complex parking lot.

Along with the family's offer, a \$6,500 reward is being offered.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Price, Red Sox finish off defending champs

Associated Press

HOUSTON — What a birthday present for rookie manager Alex Cora. He's taking the Boston Red Sox back to the World Series.

David Price put his postseason woes behind him, pitching the Red Sox past the defending champion Houston Astros 4-1 Thursday night in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series.

Next stop for the 108-win Red Sox is Fenway Park for the World Series opener Tuesday night against either the Los Angeles Dodgers or Milwaukee Brewers.

But before leaving Minute Maid Park, the Red Sox surrounded the 43-year-old Cora in the clubhouse and heartily sang "happy birthday!" Wearing goggles and championship gear, the team saluted the first manager from Puerto Rico to lead a team to the World Series.

Cora was hired a year ago as he prepared to go to the Series as Houston's bench coach. He got the job a month after Hurricane Maria devastated his island homeland, and immediately went to work helping with relief efforts.

"I know right now for everything that we're going through as a nation, as a country, for me to stand up here with this trophy, I know there's a lot of people proud of me in Puerto Rico," he said.

Rafael Devers hit a three-run homer as the Red Sox stunned Justin Verlander to win the best-of-seven set 4-1.

ALCS MVP Jackie Bradley Jr., outfielder Mookie Betts and the Red Sox will try to bring Boston its fourth crown in 15 years — this is their first trip since win-

ning it all in 2013.

Los Angeles had a 3-2 lead in the NLCS going into Game 6 on Friday night at Miller Park.

"We got four more wins. That was very, very special, absolutely. But we want more," Price said.

Pitching on only three days' rest after Boston ace Chris Sale was ruled out while recovering from a stomach illness, Price struck out nine in six shutout innings of three-hit ball. The left-hander, who has had a rough time in Boston since signing a \$217 million contract before the 2016 season, entered 0-9 with a 6.16 ERA in 11 career postseason starts.

Price was thrilled that he won't be questioned anymore about not having a postseason win as a starter.

"That's awesome," he said. "I don't have to prepare myself for it in spring training on Feb. 20 or September when I've still got five regular-season starts. I don't have to answer that question anymore. And man, it feels good."

Price was warming up in the bullpen as Game 4 ended, perhaps jeopardizing his readiness for Thursday. Instead, that session may have keyed his dominant performance.

"It felt good. Honestly, it really started last night in the bullpen. Threw quite a few pitches to come in for the next hitter, found something out while doing that and kind of just carried that over to today," Price said.

Price tipped his cap to a few hundred Red Sox fans assembled behind the Boston dugout while they cheered as he walked off the field following postgame interviews.

The only time things didn't go smoothly for Price came when he brought his 1-year-old son Xavier into the postgame news conference and the little one wouldn't quit shrieking and wriggling away from him.

Price pulled him back onto his lap, repeating the words: "This is big, dude. This is big."

After dropping the opener at home, Boston took four straight — including three in a row in Houston to improve to 5-0 on the road in these playoffs.

The Red Sox are the first team to win four straight postseason games against a 100-win club since the 2004 Red Sox against both the Yankees and Cardinals, STATS said.

"They beat us. We ran out of wins," Astros manager AJ Hinch said.

Despite leading the majors in wins during the regular season, the Red Sox were underdogs against a Houston team that defeated the Dodgers in last year's World Series and romped past Cleveland in the Division Series this month.

But stars Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa and the Astros hobbled to the finish in a humbling defeat. Still, no team has repeated as World Series champs since the New York Yankees won three straight from 1998-2000.

It was the 14th pennant for the Red Sox, who are 8-4 in World Series appearances. They took the American League flag in 1904, but the World Series wasn't played that year.

Boston ended an 86-year championship drought in 2004.

## Houston comes up short of another World Series

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Justin Verlander and the Houston Astros couldn't soar into another World Series.

A year after Houston won the first title in the team's 56 seasons, Verlander had a rare off night in an elimination game and the Astros lost the AL Championship Series to the Boston Red Sox in five games.

"This year's team is better than last year's team," third baseman Alex Bregman said. "Everyone in here will have a little bit of an edge to play with, a chip on their shoulder knowing that we believe we should have been back-to-back

champions."

Houston boosted its rotation with Gerrit Cole last winter and its bullpen with Roberto Osuna ahead of the July trade deadline. The Astros won a club-record 103 games, led the majors with a plus-263 run difference and swept Cleveland 3-0 in the Division Series.

But after beating Boston in the opener, the banged-up Astros were outscored 27-14 in losing four in a row — one short of their season high. The major leagues remain without a repeat champion since the New York Yankees won three straight from 1998-2000.

"The World Series is the only thing that was going to make

this team feel like we accomplished much," manager AJ Hinch said. "It's a pretty hollow feeling when the season abruptly ends the way that it does and the way that it did."

Verlander was last year's Championship Series MVP with two wins against the New York Yankees, including seven scoreless innings to force a Game 7.

"We had a good season. Didn't end up where we wanted. We lost to a great team," Verlander said. "I said it last year, playoffs, it's kind of flip a coin sometimes. It's whoever is playing the best baseball at the time. We were dealing with a ton of injuries as you could tell."

Altuve, a six-time All-Star and last year's AL MVP, went on the disabled list for the first time in July with right knee soreness. He never seemed healthy, banged the knee in the playoffs and was limited to a designated hitter's role in the last three games. He hit .250 in the series with two RBIs.

"It's not a secret that my knee was hurting pretty bad," Altuve said. "But it's something that I don't have control of. It hurts and I couldn't control being healthy. I feel really, really bad for not being on the field for my team but one thing you can know is that I gave everything I had, healthy, not healthy that was all I have."

# Broncos make quick work of Cardinals

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — There were a lot of orange-clad Denver fans in the stands in Arizona.

They must have loved watching the Broncos beat down the host Cardinals 45-10 Thursday night.

“That was unbelievable,” Denver quarterback Case Keenum said afterward. “It felt like a home game there for a lot of it. That was impressive. That was really cool.”

After four straight losses, the Broncos (3-4) took control early, returning two interceptions of Josh Rosen’s passes for first-quarter touchdowns. Denver led 21-3 after one quarter and 35-3 at the half, giving a rare breather of a win to embattled coach Vance Joseph.

“That’s more about our foot-

ball team. I’m not concerned about me,” Joseph said. “It’s a good win for our football team. It has been a tough, tough two weeks. We had a tough loss on Sunday. We had a short week, so it’s really good for our team to win a game.”

The Cardinals (1-6) have lost their first four home games for the first time since 1979, nearly a decade before the franchise moved from St. Louis to the desert.

“Definitely an embarrassing effort tonight,” first-year coach Steve Wilks said. “Our fans deserve more than that. We have to perform better than that. Six sacks, three interceptions. It can go on and on. Unacceptable.”

Here are some things to consider from the Broncos’ romp in the desert:

**Miller’s promise:** Denver’s

Von Miller had promised the Broncos would kick the Cardinals’ backside and they certainly did.

Miller said he did it to boost the confidence of his teammates.

“And it worked,” he said.

Defensive end Zach Kerr agreed.

“It puts an extra fire in us,” he said. “You can feel it all week during the preparation. Everyone was zoned in, locked in. It’s a short week, but nobody complained. Nobody said anything, but we just went out there and worked.”

**Rosen’s night:** Arizona rookie quarterback Josh Rosen had a tough night.

He threw three interceptions and fumbled the ball away twice. He also was sacked six times.

Rosen said he tried to force things and it backfired.

“This is kind of an old saying I got in college. ‘Don’t turn a car crash into a fatality,’” Rosen said. “So I think sometimes you just have to make the smart play. I can’t just kind of toss it up there. ... I just have to take care of the ball. For the most part, I think that was the biggest lesson I can take from the game.”

**Fitzgerald’s score:** It took seven games, but Larry Fitzgerald finally caught his first touchdown pass of the season.

The 4-yard pass from Rosen in the third quarter was Arizona’s lone touchdown.

It was Fitzgerald’s 111th career touchdown catch, tying him with Tony Gonzalez for seventh on the all-time list.

## ACC showdown: North Carolina State visits Clemson

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Refreshed, rested and ready for more success is the mindset for both No. 3 Clemson and 16th-ranked North Carolina State with both coming off bye weeks heading into their undefeated showdown in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The Tigers (6-0, 3-0 ACC) will host the Wolfpack (5-0, 2-0) in clash between the league’s only remaining undefeated teams. Each took time this past week to correct mistakes and prepare for a game that will likely determine the ACC Atlantic Division.

Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables believes the Tigers will be ready for the challenge.

“I think the bigger the stakes, the better our guys play,” he said Monday.

Same could be said about North Carolina State, which has nearly knocked off three-time defending ACC champion Clemson in down-to-the-wire matchups the past two seasons.

The Wolfpack had a chance

to derail Clemson’s national championship season in 2016, but missed a field goal in the final seconds and lost 24-17 in overtime.

Last year, Clemson trailed most of the game before escaping 38-31 when safety K’von Wallace intercepted Ryan Finley after the Wolfpack drove to the Tigers’ 28 on their final drive.

“Our guys have rose to the challenge. They haven’t finished,” Wolfpack coach Dave Doeren said Monday.

Doeren said the teams arrive dead even since each had similar chances to ramp up preparations during the week off.

Clemson receiver Amari Rodgers said players were eager for the break after going nonstop since the beginning of August.

“We needed a weekend to unplug,” he said. “But now we’re ready to get back to it.”

Doeren believed his Wolfpack players worked hard during the break.

Tigers co-offensive coordinator Tony Elliott said the

team went through some self-evaluation to refine and refocus fundamentals that may have gotten out of whack in the week-to-week run of football.

One of the biggest concerns, Elliott said, was his team’s slow starts to games. The Tigers have scored 253 points this season, just 38 of those coming in the first quarter.

“I wish I knew the answer to that one,” said Elliott, the team’s chief play-caller.

Elliott cited tailback Travis Etienne, who leads the ACC with 761 yards and 11 touchdowns rushing, dropping first-down passes early against Georgia Tech and Wake Forest — games won by Clemson by a combined 112-24 score — as setting the team back into unexpected second-and-long situations.

“We’re going to keep working on it, challenging these guys to understand the importance of every single play,” Elliott said.

Venables likes his defense’s focus, its play set by an experienced, NFL-caliber front four of ends Clelin Ferrell and

Austin Bryant and tackles Christian Wilkins and Dexter Lawrence.

“I think there’s a bunch of guys who really, truly enjoy each other,” Venables said when asked what made this defense unique. “This is one of the funner units to be around.”

Venables acknowledged that Clemson’s secondary, while improving, remains a work in progress and should face a difficult test with experienced Wolfpack quarterback Ryan Finley, who leads the ACC with more than 324 yards passing per game.

“Mentally, we’re still not a finished product, defensively,” Venables said.

Both the Tigers and the Wolfpack got a rankings’ boost while kicking back. Clemson moved up a spot to No. 3 while North Carolina State improved four spots in the latest poll.

Clemson left guard John Simpson watched several upsets — four Top 10 teams lost last weekend — and thought, “I’m glad we didn’t play Saturday.”

## NBA roundup

# Blazers spoil James' debut with Lakers

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — LeBron James opened with two thunderous dunks and had 26 points and 12 rebounds in his first game with the Los Angeles Lakers, but the Portland Trail Blazers prevailed 128-119 Thursday night in the season opener for both teams.

Damian Lillard had 28 points and Nik Stauskas came off the bench to score 24 for Portland, which won its 18th straight

home opener to extend an NBA record.

It was the Blazers' 16th straight victory over the Lakers.

The opening festivities were tempered by the death this week of Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen. A "Rip City" baseball cap rested in Allen's court-side seat with a single rose.

The enigmatic co-founder of Microsoft died Monday in Seattle from complications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

**76ers 127, Bulls 108:** Ben Simmons had a triple-double with 13 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists and Joel Embiid had 30 points and 12 rebounds in host Philadelphia's victory over Chicago.

Zach LaVine led the Bulls with 30 points in their season opener.

The curious case of Markelle Fultz continued when one of the more scrutinized players in the NBA managed to steal the

spotlight from his more accomplished teammate with simple jumpers.

**Heat 113, Wizards 112:** Kelly Olynyk's putback of Dwyane Wade's missed jumper produced the go-ahead basket with 0.2 seconds left, lifting visiting Miami past Washington.

Josh Richardson led Miami with 28 points, Rodney McGruder added 20, and the Heat hit consecutive threes late in the fourth quarter.

## NHL roundup

# Murray earns shutout as Penguins halt Leafs' streak

Associated Press

TORONTO — Matt Murray made 38 saves for his first shutout of the season and the Pittsburgh Penguins snapped the Toronto Maple Leafs' winning streak at five games with a stifling 3-0 victory Thursday night.

Evgeni Malkin had two goals and an assist, scoring early and adding an empty-net goal. Kris Letang also had an empty-netter, and Sidney Crosby picked up an assist to tie Darryl Sittler for 60th on the NHL's career points list with 1,221.

Toronto's Auston Matthews, the NHL leader in scoring with 16 points on 10 goals and six assists, was looking to become the third player in the NHL to start a season with eight consecutive multi-point games. The Maple Leafs came in averaging an NHL-high 4.71 goals.

Murray returned from a concussion that sidelined him for three games. He has seven career shutouts.

Frederik Andersen stopped 36 shots for Toronto.

**Lightning 3, Red Wings 1:** Steven Stamkos scored his first goal of the season, Andrei Vasilevskiy made 29 saves and host Tampa Bay beat Detroit.

Stamkos ended a 16-game

regular-season goal drought dating to last season from the slot with 4:41 left in the second. The goal gave the Lightning a 2-1 lead.

Brayden Point and Alex Killorn also scored for the Lightning. They went 4-1-0 on a season-opening home stand, and have won 12 in a row against the Red Wings.

**Avalanche 5, Devils 3:** Gabriel Landeskog broke a tie with 3:22 left with his third goal of the game, helping visiting Colorado beat New Jersey.

Landeskog one-timed Mikko Rantanen's pass from behind the net to complete his third career hat trick. He scored earlier in the third period on a deflection of a shot by Ian Cole.

The Devils lost for the first time after opening the season with four straight victories. Taylor Hall had a goal and two assists, and Nico Hischier and Brian Boyle also scored.

**Blue Jackets 6, Flyers 3:** Cam Atkinson scored twice in the second period and Sergei Bobrovsky had 32 saves in host Columbus' victory over Philadelphia.

Atkinson's goals, both set up with on-target passes from Artemi Panarin, were part of a three-goal flurry in a seven-minute span that gave Colum-

bus the lead.

Anthony Duclair, Nick Foligno, Josh Anderson and Sonny Milano also scored for the Blue Jackets.

**Coyotes 4, Blackhawks 1:** Vinnie Hinostroza scored twice against his former team, Antti Raanta made 33 saves and visiting Arizona spoiled Chicago goalie Corey Crawford's season debut.

Clayton Keller had a goal and an assist to help Arizona improve to 1-1 on a four-game trip. The Coyotes entered with just four goals on the season. Lawson Crouse also scored.

Erik Gustafsson scored for Chicago.

**Oilers 3, Bruins 2 (OT):** Leon Draisaitl scored in overtime to give host Edmonton a victory over Boston in its home opener.

Connor McDavid set up the winner at 37 seconds of the extra period, and Kailer Yamamoto and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins also scored to help the Oilers win their third straight.

David Krejci and David Pastrnak scored for Boston. The Bruins have dropped two in a row.

**Jets 4, Canucks 1:** Patrik Laine and Bryan Little scored power-play goals to help host Winnipeg beat Vancouver.

Dustin Byfuglien had a goal

and two assists, Andrew Copp added a goal, and Connor Hellebuyck made 26 saves.

Bo Horvat scored for the Canucks, and Anders Nilsson stopped 28 shots.

**Sharks 5, Sabres 1:** Logan Couture had his third career hat trick and his team scored three times on the power play to beat Buffalo in San Jose's first game back from a five-game road trip.

Couture and Joonas Donskoi scored power-play goals 27 seconds apart in the first period following a double-minor against Kyle Okposo for high sticking. Couture added an even-strength goal in the third period off a feed from Evander Kane and capped the night with an empty-net goal.

**Islanders 7, Kings 2:** Valtteri Filppula scored twice and New York snapped a two-game road losing streak by beating Los Angeles.

Filppula, Matt Martin, Leo Komarov and Andrew Ladd each had a goal in the third period as the Islanders had a season high in scoring.

Casey Cizikas had a goal for the second straight game, and Josh Bailey scored on the power play. Robin Lehner made 28 saves for the Islanders.