

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## USS McCain sails for 1st time since crash

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS John S. McCain sailed away from the Yokosuka pier about 10:15 a.m. Monday, its first trip to sea since suffering hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of damage during a fatal collision in 2017.

As the American flag shifted from aft to midship, signaling the ship was underway, families of the sailors who'd worked during the past two years to get the destroyer back to sea stood in awe.

"After all the repairs, they've been working toward this. It's a sense of accomplishment," said Jamie Peevy, whose husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Peevy, serves as a fire controlman on the ship. "We want

them home, but they're sailors — they want to be at sea."

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer is undergoing sea trials, a Navy term for a comprehensive set of at-sea testing of systems including "navigation, damage control, mechanical and electrical systems, combat systems, communications, and propulsion application," according to a Navy statement Monday.

Sea trials typically last about a week and are required for every ship returning to sea after extended repairs or maintenance.

The McCain on Aug. 21, 2017, collided near Singapore with the Alnic MC, a commercial oil tanker, which impaled itself into the McCain's port side.

Confusion among watchstanders led to a loss of steering control, and the destroyer

crossed into the tanker's path, according to post-collision reports. The impact crumpled a berthing area and caused heavy flooding, killing 10 sailors.

Peevy said her family arrived in Yokosuka two years ago, just after the McCain collision happened.

"It was scary, like 'Oh this is the ship that my husband is going to be on?'" Peevy said.

Her friend, Christina Ellison, said some of that anxiety spilled into Monday as her husband, Petty Officer 2nd Class Zephrim Ellison, sailed away on the ship.

"There's always that little part of me that's uneasy," Christina Ellison said. "Is it ready?"

The McCain's departure Monday means it has completed its necessary repairs and upgrades, which included

about 11 months in dry dock. It has been undergoing additional maintenance and crew training while moored to the base pier since it left dry dock last November.

"Multiple upgrades to the ship's computer network, antenna systems, radar array, combat weapons systems and berthing have ensured John S. McCain will return to operational missions with improved capability and lethality," the Navy said in its statement.

As the ship sailed away for the first time in two years, sailors, crews and contractors not on board flocked to the edge of the ship's berth to take photos with the destroyer. Cheers went up as two tugboats pulled away from the ship to leave it under its own power.

## Al-Baghdadi death a blow; doesn't eliminate ISIS threat

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Eliminating Islamic State's elusive leader gives President Donald Trump a new argument for leaving Syria, but the U.S. military campaign against the extremists is far from finished.

The killing of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi by U.S. forces leaves ISIS without an obvious leader, a major setback for an organization that in March was forced by American troops and Kurdish forces out of the last portion of its self-declared "caliphate," which once spanned a swath of Iraq and Syria.

But the militant group, which arose from the remnants of al-Qaida in Iraq after that group's defeat by U.S.-led forces in 2008, has ambitions to regenerate again. And it remains a dangerous threat in Iraq, Af-

ghanistan and beyond.

"The bottom line is: This puts the enemy on its heels, but the ideology — and this sounds so cliched — it is not dead," said Chris Costa, a former senior director for counterterrorism for the National Security Council in the Trump administration.

Key to ISIS is its "kill where you are" ethos, encouraging a far-flung network of followers, including those in the U.S., to commit violence however and wherever they can. That jihadi message is likely to live on, even with the death of al-Baghdadi.

That means U.S. forces, perhaps in reduced numbers, will continue hunting and attacking key ISIS targets, even as Trump says he's committed to a 2016 campaign pledge to bring them home and end "endless wars" started under his predecessors.

In announcing on Sunday that al-Baghdadi had blown himself up after being cornered in a dead-end underground tunnel in Syria, Trump acknowledged that ISIS, which he often calls "100 percent" defeated, still has ambitions to make a comeback. The group is "very, very strongly looking to build it again," he said.

Rep. Mike Rogers, the ranking Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee, said five years of U.S. and coalition effort inside Syria have not eliminated the ISIS threat.

"While the death of its leader is a tremendous blow for the group, about 10,000 ISIS fighters remain in the region and will continue to carry out guerrilla attacks and seek new territory," he said.

According to defense officials

in Iraq and Afghanistan who study ISIS and have watched its movements, the group is growing in power and numbers outside of Syria.

It is that global reach that makes ISIS a continuing worry, including for U.S. officials seeking to protect the homeland.

Al-Baghdadi served as a direct inspiration for extremists in the United States, where multiple jihadis in the last five years invoked his name as they carried out deadly acts of violence.

"That voice, the face associated with it — the name in particular — it's all directly linked to those in the United States who have pledged allegiance to him so as to conduct attacks in the group's name," said Joshua Geltzer, a former senior counterterrorism official in the Obama administration.

# Airmen can enlist indefinitely following 12 years of service

BY BRIAN FERGUSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Air Force has approved indefinite enlistments for active-duty airmen with at least 12 years of service, the service's top enlisted leader said after an internal memo became public.

"Keep an eye out for the official announcement — and know that we are working for our airmen," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright said on his Facebook page Sunday.

Beginning Nov. 18, all airmen with at least 12 years of service at their date of discharge can reenlist for an unspecified

period, extending their enlistment term to the year they must be promoted or face separation, also known as the high year tenure mark.

This eliminated the need to reenlist every four to six years, according to a memo that first appeared on the Air Force amn/nco/snco Facebook page Oct. 23.

Airmen can apply to retire once they become eligible or separate before then if they don't have a service commitment. Promoted airmen will have their service extended to the new rank's high year of tenure.

"We looked at this from all angles and see it as the right

move for our team," Wright said in an email to Stars and Stripes on Monday. "This change doesn't mean the end of bonuses or ceremonies that honor an Airman's commitment. It's what our officer corps has done for years and it just makes sense."

Those who accept retention bonuses must also accept additional service commitments, the memo said.

Wright has long advocated indefinite enlistments.

"I've been in the Air Force 28 years, almost 29," he said in 2017 at a conference in Orlando, Fla. "And every four years, I've got to go through the 'Yeah, I'm still here.'"

# Aircrews' lodging at Trump site is cleared

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Air Force crews who stayed at President Donald Trump's Scotland golf resort during flight layovers did not violate any service rules, according to a military review into whether taxpayer dollars were misused when commanders lodged at the seaside hotel.

The Air Mobility Command launched its review after reports emerged earlier this year that personnel stopped at Prestwick Airport on overseas missions and slept at Trump's Turnberry Resort more than 30 miles away.

The situation sparked complaints from numerous Democratic lawmakers, who have called for an independent probe into Trump properties amid allegations the president is unfairly profiting from government use of his businesses.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., in a statement said the Air Force review was "stunningly inadequate" and called for an inspector general probe.

The Pentagon said in a letter sent to the House Oversight Committee that it spent about \$184,000 at the resort between 2017 and this past summer, NBC News reported last month.

The Air Force said shifting some flights near Trump's resort in Scotland was in line with regulations and "military necessity."

"No evidence was found to suggest use of airfields or specific lodging locations was inconsistent with the imperatives to maintain ... the air mobility system in support of national military objectives," the Air Mobility review stated.

However, the Air Force acknowledged that commanders would benefit from additional training that took into account "public perception" when making lodging choices.

# \$6.8M awarded over noise at Iwakuni

BY JAMES BOLINGER  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — The Hiroshima High Court awarded nearly \$6.8 million on Friday to residents living near MCAS Iwakuni as compensation for aircraft noise, a higher amount than a lower court allowed in 2015, according to Japanese government officials.

The award — the latest in a 10-year-old lawsuit — benefits 653 residents living near the air base who say they suffered from the noise.

A variety of jets are flown out of the base. They include the Marine Corps' fifth-generation stealth fighter, the F-35B Lightning II, and the F/A 18 Hornet and the Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornet. The number of aircraft at Iwakuni increased as the U.S. Navy transferred its Carrier Air Wing 5 from Naval Air Facility Atsugi, south of Tokyo, a process that concluded last year.

According to a 2014 noise

study by the Department of Defense, both aircraft types can produce about 145 decibels. By comparison, a gas-powered lawn mower 3 feet away produces about 100 decibels; a 747-400 commercial airliner on takeoff produces about 110 decibels heard 2 miles away, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Hiroshima High Court added about \$1.6 million on top of the ruling from four years ago, officials said. The additional compensation covers the period between the lower court's decision and the high court ruling on Friday, said Junko Otsuki, a spokeswoman for the plaintiffs.

The court also awarded additional compensation to those living in areas with above-average aircraft noise levels, Otsuki said Monday.

The Japanese government said it will carefully review the court's decision and decide whether it will appeal to the nation's supreme court, Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau

Director General Haruo Morita said in a statement.

"The Ministry of Defense will continue to consider the aircraft noise impact on the residents and will ask the U.S. side to do the same," he said.

Despite the monetary increase, the high court upheld the lower court's decision rejecting resident's demands for compensation for future noise damages, Otsuki said.

Judges also rejected a request to ban flight operations by U.S. and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force aircraft between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. at the air base, she said.

"We are fully committed to our Alliance role, and the entirety of our training directly supports our obligations under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security," Maj. Joshua Diddams, a spokesman for MCAS Iwakuni, told Stars and Stripes in an email Monday.

"There are a number of measures we take to mitigate the impact on those surrounding the air station," he wrote.

# Pallbearer for Cummings explains snub of McConnell

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., cocked his right arm, ready to deliver a handshake. A man in a navy suit, who had been working his way down the line of leaders gathered for the late Rep. Elijah Cummings's memorial Thursday at the Capitol, was fast approaching.

Instead of stopping to acknowledge McConnell, though, video showed the man walking straight past the Republican senator to address House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. While the man and Pelosi chatted, a stoic McConnell stared ahead, clasping his hands in front of him.

This fleeting moment, immortalized in a now-viral clip, prompted many to dub the man — later identified as Bobby Rankin, a close friend of Cummings — as their “hero” for casting “well-deserved shade” at McConnell.

While many assumed that Rankin had acted out of loyalty to Cummings, the longtime legislator from Maryland who had clashed repeatedly with Presi-

dent Donald Trump before his death on Oct. 17, he told *The Washington Post* his reasons were much more personal.

“When I saw Mitch McConnell, all I saw was my brother’s face,” said Rankin, 64, of Charlotte, N.C., one of Cummings’ pallbearers.

Rankin’s brother, Jerry, died last October from cancer after being exposed to contaminated water while serving in the Marines at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Jerry did not receive the veterans’ benefits he was owed before he died, Rankin said — and he blamed McConnell in part for that family tragedy.

Rankin said his brother was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer that causes malignant cells to accumulate in bone marrow, more than a decade ago, after leaving the Marines. Multiple myeloma is one of 15 health conditions linked to Camp Lejeune’s tainted drinking water, which contained industrial solvents, benzene and other chemicals for roughly 30 years beginning in the 1950s, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

## Firefighters battle flames near LA, wine country

*Associated Press*

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — Firefighters battled destructive wildfires in Northern California wine country and on the west side of Los Angeles on Monday, trying to beat back flames that forced tens of thousands to flee their homes.

California’s biggest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, cut off power to an estimated 2.5 million people in the northern part of the state over the weekend in yet another round of blackouts aimed at preventing wind-blown electrical equipment from sparking more fires. And more shut-offs are possible in the next few days.

The fire that broke out last week amid Sonoma County’s vineyards and wineries north of San Francisco grew to at least 103 square miles, destroying 94 buildings, including 40 homes, and threatening 80,000 more structures, authorities said. Nearly 200,000 people were under evacuation orders, mostly from the city of Santa Rosa.

In Southern California, the blaze on the west side of Los Angeles erupted before dawn Monday and roared up slopes into wealthy neighborhoods, threatening thousands of homes. Tens of thousands of people were ordered to clear out.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric

Garcetti said that the fire had grown to 500 acres and that he had seen five burned homes. Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas said he expects the number of homes destroyed to climb.

Los Angeles Lakers basketball star LeBron James tweeted that he and his family had to evacuate their home in the city’s exclusive Brentwood section. There was no immediate word on its fate.

“I pray for all the families in the area that could be affected,” he tweeted. “Pretty please get to safety ASAP.”

Night-flying helicopters made water drops before daybreak, and airplanes dropping water and fire retardant joined the battle after the sun came up.

Mount St. Mary’s University evacuated 450 students from its Chalon campus near the Getty Center arts and cultural complex. The Getty was built with special fire protection features, and Los Angeles fire Capt. Erik Scott said it was not threatened.

The biggest evacuation was in Sonoma County, where some people who were packing up and fleeing Sunday had done so two years ago when devastating wildfires swept through Sonoma, Napa and neighboring counties, killing 44 people.

## Long-serving black lawmaker Conyers dies

*Associated Press*

DETROIT — Former U.S. Rep. John Conyers, one of the longest-serving members of Congress, whose resolutely liberal stance on civil rights made him a political institution in Washington and back home in Detroit despite several scandals, has died at 90.

Conyers, among the high-profile politicians toppled by sex harassment allegations in 2017, died at his home on Sunday, said Detroit police spokesman Cpl. Dan Donakowski. The death “looks like natural causes,” Donakowski added.

Known as the dean of the Congressio-

nal Black Caucus, which he helped found, Conyers became one of only six black House members when he won his first election by just 108 votes in 1964. The race was the beginning of more than 50 years of election dominance. Conyers regularly won elections with more than 80% of the vote, even after his wife went to prison for taking a bribe.

Throughout his career, Conyers used his influence to push civil rights.

After a 15-year fight, he won passage of legislation declaring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a national holiday, first celebrated in 1986. He regularly in-

troduced a bill starting in 1989 to study the harm caused by slavery and the possibility of reparations for slaves’ descendants. That bill never got past a House subcommittee.

After a nearly 53-year career, he became the first Capitol Hill politician to lose his job in the torrent of sexual misconduct allegations sweeping through the nation’s workplaces. A former staffer alleged she was fired because she rejected his sexual advances, and others said they’d witnessed Conyers inappropriately touching female staffers or requesting sexual favors.

He denied the allegations but eventually stepped down, citing health reasons.

# Calif. lawmaker resigns amid ethics inquiry

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Freshman Rep. Katie Hill, a rising Democratic star in the House, announced her resignation amid an ethics probe, saying explicit private photos of her with a campaign staffer had been “weaponized” by her husband and political operatives.

The California Democrat, 32, had been hand-picked for a coveted leadership seat. But in recent days, compromising photos of Hill and purported text messages from her to a campaign staffer surfaced online in a right-wing publication and a British tabloid.

The House ethics committee also had launched an investigation into whether Hill had an

inappropriate relationship with an aide in her congressional office, which is prohibited under House rules. Hill, one of the few openly bisexual women in Congress, has denied that and vowed to fight a “smear” campaign waged by a husband she called abusive.

But her relationship with the campaign aide became a concern for House Democrats who have made equality in the workplace a particular priority. On Sunday, after apologizing for the relationship with a subordinate, Hill announced she was stepping aside.

“It is with a broken heart that today I announce my resignation from Congress,” she wrote in a statement released

Sunday.

“Having private photos of personal moments weaponized against me has been an appalling invasion of my privacy. It’s also illegal, and we are currently pursuing all of our available legal options,” she added. “However, I know that as long as I am in Congress, we’ll live fearful of what might come next and how much it will hurt.”

Hill’s statement provided no details on that or when she would step down. Hill’s office and campaign provided no additional public comment.

Her abrupt fall came after a blazing rise in which she won the last Republican-held House seat anchored in Los Angeles County, part of a rout that saw

GOP House members driven out of their seats in Southern California.

Nationally, Hill was part of the wave that flipped the House to Democratic control. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi picked her for a coveted leadership seat. Hill also is vice-chair of the powerful House Oversight Committee.

In a statement Sunday, Pelosi praised Hill for bringing “a powerful commitment to her community and a bright vision for the future” to the House but added: “She has acknowledged errors in judgment that made her continued service as a Member untenable.”

## EU agrees to delay Brexit until Jan. 31

Associated Press

LONDON — The European Union agreed Monday to delay Brexit by three months until Jan. 31, making the offer to avert a chaotic U.K. departure just three days before Britain was due to become the first country ever to leave the 28-nation bloc.

The decision was welcomed by politicians in the U.K. and the bloc — but not by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who said just weeks ago that he would “rather be dead in a ditch” than postpone the U.K.’s leaving date past Oct. 31.

In the end, the choice was not in his hands — and the EU’s offer of an extension looks to be only a temporary respite from Brexit anxiety.

The U.K. Parliament forced Johnson to ask for a delay in order to avoid a no-deal Brexit, which would hurt the economies of both Britain and the EU.

Johnson is now pushing for an early election as a way of

getting a more cooperative Parliament. Lawmakers in the House of Commons are voting later Monday on a government motion calling for a British general election on Dec. 12.

After a very short meeting Monday of diplomats in Brussels, European Council President Donald Tusk tweeted that the EU’s 27 other countries would accept “the UK’s request for a Brexit flexextension until 31 January, 2020.” Under the offer, the U.K. can leave before Jan. 31 if the British and European parliaments ratify a Brexit divorce agreement — either on Dec. 1 or Jan 1.

There was no immediate response from Johnson, who is bound by law to accept the EU’s terms. But Johnson’s spokesman insisted it was Parliament’s fault that Johnson had failed to deliver his core promise of an Oct. 31 Brexit.

The delay is the third time the Brexit deadline has been changed since British voters decided in a 2016 referendum to leave the bloc.

## South Korea offers meeting with North on halted project

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea on Monday proposed a face-to-face meeting with North Korea on the fate of a long-shuttered joint tourist project at a scenic North Korean mountain as their relations remain cool over stalemated nuclear diplomacy.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last week ordered the destruction of South Korean-built facilities at the North’s Diamond Mountain resort, saying they look “shabby” and “unpleasant-looking.” North Korea later proposed an exchange of documents to work out details.

On Monday, South Korea sent a message proposing officials from the two Koreas meet to discuss issues on the tourist project including the North’s push to tear down South Korean-constructed facilities there, according to Seoul’s Unification Ministry. Spokesman Lee Sang-min said South Korea hasn’t yet proposed a specific date and location for that meeting.

Lee said South Korea has de-

termined there should be “some sort of meeting” between the two Koreas to discuss the issue. He said “a unilateral action” by North Korea could damage inter-Korean relations and runs counter to public sentiments in South Korea.

North Korea didn’t immediately respond to South Korea’s proposal.

South Korean tours to the mountain began in 1998, providing a rare source of foreign currency for the impoverished North. The mountain was also one of the few places in North Korea that South Koreans could visit. But the project was halted in 2008 when a North Korean soldier fatally shot a South Korean tourist who the North says entered a restricted area.

Pyongyang has called for the project’s restart since it entered nuclear diplomacy with Washington and Seoul last year. But Seoul cannot revive tours to the mountain and other massive stalled inter-Korean economic projects while international sanctions remain in place over the North’s nuclear program.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### 8-year-old boy builds boxes to collect food

**IN** SOUTH HAVEN — Some people build little library boxes to encourage reading. An 8-year-old Indiana boy has made a “blessing box” to collect food.

The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported that Jeremiah “Jay” Dawson used birthday money to put the box in his family’s front yard in South Haven in Porter County. It serves as a neighborhood food pantry.

South Haven firefighters recently honored Jay by donating food and presenting him with a \$60 gift card to buy materials for his next box. They visited his house in firetrucks.

### Trooper OK after deer crashes into car

**IN** BLUFFTON — An Indiana state trooper had an unwanted passenger: A deer crashed through the windshield of a patrol car.

A state police spokesman said Trooper A.J. Repass was “doing well” after the collision early Saturday.

Sgt. Brian Walker said on Twitter said Repass’ car is “definitely going to need a cleaning.”

The crash occurred near Bluffton in Wells County, 25 miles south of Fort Wayne.

### Prosthetic leg sought for duck hurt in attack

**ME** GARDINER — It looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and — if it gets a prosthetic leg — will once again walk like a duck.

Loni Hamner, of Gardiner, recently adopted a female Mallard duck that was left with one leg and a stump after being attacked by a fox last year. Ham-

ner said the duck she’s named Faith can hop and hobble around, but she wants her “to have a good, duck quality of life and do all the things ducks like to do.”

The Bangor Daily News reported that a query on the Maine Poultry Connection Facebook page led Hamner to the University of Maine Advanced Structure and Composites Center. Lab manager Paul Bussiere said he’ll create a prosthetic leg for Faith for free in his spare time.

### Police find 4 chalices stolen from church

**RI** JOHNSTON — Police said they have recovered four chalices that were stolen from a Roman Catholic church in Rhode Island.

The chalices were taken on Oct. 22 from the sacristy at Saint Rocco’s in Johnston. A video camera in the church showed a man entering in the afternoon and leaving a short time later carrying a bag.

Police identified the man as David Ferrara, 63, of Providence. They were still searching for him over the weekend.

Police said their investigation led to the recovery of the chalices, which have an estimated value of about \$10,000, although one of them was broken into several pieces.

### Officers attacked while stopping melee

**MA** WORCESTER — Worcester police said several officers were attacked during a melee at a beer garden.

Masslive.com reported five people were charged in the fighting early Saturday morning at the Beer Garden on Franklin Street.

Police said officers were

trying to help clear out the establishment after a fight about 12:30 a.m. when several people attacked them.

They said a female officer had a large chunk of hair torn from her head and another officer was bitten by a woman who had taken his baton.

Police said another patron attacked a police dog before being bitten by the animal.

### Statue auction to honor slain elephant

**TN** ERWIN — A Tennessee town is preparing to auction off a herd of brightly painted elephant statues that recall a dark day in the town’s history.

The Johnson City Press reported the auction is part of a community initiative called the Erwin Elephant Revival. It honors a circus elephant named Mary who was hanged from a derrick in Erwin’s rail yard in 1916 after she killed her trainer.

The Elephant Revival lets residents reflect on the past while raising money for the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald.

### FBI joins search for bank robbery suspect

**MD** BALTIMORE — The FBI is helping police in Maryland search for a man it says has robbed eight banks since July.

The FBI alleged Saturday that Fletcher Dorsett robbed another bank Friday. That bank is in Baltimore.

News outlets reported Dorsett, 51, was released from federal prison last month after serving a sentence for robbing a Bank of America in 2007. Police said he’s now suspected of robbing the bank next door.

Annapolis police said in a news release Thursday that

Dorsett is the suspect in a robbery at a Wells Fargo Bank on Oct. 16 in which a man got away with money after handing an employee a note.

### States make plans for 220 mph train rides

**GA** MARIETTA — High-speed trains would whisk passengers from Atlanta’s airport to Charlotte, N.C., at speeds of up to 220 mph.

Public input is being sought on the three proposed routes.

Travel times for the proposed routes vary, with the fastest one taking somewhere between just over two hours and 2 hours and 45 minutes.

That fastest option would operate at top speed for the longest duration and travel through Athens, Ga., and Anderson, S.C., before reaching Charlotte. The Marietta Daily Journal reported that all three proposed routes would go through Greenville, S.C.

### City to eliminate library fines for youth

**MA** BOSTON — Young people in Boston will no longer have to worry about racking up library fines.

As of Nov. 1, the Boston Public Library will eliminate overdue fines for those under 18.

The library’s trustees voted to eliminate the fines, saying it will help remove barriers and expand access to services offered at the library.

Although youth card holders won’t face fines for returning books late, they will still be required to return any overdue books in order to check out additional materials and will be responsible for replacement costs if a book is lost or not returned.

From wire reports

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# Cole, Astros top Nationals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gerrit Cole and the Houston Astros went to Washington, hoping to snap out of their funk and bring the World Series back to Minute Maid Park.

Not only are they heading home with more games to play, now they're just one win from another crown.

Handed the ball for what was supposed to be a high-stakes showdown against Max Scherzer, Cole gave Houston a firm grip on the Series by beating the Nationals 7-1 Sunday night for a 3-2 lead.

Cole looked exactly like the stud who dominated baseball most of this season, bouncing back from a Game 1 clunker to pitch the Astros to their third straight win.

What a turnaround for his teammates, too — outscored 17-7 overall at home, Houston hammered the Nationals 19-3 in a Washington wipeout.

"We look like ourselves now," Astros manager AJ Hinch said.

Something was definitely missing for the Nationals. Namely, Scherzer.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner beat Cole in the opener, and was the Nats' best hope to slow Houston. But then Scherzer was scratched only 3½ hours before game time because of an irritated nerve near his neck.

Slumping rookie Yordan Álvarez and Carlos Correa each hit an early two-run

homer off emergency starter Joe Ross.

George Springer added another postseason drive for the Astros, who led the majors with a franchise-best 107 wins during the regular season.

"We actually hit some balls hard. We really did," Washington manager Dave Martinez said. "We just can't get nothing going these last three days."

With the road team winning every time so far, Houston heads home with two chances to claim its second title in three years. Justin Verlander gets the first try when he starts against Stephen Strasburg in Game 6 on Tuesday.

"High level of confidence," Cole said.

Cole threw three-hit ball for seven innings, nicked only by Juan Soto's home run in the seventh, and struck out nine — eight on breaking balls.

Cole's mix of 99 mph heat and sharp secondary pitches induced a bevy of bad swings from the wild-card Nats as he improved to 4-1 with a 1.72 ERA this postseason. It might've been his final start for Houston — he's eligible for free agency and figures to command a steep price.

Standing tall on the mound, Cole was unflappable in the face of 43,910 fans who went from fired up to furious to flat-out frustrated.

"He knew what this game meant to this Series," Hinch said. "So, nobody better to have on the mound."

# Woods ties record for PGA wins

Associated Press

INZAI CITY, Japan — For Tiger Woods, it all comes down to consistency.

Surgeries on his knee and back and a crisis in his personal life have cost him opportunities to play his best golf over the past decade. But when he's been healthy and free from off-course distractions, he's always found ways to win. And now, he's won as much as anybody on the PGA Tour.

Woods completed a wire-to-wire victory at the Zozo Championship on Monday, equaling Sam Snead's PGA Tour record of 82 victories.

"It's a big number," Woods said. "It's a lot of consistency and doing it for a long period of time, Sam did it into his 50s and I'm in my early to mid-40s, so it's about being consistent and doing it for a very long period of time. I've been very fortunate to have the career I've had so far."

The 43-year-old returned Monday to play the final seven holes in the rain-hit tournament, completing a 3-under 67 to beat local favorite Hideki Matsuyama by three strokes at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club.

Woods had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee two months ago — his fifth on the same problem joint. He's also had four back surgeries, including a spinal fusion, and looked at times as if his career was over, but he returned to win the Tour Championship in 2018 before his triumph at the Masters in April for his 15th major.

The Japan event was Woods' first start of his 23rd season on the PGA Tour.

"I can still manage my way around the golf course," Woods said. "I know how to play. I was able to do that this week."

The fourth round was suspended because of darkness Sunday with Woods holding a three-stroke lead over Matsuyama in the first official PGA Tour event in Japan.

He bogeyed his first hole of the day, the par-4 12th, but was solid the rest of the way with birdies on Nos. 14 and 18 to finish at 19-under 261. Matsuyama also closed with a 67.

Woods opened with consecutive 64s, with a day off in between because of rain. He had a 66 on Sunday in the third round.

"It's been a long week," Woods said. "Five days at the top of the leaderboard is a long time."

Rory McIlroy, the highest-ranked player in the field, completed his round with two birdies for a 67 to tie for third at 13 under with Sungjae Im, who shot 65.

# Verlander gets shot at redemption

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — George Springer shook his head at the mere mention of Houston Astros teammate Justin Verlander's past October trouble, the only pitcher in history to go 0-5 in the World Series.

"We wouldn't be here without him," Springer declared. "I don't care what individual stats say."

Then, as if to emphasize the point, the Astros outfielder repeated himself: "We wouldn't be here without him. So I'm glad that we're handing the ball to him. We'll see what happens."

Verlander will get a chance to make people forget his postseason struggles, including losses in win-and-advance games in this year's AL Division Series and Championship Series, if he can help Houston clinch a second championship in three years. The 36-year-old right-hander will start Game 6 at home against Stephen Strasburg and the Washington Nationals on Tuesday night.

"He's prepared. He's ready for this moment," said Gerrit Cole, Verlander's rota-

tion-mate and chief AL Cy Young Award competition this season. "It's going to be business as usual for him. He's going to set the tone for us."

Verlander has not been pitching up to the high standards he established while winning 225 games, collecting 2011 AL Cy Young and MVP honors and earning eight All-Star selections.

After going 21-6 with a 2.58 ERA and 300 Ks during the regular season, this is what he's done in five postseason starts in 2019: 1-3, 4.15 ERA, 35 strikeouts, 11 walks.

That includes a 12-3 loss in Game 2, also while facing Strasburg.

Strasburg, meanwhile, truly has been at his best this postseason, frequently relying on his seemingly unhittable changeup or his right-where-he-wants-it curveball as out pitches, rather than the high-90s mph fastball he thrived with in earlier times.

The 31-year-old righty has a 4-0 record, 1.82 ERA, 40 strikeouts and just two walks in five appearances this month, four as a starter.

## NFL roundup

## Brees sharp in return; Saints pound Cards

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Drew Brees passed for 373 yards and three touchdowns in his first game in more than five weeks since thumb surgery, and the New Orleans Saints won their sixth straight with a 31-9 victory over the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday.

With few exceptions, Brees was accurate and looked composed even as his pass blocking collapsed, completing 34 of 43 passes.

He was intercepted once, by Patrick Peterson, but was not pressured before throwing that aggressive, risky pass down the left sideline, where fullback Zach Line was double-covered.

The Cardinals were unable to capitalize on that turnover early in the second half, however, and Brees made them pay by leading three touchdown drives after that, ending with passes to running back Latavius Murray, dynamic reserve QB and utility player Taysom Hill, and leading receiver Michael Thomas.

Cardinals rookie Kyler Murray completed 19 of 33 passes for 220 yards, but Arizona never found the end zone. Eight of his completions went to Christian Kirk for 79 yards in the receiver's return from an ankle sprain. Arizona was held to 40 yards rushing and the Saints' defense held a fifth-straight opponent below 260 total net yards.

**Packers 31, Chiefs 24:** Aaron Rodgers threw for 305 yards and three touchdowns, two of them to Aaron Jones on a big night for the Green Bay running back, and the Packers held off backup quarterback Matt Moore and host Kansas City.

Jones, who briefly left with a shoulder injury, had seven catches for 159 yards and added 67 on the ground — a big chunk of them in the closing minutes, when the Packers (7-1) sealed the win.

With reigning league MVP Patrick Mahomes out with a dislocated kneecap, Moore took the reins of the Chiefs' high-

powered offense and fared quite well. He threw for 267 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions in the ex-high school coach's first NFL start in more than two years.

**Chargers 17, Bears 16:** Chicago kicker Eddy Pineiro missed a 41-yard field goal as time expired and visiting Los Angeles hung on for the win.

The Bears (3-4) took over at their 35 with 1:33 remaining and had a chance to win it after driving all the way to the 21. Chicago had quarterback Mitchell Trubisky take a knee with about 40 seconds left rather than try to get closer to the goal line. And Pineiro, who hit an upright on a miss earlier, hooked the potential winner wide left as time expired.

That allowed the Chargers (3-5) to snap a three-game losing streak.

**Texans 27, Raiders 24:** Deshaun Watson threw for 279 yards and three touchdowns, including the go-ahead score in the fourth quarter to lift host Houston past Oakland after the Texans lost defensive end J.J. Watt.

Watt sustained a season-ending pectoral injury in the second quarter.

There were about 6½ minutes left when Watson evaded the rush and connected with Darren Fells on a 9-yard scoring toss to put Houston up 27-24.

**Eagles 31, Bills 13:** Rookie Miles Sanders scored on a career-best 65-yard touchdown run and visiting Philadelphia snapped a two-game skid with a win over Buffalo.

Carson Wentz finished 17-for-24 for 172 and a touchdown passing in a game the Eagles blew open by scoring TDs 83 seconds apart spanning halftime.

Dallas Goedert scored on a 5-yard catch and Jordan Howard had a team-best 96 yards rushing and scored on a 3-yard run.

**49ers 51, Panthers 13:** Tevin Coleman scored three of his four touchdowns in the first half, rookie Nick Bosa had three

sacks to go along with an acrobatic interception and host San Francisco remained unbeaten with a victory over Carolina Panthers in its highest-scoring game in 26 years.

The Niners (7-0) are off to their best start since winning their first 10 games in 1990 but still faced questions because five of those first six victories came against teams that have losing records.

But San Francisco delivered perhaps its most complete performance of the season against the streaking Panthers (4-3), who had won four straight games and featured one of the league's top defenses.

**Titans 27, Buccaneers 23:** Ryan Tannehill threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to A.J. Brown with 6:55 left, and host Tennessee rallied to beat Tampa Bay for its second straight win.

The Bucs (2-6) lost their third straight and fourth in five games despite Jameis Winston and Mike Evans putting the Bucs up 23-17 by connecting on a TD pass at the end of the first half and a second early in the third quarter. They wouldn't score again despite outgaining Tennessee 389-246.

**Patriots 27, Browns 13:** Tom Brady threw for 259 yards and two touchdown passes and Bill Belichick earned his 300th NFL coaching victory in the Patriots' 27-13 win over visiting Cleveland.

Belichick sits behind only Don Shula (347) and George Halas (324) on the NFL's all-time win list.

The Patriots improved to 8-0 for the third time in team history and the first time since 2015, when they started 10-0. The Browns (2-5) have lost three straight games.

**Rams 24, Bengals 10:** Wide receiver Cooper Kupp caught seven passes for a career-best 220 yards, Jared Goff threw for two touchdowns and Los Angeles beat winless Cincinnati to make for another successful trip to London.

Kupp caught a 65-yard touch-

down pass in the second quarter on a double reverse flea-flicker from Goff, and the duo teamed up for a 40-yarder shortly after halftime to set up another score at Wembley Stadium.

Goff went 17-for-31 for 372 yards, 273 of which came in the first half.

**Colts 15, Broncos 13:** Adam Vinatieri made a 51-yard field goal with 22 seconds left to help host Indianapolis rally for a victory over Denver.

The NFL's career scoring leader overcame two earlier misses to keep Indy (5-2) atop the AFC South with its third straight victory.

**Seahawks 27, Falcons 20:** Russell Wilson threw two touchdown passes to DK Metcalf, Chris Carson ran for 90 yards and a score, and visiting Seattle beat reeling Atlanta.

Seattle led 24-0 at halftime as the Falcons offense floundered early in their first start without quarterback Matt Ryan in 10 years. Ryan's streak of 154 consecutive regular-season starts ended as he was held out with a sprained right ankle.

**Jaguars 29, Jets 15:** Sam Darnold went from seeing ghosts to seeing teal.

Darnold was sacked a career-high eight times and threw three interceptions in host Jacksonville's victory over New York.

He was picked off twice in the fourth quarter, including one that set up Gardner Minshew's game-sealing score to DJ Chark with a little more than four minutes to play.

**Lions 31, Giants 26:** Matthew Stafford threw two of his three touchdown passes to Kenny Golladay and host Detroit snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over slumping New York.

The Lions (3-3-1) took a two-TD lead in the first quarter and Stafford's 41-yard flea flicker to Golladay early in the fourth put them ahead by 12 points.

# Truex wins at Martinsville, earns spot in championship

Associated Press

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Martin Truex Jr. was celebrating the victory that locked him into NASCAR's title race when he heard the crowd roar, looked up at the big screen and saw two championship contenders jawing at each other on pit road.

"Oh, look, a fight," the winner said.

Indeed, Denny Hamlin was knocked to the ground in a confrontation with Joey Logano in the most intense action of an otherwise lackluster playoff Sunday at Martinsville Speedway.

Truex earned a spot in NASCAR's championship race for the third consecutive year by leading 464 of the 500 laps. He's the first driver to claim one of the four spots in the Nov. 17 title race at Homestead-Miami Speedway while leading the most laps in a win since Kyle Petty led 484 laps in 1992 at Rockingham.

There were just three lead changes, and Truex controlled from the first round of pit stops, when he beat Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Hamlin back onto the track for the lead. He and his Toyota coasted to his first win at NASCAR's shortest track.

"We're going to Homestead again and that was what we tried to accomplish this weekend," Truex said.

Martinsville marked the first of three races in the round of eight of the playoffs, where the field will be trimmed to a winner-take-all final four for the finale. Truex is locked in, while Hamlin, Kyle Busch and Logano are above the cutline. Kevin Harvick, Ryan Blaney, Chase Elliott and Kyle Larson are the bottom four. The next two rounds will be must-win situations for Elliott, NASCAR's most popular driver, who suffered a catastrophic mechanical failure and finished 36th in the 38-car field.

For Truex, the 2017 champion who will race for the title for the fourth time in five years, the win was redemption from a year ago at Martinsville when he raced Logano cleanly over the closing laps and Logano snatched the win away from Truex. Logano then won the championship.

As Truex celebrated, the crowd focus turned to pit road where Hamlin and Logano were having a conversation. Hamlin wagged his finger at Logano, then Logano placed his hand on Hamlin's shoulder somewhat flippantly as he walked away. Hamlin chased after him, crew members got in the way and Hamlin was knocked to the ground.

## NHL roundup

# Blues blow lead, edge Wings

Associated Press

DETROIT — David Perron scored at 1:28 of overtime to give the St. Louis Blues a 5-4 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Sunday night.

The Blues blew a two-goal lead in the third period and needed Ryan O'Reilly's late goal to send it to overtime. The Red Wings have lost eight straight.

Perron scored from the left circle after circling with the puck for a few seconds. He has six goals this season.

O'Reilly had two goals and two assists and Perron added three assists. Brayden Schenn had a goal and an assist, Zach Sanford also scored, and Jordan Binnington made 29 saves for the defending champion Blues.

**Bruins 7, Rangers 4:** Brad Marchand had two goals and three assists and visiting Boston scored four times in the second period to beat New York.

Patrice Bergeron scored three goals for his fifth regular-season hat trick, Charlie Coyle and Zdeno Chara each had a goal and an assist, and David Pastrnak added five assists to help the Bruins improve to 8-1-2 this season. Jaroslav Halak stopped 25 shots as Boston earned a point for the seventh straight game (5-0-2).

**Islanders 5, Flyers 3:** Mathew Barzal had a goal and an assist and host New York beat Philadelphia to extend its winning streak to seven games.

Anders Lee, Derick Brassard, Ross

Johnston and Ryan Pulock also scored and Semyon Varlamov stopped 28 shots for his third straight victory.

**Blackhawks 5, Kings 1:** Dylan Strome had two goals and assisted on linemate Alex DeBrincat's score to help host Chicago beat Los Angeles to end a four-game skid.

DeBrincat set up both of Strome's goals as the two former junior hockey teammates clicked again and sparked Chicago's attack. David Kampf and Drake Caggiula also scored and Robin Lehner made 38 saves.

**Golden Knights 5, Ducks 2:** Nicolas Roy scored his first career NHL goal in Vegas' victory over visiting Anaheim.

Making his first appearance for the Golden Knights, Roy split two defenders and slipped a shot through goalie John Gibson's pads for what turned out to be the winning goal.

**Panthers 6, Oilers 2:** Brian Boyle and Jayce Hawryluk each had a goal and an assist and visiting Florida scored three goals in just over two minutes to open the second period against Edmonton.

The Panthers improved to 5-2-4, earning at least a point in eight straight games.

**Senators 5, Sharks 2:** Nick Paul had two goals and an assist for his first multipoint game in the NHL in host Ottawa's victory over San Jose.

Brady Tkachuk had a goal and two assists, and Connor Brown and Anthony Duclair also scored.

## NBA roundup

# Thunder rout Warriors for 1st win

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Dennis Schroder scored 22 points to help the Oklahoma City Thunder rout the Golden State Warriors 120-92 on Sunday for their first victory of the season.

The blowout matched Oklahoma City's largest margin of victory over the Warriors since the franchise moved from Seattle before in 2008. The Thunder opened the season with losses to Utah and Washington.

Stephen Curry scored 23 points for the Warriors, making seven of 18 shots while his teammates made just 23 of 74.

**Lakers 120, Hornets 101:** Anthony Davis had 29 points and 14 rebounds, and Dwight Howard added 16 points, 10 boards and four blocked shots in Los Angeles' victory over visiting Charlotte.

LeBron James had 20 points, 12 assists and six rebounds.

**Trail Blazers 121, Mavericks 119:** Damian Lillard made a twisting layup with 26 seconds remaining and scored 26 of his 28 points in the second half in Portland's victory over host Dallas.

**Grizzlies 134, Nets 133 (OT):** Jae Crowder hit a three-pointer from the top of the key as time expired in overtime, lifting Memphis past visiting Brooklyn for its first victory of the season.

**Timberwolves 116, Heat 109:** Andrew Wiggins made four threes in the final six minutes, finishing with 25 points to propel unbeaten host Minnesota past Miami.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Wolves. At 3-0, they matched the second-best start in the long-languishing franchise's history.