

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

Thursday, September 27, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Ford to panel: Kavanaugh assaulted me

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Christine Blasey Ford declared Thursday that Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her as he and a friend shared “uproarious laughter” in a locked room at a 1980s high school gathering, recounting her allegations to the Senate Judiciary Committee and a riveted nation in a drama that threatens to derail Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination.

Her account, delivered in a soft and sometimes halting voice, came as the Judiciary panel began an extraordinary session that Republicans hope will let them salvage Kavanaugh’s chances of joining the high court. She showed no hesitancy in affirming the crucial question about the alleged incident, telling senators her certainty that Kavanaugh was her attacker was “100 percent.”

The conservative jurist’s Senate confirmation had seemed assured until Ford came for-

ward and then other women emerged with additional allegations of sexual misconduct. Kavanaugh, now 53, has denied them all and awaited his own chance to testify later Thursday. It has become less clear that Republican leaders will be able to hold GOP senators behind President Donald Trump’s nominee.

In an election season battle that’s being waged along a polarized nation’s political and cultural fault lines, Trump and most Republicans have rallied behind Kavanaugh. They’ve accused Ford and the other women of making unproven allegations and have questioned why they’d not publicly revealed them for decades.

But with televisions across the nation tuned to the hearing, it was unclear how lawmakers who will ultimately decide Kavanaugh’s fate will assess Ford’s credibility.

Ford has said Kavanaugh trapped her on a bed and tried

undressing her, grinding his body against her and muffling her cries with her hand. “I believed he was going to rape me,” she said in her opening statement.

Democrats have rallied strongly behind Ford.

Asked by Patrick Leahy, of Vermont, for her strongest memory of the alleged incident, Ford mentioned the two boys’ “laughter — the uproarious laughter between the two and they’re having fun at my expense.”

The 51-year-old California psychology professor spoke carefully and deliberately during the hearing, using scientific terminology at one point to describe how a brain might remember details of events decades later. The boys’ laughter was “indelible in the hippocampus,” she said.

Ford has said Kavanaugh friend Mark Judge was also in the room. Judge has said he doesn’t remember the incident

and has declined to appear before the panel.

Ford told the top committee Democrat, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, that she’d “agonized daily” over coming forward about the alleged attack. She said she feared the consequences would be akin to “jumping in front of a train.” In fact, both she and Kavanaugh have received death threats.

When Feinstein asked her how she could be sure that Kavanaugh was the attacker, Ford said, “The same way I’m sure I’m talking to you right now.” Later, she told Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., that her certainty was “100 percent.”

The Judiciary panel’s 11 Republicans — all men — let Rachel Mitchell, a veteran sex crimes prosecutor from Arizona, ask their questions. She began by expressing sympathy for Ford, who’d said she was “terrified” to testify, saying: “I just wanted to let you know, I’m very sorry. That’s not right.”

## In US combat debut, F-35 fighter jet hits Taliban target

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The F-35 Lightning II stealth fighter jet, the U.S. military’s most expensive weapon ever produced, was used Thursday for the first time in a combat mission, striking a Taliban target in Afghanistan, defense officials said.

The Marine Corps’ F-35B variant of the aircraft carried out the strike on a static target in support of ground clearance operations after flying from the USS Essex, an amphibious assault ship now positioned in the U.S. Central Command area of operations, according to statements from U.S. Navy Central and the Marine Corps.

The ground force commander deemed the strike successful, according to the statements.

“The F-35B is a significant enhancement in theater amphibious and air warfighting capability, operational flexibility, and tactical supremacy,” Vice Adm. Scott Stearney, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central, said in a statement. “As part of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group, this platform supports operations on the ground from international waters, all while enabling maritime superiority that enhances stability and security.”

Officials at the Pentagon declined to disclose where the strike took place in Afghani-

stan, how many F-35Bs were involved in the operation or why the fighter jet was chosen for the mission.

The Marine version of the aircraft is capable of conducting short takeoffs and vertical landings like a helicopter. The Air Force and the Navy have their own versions of the aircraft but have yet to use them in combat operations.

The F-35B that conducted the strike was deployed as part of the Marine Corps’ 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which was the Marines’ first combat-deployed unit to replace the aging AV-8B Harrier attack jets with the F-35B, according to the service.

CNN first reported the Essex, which can carry up to six F-35Bs, was in position this week to put the fifth-generation fighters into combat.

Lockheed Martin began production of the F-35 in 2006, a program marred by cost overruns and delays. The F-35 program is expected to cost the Pentagon about \$406 billion for 2,456 fighter jets that the services intend to buy, according to the F-35 Joint Program Office.

The program’s total cost is expected to rise to some \$1.5 trillion through 2070 once updates and maintenance costs are factored, officials have said.

# Lawmakers baffled over US goals in Syria

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers on Wednesday grilled Pentagon officials on President Donald Trump's overall goals for Syria, expressing confusion about the role of American troops in the war-torn country where Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has said their mission is solely to stamp out Islamic State.

Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., repeatedly expressed frustration during a hearing of the House Armed Services subcommittee on oversight and investigations as he attempted to ascertain the differences in recent statements by top Trump administration officials about the role of U.S. troops in Syria, where they have been fighting ISIS since 2014.

On Monday, national security adviser John Bolton said U.S. servicemembers would not leave Syria until Iran withdraws its proxy forces from the country. Hours later, Mattis insisted some 2,000 troops are only in the country to back forces fighting ISIS and to train local groups to maintain security.

"My question to the Trump administration is this — what is your strategy?" Moulton, a Marine veteran who served as an infantry platoon leader in Iraq, asked Robert Karem, the assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs. "Moreover, we (lawmakers) don't even know what your

long-term objectives are. I'm alarmed that the president's statements regarding Syria have been so overwhelmingly at odds with his senior Cabinet officials."

Trump has publicly mulled pulling troops from Syria as Mattis and other senior national security officials have maintained servicemembers would remain there until the United States was certain ISIS or another terrorist group could not return to the area. Mattis has signaled that troops, at that point, would withdraw. Bolton's statement Monday seemed to contradict Mattis' position, Moulton said.

"That to me sounds like we are sending our military to Syria to counter Iran. Especially since withdrawal (of U.S. troops) is dependent on actions of Iran, not actions of ISIS or the defeat of ISIS," he said, citing Bolton's comments. "That is illegal under the authorization given by Congress, and I think the administration has got a big problem."

Karem said U.S. troops serving in Syria are "squarely focused" on ISIS and have received no orders to conduct any operations countering Iran. Nonetheless, he added their presence has "residual benefits," including denying access to Iran's proxy forces to areas of eastern Syria freed from ISIS.

Karem also warned that the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad, with the backing of Iran and Russia, was unlikely to reach a peace settlement with moderate opposition forces that it has been at war

with for seven years.

"I think I would also note that, analytically, Iran's presence and activities make it increasingly unlikely we will see an enduring political solution to the crisis," he said. "We believe such a political solution is necessary to achieve the conditions that will allow us to secure an enduring defeat of ISIS ... or another similar terrorist organization."

But lawmakers questioned where the line between fighting ISIS and countering Iran might stand.

Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga., questioned whether there was any opportunity for the United States to win in Syria, asking Karem whether the nearly 20-year-old Authorization for the Use of Military Force passed in the days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks really justified the ongoing ISIS fight.

Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., said he worried the Pentagon might use the potential resurgence of ISIS as an excuse to maintain a force in Syria long after the terrorist group is defeated.

"What I'm interpreting right now is we may destroy ISIS and defeat the functionality of ISIS, but there seems to be this other element where the idea that ISIS may exist is the pretext of why we should stay in Syria, when the fact is it's just to buffer against Iran," said Gallego, another Marine veteran of the Iraq War. "If that's the case, you should come back to Congress and ask for the authorization."

## Defense spending bill approved by House

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday approved a defense spending measure to direct more than \$670 billion toward a wave of Defense Department increases, including the largest boost to servicemembers' pay in nearly a decade and new gains in the number of troops, equipment and weapons for the 2019 fiscal year.

The effort is part of a "minibus" appropriations measure, a larger package of more than \$850 billion to fund labor, health and human services and education priorities. It also funds priorities directed in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

The measure passed by a vote of 361-61. President Donald Trump must now sign the legislation into law.

"It is vital that we pass this agreement this week and have it signed into law," said

Rep. Kay Granger, R-Texas, chairwoman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. "The men and women of our armed forces deserve no less."

The defense budget moves on two tracks. The annual NDAA directs policy and spending plans for the military, while the defense appropriations bill is what actually moves money to the Pentagon.

Trump on Aug. 13 signed into law the 2019 NDAA, which ushered through a series of new policy reforms such as revamping the military's "up or out" promotion system and policies to reign in sexual misconduct and domestic abuse among the ranks. The \$716 billion NDAA also authorizes a 2.6 percent pay raise for servicemembers, as well as new purchases of aircrafts, ships, submarines and weapons.

The NDAA directs funding for Defense Department, as well as atomic energy defense activities under the Energy Depart-

ment. Because it funds additional agencies, the NDAA directs larger spending priorities than its appropriations counterpart legislation, said Andrew Sherbo, a University of Denver finance professor who has tracked government and defense budget issues.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said he was confident Trump would sign the legislation into law. The 2019 fiscal year starts Monday.

"If you step back and look what are the two biggest accomplishments of the Trump administration, it's been economic growth and rebuilding the military," Thornberry said Wednesday, following a committee hearing.

"Signing this bill that we are going to pass today is the most significant step towards rebuilding the military because they will have a whole year to efficiently use that money."

## B-2 upgrade for evading foes could run late

Bloomberg

The U.S. Air Force is working to keep its aging B-2 bombers adept at evading the improving air defenses of rivals from China and Russia to Iran and North Korea, but the most significant upgrade yet could be as much as 21 months late for initial deployment.

The improved electronic warfare system from Northrop Grumman Corp. for the 1990s-era stealth bomber is projected to cost about \$390 million more than planned, or about 14 percent more than the cost that the service calculated in 2015, according to officials and an updated Air Force estimate.

When the Air Force gave the company the initial major development contract for the Defensive Management System Modernization in 2016, it projected enough of the nation's 20 B-2s would be upgraded by about May 2022 to declare the fleet had an initial improved combat capability.

The system is intended to detect, identify and precisely locate enemy radar in dense, integrated air defenses.

But the Air Force's independent cost estimators now forecast that the date could slip to March 2024 and what was projected in October 2015 to be a \$2.68 billion program is now estimated at \$3.07 billion, according to documents and Air Force and Pentagon statements. That increase must be funded through 2025, so after making up some of the difference, the Air Force must find an additional \$300 million in its budget to cover the rest.

## China: US B-52 mission over South China Sea 'provocative'

Associated Press

BEIJING — China on Thursday labeled a recent mission by nuclear-capable U.S. B-52 bombers over the disputed South China Sea as "provocative" and said the U.S. was solely responsible for a recent downturn in relations between their militaries.

Defense Ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang also reiterated at a monthly briefing China's objections to a recent U.S. arms sale to Taiwan and the imposition of U.S. sanctions over China's purchase of Russian defense equipment.

"As for the provocative action taken by the U.S. military aircraft, we are firmly against it and we will take all necessary means to safeguard our rights and interests," Ren said.

Two B-52s flew over the strategic waterway, largely claimed by China, earlier this week in what the Pentagon called a routine mission. Separately, two B-52s also flew this week over the East China Sea, where China has declared an air defense identification zone and claims uninhabited islands controlled by Japan.

China has sought to strengthen its claim to the South China Sea by building seven islands on reefs and equipping them with military facilities such as airstrips, radar domes and missile systems. Five other governments claim territory in the oil- and gas-rich area through which an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade passes annually.

Asked at the Pentagon on Wednesday about the bomber flights, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he wasn't concerned they might raise tensions with Beijing.

"That just goes on. If it was 20 years ago

and had they not militarized those features there, it would have been just another bomber on its way to Diego Garcia or wherever," Mattis said, according to a Pentagon transcript, referring to a key U.S. base in the Indian Ocean.

"So there's nothing out of the ordinary about it," Mattis said.

China this week also demanded the U.S. cancel a \$330 million sale of spare parts and related support for Taiwan's U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets and other military aircraft, warning of "severe damage" to bilateral relations and mutual cooperation if Washington fails to comply.

Washington has no official relations with Taiwan's democratically elected government but is obliged by U.S. law to see that it has the means to defend itself.

The arms sale coincides with a U.S. decision to issue a visa ban and assets freeze on China's Equipment Development Department and its director, Li Shangfu, over the purchase from Russia of Su-35 combat aircraft in 2017 and S-400 surface-to-air missile system-related equipment this year.

China's purchase of the weapons from Rosoboronexport, Russia's main arms exporter, violated a 2017 law intended to punish the government of Russian President Vladimir Putin for interference in U.S. elections and other activities.

In response, China demanded the sanctions be revoked, summoned the American ambassador and defense attache to deliver a protest, and recalled its navy commander from a U.S. trip.

China also turned down a request for an October port call in Hong Kong by the U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship USS Wasp.

## Airman gets high-level sendoff, surprise at S. Korea base

BY KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — The Patriot Express, a biweekly, military-chartered flight from South Korea to Seattle, got off to an unusual start Thursday.

Passengers were informed takeoff would be slightly delayed because an airman had the wrong rank on his paperwork. Staff Sgt. Terry White was asked to gather his belongings and go to the front of the

plane.

But instead of an embarrassing rebuke, White was awarded a surprise promotion to technical sergeant by 51st Fighter Wing commander Col. William Betts and other officers. They pinned his new stripes onto his T-shirt.

Passengers' expressions of concern turned to smiles and applause. A film crew that had been pretending to document the boarding process captured the moment.

White, 32, of Pittsburgh, said

he had no idea it was coming when he boarded the flight to begin his transfer to Barksdale Air Force Base, La., after four years with the 51st Maintenance Group at Osan.

"I was feeling kind of sad about leaving after being here so long," he told a Stars and Stripes reporter who was on the same flight. "I didn't expect this to happen at all."

White said his first thought when his name was called was concern that something had happened to his dog, Boss, who

was being transported in the cargo hold below.

"Then he gave me the STEP promotion," said White, referring to the acronym for the Air Force program Stripes for Exceptional Performers aimed at promoting stand-out enlisted airmen. "It was mind-blowing."

He said he had tested four times and was thrilled to finally earn the promotion.

To top it off, White, who joined the Air Force in 2005, got to stay in the forward seat.

# House OKs \$1.7B in disaster aid for Carolinas

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed legislation that would provide \$1.7 billion to help residents of the Carolinas and elsewhere recover from recent natural disasters.

The aid was added to legislation to keep Federal Aviation Administration programs running beyond month's end. The bill passed 398-23.

Lawmakers described the disaster aid as a down payment. They said billions more will be needed in the months ahead to help communities devastated by Hurricane Florence.

Lawmakers are working to extend the FAA's programs for five years while tack-

ling other priorities such as disaster relief.

Lawmakers also added to the legislation a bill giving the FBI and Homeland Security officials the authority to track and down drones deemed a "credible threat" to people or federal facilities.

That's something Attorney General Jeff Sessions had sought. Sessions said drones promise to strengthen the U.S. economically but "can also be used to wreak havoc by criminals, terrorists and other bad actors."

Privacy advocates criticized the provision. Neema Singh Guliani, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, said it gives the government new power to spy on Americans without warrants and to in-

terfere with press freedom by restricting coverage using drones. The Electronic Frontier Foundation and a press-photographers group also oppose the measure.

The Senate also must pass the bill before it can be signed into law by the president.

Lawmakers are racing to address a range of issues before the end of the fiscal year. If the Senate doesn't pass the bill before then, it will need to pass a short-term measure that would keep FAA programs going.

The bill also makes changes to Federal Emergency Management Agency programs by putting more money into such things as rebuilding levees and building seawalls before hurricanes hit so the damage won't be as severe.

# Racial comeuppance seen in Cosby saga

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — After spending years building his persona as a model husband and father, Bill Cosby took an abrupt turn nearly 15 years ago with a now-infamous speech to an NAACP convention.

He used his celebrity status to condemn poor blacks, chiding them to pull up their sagging pants, deriding them for having children out of wedlock and blaming them for their impoverished circumstances.

"Are you not paying attention? People with their hat on backwards, pants down around the crack ... with names like Shaniqua, Shaligua, Mohammed and all that crap, and all of them are in jail."

Cosby himself is now in a Pennsylvania prison cell, and

many black Americans see his sentence as a moment of racial comeuppance.

As they learned of Cosby's three- to 10-year prison term for sexual assault, the same people who were his targets in the 2004 speech regarded his fate as a convergence of karma, hubris and hypocrisy. Some quoted Cosby's own words in tweets announcing the sentence.

Cosby "made the decision to focus his attention on beating up on the black poor, on telling the world that black people were dysfunctional, pathological and undeserving of equal protection under the law," said Temple University professor Marc Lamont Hill. "When somebody like that, who positions themselves as the moral authority of black America, gets called onto

the carpet, you ain't getting no breaks here. People are going to be frustrated."

Writer Michael Arceneaux said Cosby's contempt for people who grew up in low-income communities, as Arceneaux did in Houston, left him with little sympathy for Cosby, who also hailed from humble beginnings.

"I found it enraging," Arceneaux said of the "Poundcake" speech, so called because Cosby made a remark about blacks supposedly getting shot in disputes over dessert cake.

"I knew he was a hypocrite," he said. "To learn how much pain he has caused to women over decades. I find it ironic. Those speeches proved to be his undoing. I'm glad he got what he deserved."

Cosby, who is 81 and legally blind, was the first celebrity of the #MeToo era to be sent to prison. The movement, which began a year ago, has centered on men in Hollywood, the media and politics. While several powerful men have lost their livelihoods and reputations, no one else has lost their freedom.

Rather than reveling in revenge for Cosby, the focus now should be on justice for all credible accusers, Columbia University political science professor Keith Boykin said.

"He disappointed me. He didn't put anything in my drink," Hill said. "As awful as he has been to the world, my commitment is not to punishing Bill Cosby. It's getting justice for his victims."

# Vet cut off own arm after losing hand in meat mixer

Associated Press

JAMESTOWN, N.D. — A 69-year-old Vietnam vet who lost a hand after it got stuck in a meat mixer while he was making sausage at his North Dakota home says he had to slice off his left arm above the wrist with a butcher knife or risk bleeding to death.

In his first public comments since the Aug. 17 accident,

Myron Schlafman said he credits two police officers with saving his life by quickly applying a tourniquet before ambulance crews took him to the hospital.

"I've always appreciated life, but not as much as I do now," he told KFGO radio.

Schlafman said he was taking a chunk of meat out of the mixer in the garage of his Jamestown home when he ac-

identally stepped on a pedal to activate the machine.

"I just looked and knew I was in big trouble," said Schlafman, who is right-handed.

The bone was severed, but his arm was still caught by muscle, nerves and skin. He grabbed the knife, which was within reach, and cut himself free.

"If I would have hesitated, I would have stood right there

and bled to death," he said.

Schlafman spent nine days in the hospital and underwent three surgeries. He will be fitted with a prosthesis in a few months after the stump on his left arm has fully healed.

"It would be very easy to sit back, feel sorry for myself and get depressed," he said. "I went through Vietnam. I can handle this."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Deputy pinned by cow uses his stun gun

**AZ** HOLBROOK — A sheriff's deputy in northeastern Arizona used a stun gun to drive off a large cow that was stepping on him in a field after he rescued a woman pinned to the ground by the mammal.

Navajo County sheriff's officials said a woman telephoned for help last week while pinned as the large black cow was continually pressing her if she moved or tried to get away.

It's believed the barking of the woman's dog may have provoked the cow, Chief Deputy Randy Moffitt said.

Deputy Vincent Palozzolo used his stun gun to get the cow to release the woman. The cow then charged Palozzolo, striking his chest and forcing him to the ground before he was able to again use his stun gun to drive away the cow.

## Six Flags offers perks for coffin time

**MO** EUREKA — Six contestants for a promotion at Six Flags St. Louis will compete for a \$300 prize, season tickets and other perks, and all they have to do is spend 30 hours in a coffin.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that participants chosen for the ghoulish contest will bide their time in 2-by-7-foot coffins from 1 p.m. Oct. 13 to 7 p.m. Oct. 14 at the park. The contest celebrates the 30th year of Fright Fest.

All who complete the challenge get two 2019 Gold Season passes and other park prizes. If more than one makes it to 30 hours, a drawing will determine who gets the \$300.

One more perk: Successful coffin dwellers get to keep the coffin.

## Police: Thieves target hemp, think it's pot

**VT** COLCHESTER — Police in Vermont said thieves have been taking hemp from a farm in Colchester, apparently mistaking the plant for marijuana.

Colchester police said there have been six intrusions and 12 arrests at Humble Roots Horticulture. Farmer Evan Fuller told WCAX-TV that the thieves are looking for pot but are stealing the farm's hemp and costing them thousands of dollars.

## Man finds snake after tossing garbage

**CT** HAMDEN — A Connecticut man trying to be a friend to the environment when he picked up a bag of trash got a dangerous surprise.

Police in Hamden said the man threw the bag into a trash can at his home, and the next day found a venomous copperhead snake in the can.

Assistant Animal Control Officer Mitch Gibbs said in a statement Tuesday the man is a frequent visitor to West Rock Ridge State Park.

He noticed the trash bag near the park last week so he grabbed it and took it home to properly dispose of it. A day later he saw the snake in his trash can.

## Woman charged after child left in parking lot

**MA** EASTON — Police in Massachusetts charged a Maine woman whose 17-month old child was found alone in a shopping cart outside a Target store.

Easton police said the 27-year-old Acton woman will be summoned to court in the future to face a charge of abandonment or endangerment of a child charge.

Officers responded to the Easton store about 1 p.m. Saturday for reports of an unattended toddler.

About an hour later, a man called to say the child had accidentally been left behind.

## Call about nude man leads police to victims

**GA** COLUMBUS — Police responding to a call about a nude man running through a neighborhood in southwestern Georgia discovered three people who had been stabbed, one fatally.

WTVM-TV reported the violence occurred Monday morning in a neighborhood in Columbus.

Police Maj. J.D. Hawks said officers got a call about a person running around naked. He said the man allegedly went inside a home and stabbed three elderly people, one of whom died.

Two victims and the suspect were taken to a hospital. Police said the man will be arrested once he is released.

## \$8,000 in pottery stolen from SUV

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — A New Mexico couple said their prize-winning pottery collection worth an estimated \$8,000 is missing after their SUV was carjacked in Albuquerque.

Ben Toya, of Jemez Pueblo, told KOB-TV he was in southeast Albuquerque looking for a client to deliver some of the works when the thieves jumped in his vehicle and drove away.

He said he was looking for directions when the thieves opened the door, punched him and dragged him down the street alongside his SUV.

The couple found the vehicle the next day but it was trashed inside and 40 pieces of pottery were missing.

## Ex-fighting dog now training as police K-9

**VA** HONAKER — A 3-year-old dog named Dallas is one of the first pit bulls ever rescued from a fighting ring to train as a police K-9.

Dallas is undergoing six weeks of training to sniff out narcotics and is expected to join the force in southwest Virginia town of Honaker next month.

The Washington Post reported that in 2015, police and agents from the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals seized Dallas and 30 other pit bulls from a compound there.

Police Chief Brandon Cassell said Honaker had long wanted a narcotics K-9, but the town couldn't afford the \$10,000-plus needed to get a highly trained dog. A Canadian rescue group covered the training costs and donated Dallas to the police department.

## Border quirk resolved with new addresses

**MO** ST. LOUIS — A quirk in the mail delivery system that forced some rural Missouri residents living along the Arkansas and Iowa borders to have mailing addresses in their neighboring states has been fixed.

The idiosyncrasy affected a relatively small number of people but created problems and red tape when they voted, paid taxes — even when they died.

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill learned about the quirk last year and began inquiries to the U.S. Postal Service.

In a letter to McCaskill on Monday, Postmaster General Megan Brennan wrote that the issue has been resolved and those people affected are now using Missouri as their state designation.

From wire reports

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# Chiefs' offense spreading the wealth

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — There was a play midway through the Kansas City Chiefs' 38-27 victory over the San Francisco 49ers in which Patrick Mahomes eluded the pass rush, rolled out to his right and flipped a short, simple pass to running back Kareem Hunt in the flat.

He had at least two other wide receivers wide open, too.

Such is the nature of the Kansas City offense through the first three weeks of the season, and the challenge it has presented to a trio of defenses.

Even if they manage to contain one target, or even two or three, Mahomes always seems to have somebody else wide open downfield.

"It's hard for teams to play every single one of them," Mahomes said Sunday night. "I know if I get through my reads there will be someone open. With the offensive line blocking so well, I can sit in the pocket and get through my whole entire read and find the open guy."

That was once again evident against the 49ers, when Mahomes targeted 11 different receivers and connected with nine.

Travis Kelce led the way with eight catches for 114 yards, his second straight 100-yard performance, and Sammy Watkins hauled in five catches for 55 yards and a touchdown.

But the breadth of the Chiefs' options was really apparent in the fact that Mahomes' other two touchdown passes went to No. 3 wide receiver Chris Conley and backup tight end Demetrius Harris.

Even little-used wide receiver Marcus Kemp managed a reception.

"I've never played with an offense that good before," said Tyreek Hill, who had two catches for 51 yards. "Like I was telling Sammy, man, I'm excited to have all these weapons on the team. It's amazing, man, because a defense has got to worry about so many options."

It's not just the quantity, though. The Chiefs have quality players at every position, and in most cases they have multiple guys capable of stepping onto the field without missing a beat.

"Guys everywhere," Mahomes said. "Knowing that I have those weapons, whenever someone has to get a break — we say if you're tired, get a break, because I know I can trust the next guy coming in."

That's hardly a luxury most teams experience.

Then there's the variety of talent.

Kelce is one of the league's best tight ends, a capable blocker whose soft hands allowed him to spear a high throw on Sunday that few others could catch. And when he gets into the open field, just ask 49ers linebacker Reuben Foster how difficult it is

to bring him down.

On the outside are Watkins and Hill, giving the Chiefs not only two of the fastest playmakers in the league, but also two of the most sure-handed.

Yes, Hill only had two catches against San Francisco, but one was a leaping grab deep downfield between two defenders in tight coverage, while Watkins made his mark by catching slant routes in traffic and making guys miss.

Indeed, his touchdown grab Sunday looked as if someone was running a gauntlet.

When defenses finally try nickel and dime packages to cover the downfield threats, the Chiefs merely have the reigning NFL rushing champion in Hunt ready to handle the ball.

He finally got into the end zone Sunday for his first two touchdowns this season.

"Coach (Andy) Reid has done an unbelievable job of creating these plays," Kelce said. "Right now we're just dialing them up and going out there and executing what's called. It's as simple as that."

It hasn't been much fun for opposing defenses.

"We have to do a little better in the second half," offensive lineman Mitch Schwartz said Sunday, "but we had nine possessions. Five touchdowns and a field goal. That's pretty good."

## NFL briefs

### Bucs keeping quiet on whether QB Winston will start

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers insist they don't have a quarterback controversy.

Jameis Winston practiced Wednesday for the first time since serving a three-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy, returning to a team that's ridden Ryan Fitzpatrick's arm to a surprising 2-1 start.

"I'm excited to be back," a beaming Winston said.

Fitzpatrick, a 35-year-old journeyman who's played for seven teams over 14 seasons, has thrown for 1,230 yards and 11 touchdowns while becoming the first player in league history to top 400 yards passing in three consecutive games.

"When a guy throws for 400 yards three games in a row, you gotta love that," Winston said, adding that he's happy for Fitzpatrick, as well as proud of the entire team for how it performed in his absence.

"Me being back, nothing's changing. I'm happy that when we have a win, I can dap guys up and celebrate with them," he added. "That's the part you miss, that team bonding."

Winston was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2015 draft and started 45 of 48 games the past three seasons.

Coach Dirk Koetter remained mum on who will start Sunday's game at Chicago.

He has informed both Winston and Fitzpatrick, but has no intentions of letting the Bears know what's planned.

### Chargers' Bosa hopes for November return

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Joey Bosa remains sidelined with a foot injury but the Los Angeles Chargers defensive end is hopeful he can return in early November.

Bosa addressed his injury for the first time Wednesday as the Chargers (1-2) began preparations for Sunday's matchup against San Francisco (1-2).

"There is a little instability in the tendon, but there's a good chance I won't have surgery," Bosa said. "I'm trying to be as safe as possible."

Bosa has a bone bruise to his left foot. He first injured it during training camp on Aug. 7 and didn't play in any of the four preseason games.

### S Reid back in NFL, signs with Panthers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Eric Reid is back in the NFL.

The Panthers have signed the free agent safety to a one-year contract. Terms of the deal were not announced Thursday.

Reid filed an official grievance letter with the NFL in October of 2017, alleging that team owners and the league colluded to prevent his employment due to his participation, along with quarterback Colin Kaepernick, in protests during the playing of the national anthem before NFL games to highlight social awareness and racial injustice.

Reid could start right away after Carolina placed Da'Norris Searcy on IR last week.

# US stars strive for Ryder Cup success

Associated Press

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France — The American team at the Ryder Cup is one of the strongest ever.

It features nine players who have combined to win 31 major championships, nearly half of those by Tiger Woods, who signaled his return last week by winning the Tour Championship. It has Dustin Johnson, who is back at No. 1 in the world. One of only three Ryder Cup rookies on the team is Justin Thomas, who already has won a major and reached No. 1 in the world.

Europe?

That's the team that usually wins the Ryder Cup, especially at home.

These are not "mops" on the European team, the word Thomas Bjorn used to describe two of his captain's picks.

Europe has five major champions, four players among the top 10 in the world. It can make a case as one of the best teams since the days of the "Big Five" in the late 1980s when Seve Ballesteros, Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam and Sandy Lyle began this run of European dominance.

But it's not about what they achieved before getting to the Ryder Cup.

It's about who they become playing under a flag, for a tour, and playing for each other.

"I think that the strength of Europe has been we all get behind one another, and even whatever differences we may have, we put them to the side for this week and we're a cohesive unit," Rory McIlroy said Tuesday. "And that's the way we try to be."

These are two of the strongest teams, the first time the Ryder Cup has ever featured all 10 players from the world rankings.

That only raises the anticipation when the matches start Friday on the first tee at Le Golf National before a grandstand that has just under 7,000 seats. Adding to the plot is that the Americans are defending champions for only the third time since 2002.

Ultimately, the Ryder Cup is decided by who keeps the ball in play, especially with the thick rough at Le Golf National, and who makes putts. Europe, however, has a spirit about it that has allowed for a spot-

less record at home the last 25 years.

Webb Simpson is playing his third Ryder Cup and already has seen 23 players from Europe on those three teams. But it's not about names.

"I think they are strong every year in the Ryder Cup no matter who is on the team, or what form they are in," Simpson said. "They have a great team, obviously. They get the Ryder Cup well. You know, 2016 was a great example of how we're getting the Ryder Cup ... we're getting a lot better."

The Americans showed that at Hazeltine, the first year after the Ryder Cup Task Force intended to build a model of continuity. It's the European way, and the U.S. can only hope it will end 25 years of losing the Ryder Cup away from home.

Come Friday, it's about making putts and winning the 18th hole, something Woods believes has held the U.S. back, especially overseas.

Europe still likes to play the underdog role, even having won eight of the last 11 times in the Ryder Cup. It has reason to feel like one in France with such a loaded lineup the Americans offer.

## Cup will test European rookies' character

Associated Press

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France — Tommy Fleetwood expects to feel 10 times more nervous than he's ever been on a golf course.

Tyrrell Hatton is hoping he doesn't turn into the Hulk.

For the rookies on the European team, the Ryder Cup will be as much a test of their character as their game at Le Golf National this week, and there's just no way of knowing how they'll cope in the most pressurized atmosphere in golf.

There are five in the team and they fall into two camps.

Hatton and Jon Rahm are the hot-heads. Expect some choice language, tantrums, the slamming of clubs and probably some sulking. Rahm has been using a mental coach in a bid to channel his emotions in the right way, and Hatton also recognizes he needs to change and, in his words, "grow up."

"I've lost golf tournaments from getting in my own way,"

Hatton said on Tuesday.

"If I've played a tournament and I know I've been bad," he added, "you're at home cringing on the sofa watching it."

Then there's the cool heads. Fleetwood and two rookies from Scandinavia — Alex Noren and Thorbjorn Olesen — stay largely composed and keep their frustrations inside.

Asked to describe his last pressurized situation, Fleetwood veered away from golf and to a big moment in his personal life about this time last year.

"I was a bit overwhelmed when my wife was giving birth," he said, laughing.

Ian Poulter, a veteran of five Ryder Cups, has taken the rookies under his wing at the start of this week, making sure they feel comfortable in the team room and giving them little bits of advice like bringing water-proofs to the photo shoot early Tuesday.

"It's a daunting week," said Poulter, who recalled his own

debut in 2004 at Oakland Hills, and the strange sensations he felt as he walked out for his first match.

The first tee shot at a Ryder Cup is widely regarded as the most nerve-wracking in golf and players this week will be surrounded by the biggest first-tee grandstand ever seen in the event. It seats 6,500 spectators.

It's a shot, and an occasion, that has been on Fleetwood's mind since the Ryder Cup became a realistic goal of his.

"It's something that everybody wants in their career, so as nerve-wracking as it is, and whatever those feelings are, everybody wants that in their life," Fleetwood said. "So you have to just take it on and let it all happen."

Europe captain Thomas Bjorn said on Tuesday he had a "good feeling" about his rookies, who all qualified automatically, and for good reason. Rahm is No. 8 in the world; Fleetwood is the current European No. 1; Noren has won six

events in the last two years, including the French Open at Le Golf National in July.

The Europeans had six rookies when they lost at Hazeltine in 2016, and none of them made it back to Paris. Rahm and Fleetwood, however, should be fixtures on the team for years, and are players Bjorn could lean on heavily this week.

Fleetwood played a practice round on Tuesday with Francesco Molinari, the easygoing British Open champion, but said he would feel just as comfortable paired with a more flamboyant and overtly passionate teammate like Poulter.

As for Hatton, he might need to be paired with someone more laid-back to complement his own fiery nature.

"Obviously, I'm going to be passionate. I can only be myself. But saying that, obviously I need to stay as level-headed as possible," Hatton said. "I'm not going to turn into the Hulk this week, I hope."

# Milwaukee locks up spot in postseason

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Fortunately for the Milwaukee Brewers, they didn't slip up.

The Brewers clinched their first playoff spot since 2011 by ensuring at least a spot in the NL wild-card game, helped Wednesday night when a rookie St. Louis pinch-runner suddenly fell on his way to the plate in a 2-1 win over the contending Cardinals.

"I saw him go down and luckily we were able to put a tag on him and get him out," Brewers reliever Josh Hader said. "I've never seen that before but it was definitely good on our side."

The Brewers (92-67) remained a half-game behind the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs. Milwaukee's win also sealed a postseason berth for the Cubs.

Milwaukee began the day 3½ games ahead of Colorado for the top wild-card slot. St. Louis (87-71) entered a half-game behind the Rockies for the final wild-card berth.

The Cardinals missed a big chance to tie it in the eighth inning. Matt Carpenter drew a two-out walk and was lifted for pinch-runner Adolis Garcia. Jose Martinez then hit a slow roller to third baseman Mike

Moustakas, who threw wildly to first.

Garcia was waved home, but slipped rounding third base and fell halfway to the plate. He got to his feet and had no chance, easily tagged out after second baseman Hernan Perez made a strong throw.

"The kid's giving you everything he's got, it's just unfortunate he fell," Cardinals manager Mike Shildt said. "It's one of those things that happened. Clearly, it would've tied the game but it wasn't for lack of effort. Things happen and he was giving everything he had."

Milwaukee turned that break

into a three-game sweep at Busch Stadium. And while the Brewers enjoyed an enthusiastic celebration in their clubhouse, the prospect of catching the Cubs still hung in the air.

"We like our chances, but obviously winning the division would be huge," outfielder Ryan Braun said. "The wild-card game, no matter how good you are, it is always somewhat of a coin flip. So we have to take care of business. We have to continue to win games and continue to play the way we've played to this point and hopefully find a way to win the division."

## Roundup

### Cubs beat Pirates, clinch fourth straight playoff berth

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Anthony Rizzo thought he'd caught the foul ball. Many others at Wrigley Field, meanwhile, thought about Steve Bartman.

Despite a play that reminded Cubs fans of what went wrong many years ago, Chicago wound up clinching its fourth straight postseason appearance and holding its narrow lead in the NL Central with a 7-6 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates in 10 innings Wednesday night.

No one was in a partying mood inside the Cubs' clubhouse, however. The champagne will have to wait.

"We're not taking this for granted," said Albert Almora Jr., who delivered a game-ending single. "We're super pumped that we're in the playoffs, but the job's not done. We want to take this division and move forward with the best record in the NL."

Almora's RBI single with two outs came after the Pirates tied it in the ninth, helped when a fan cost Rizzo a chance to catch a foul pop.

Pittsburgh made it 6-all in the ninth on a two-out, two-run double by Starling Marte.

Pinch-hitter Francisco Cervelli keyed the rally with a double, moments after he lofted a foul pop along the first-base side. Rizzo reached into the stands and around the protective net, but the Chicago first baseman came up empty when a fan stuck his hands up and made the grab.

Rizzo initially figured he'd nabbed the ball, only to see his mitt was empty. Rizzo punched his glove as he returned to his spot, but didn't criticize the man who beat him to the ball.

"I thought I caught it," Rizzo said. "It's just one of those weird plays."

No interference was called because fans have a right to balls that reach the seats — Rizzo leaned in, trying to make the play.

**Rockies 14, Phillies 0:** Hard-throwing German Marquez started with eight straight strikeouts to match a modern-era big league record, and host Colorado took over the NL West lead.

**Diamondbacks 7, Dodgers 2:** A.J. Pollock hit a three-run homer and host Arizona dropped Los Angeles to second place in the NL West.

**Athletics 9, Mariners 3:** Matt Olson hit a grand slam that capped a six-run fifth inning, Khris Davis added his major league-leading 47th home run and visiting Oakland closed in on the Yankees for home-field advantage in next week's AL wild-card game.

**Rays 8, Yankees 7:** Masahiro Tanaka gave up four runs and six hits over four-plus innings in his final start before the playoffs in a loss to host Tampa Bay.

**Red Sox 19-3: Orioles 3-10:** Boston's Chris Sale struck out eight over 4⅔ innings in his final tuneup for an expected start in the AL Division Series opener before Baltimore salvaged a split of the day-night doubleheader.

**Nationals 9, Marlins 3, 7 Innings:** Bryce Harper was 0-for-4 with two strikeouts in the rain-shortened game that many expect was his last at his home park as a Washington player.

**Angels 3, Rangers 2:** Shohei Ohtani hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, sending host Los Angeles to a three-game sweep.

**Blue Jays 3, Astros 1:** Toronto gave outgoing manager

John Gibbons a winning home sendoff.

Before the game, Toronto general manager Ross Atkins announced Gibbons will not return next season. After getting the final out, closer Ken Giles gave the ball to Gibbons and the crowd rose for a standing ovation.

**Mets 3, Braves 0:** Jacob deGrom was dominant in what likely was his final pitch for the NL Cy Young Award, throwing eight stellar innings for host New York and leaving with a major league-best 1.70 ERA.

**Indians 10, White Sox 2:** Shane Bieber remained perfect on the road with six scoreless innings, Francisco Lindor led off the game with a home run and Cleveland beat up host Chicago.

**Royals 6, Reds 1:** Rookie Heath Fillmyer struck out a career-high nine, Adalberto Mondesi tripled, stole two bases and scored twice, and Kansas City beat Cincinnati to wrap up its road schedule.

**Twins 11, Tigers 4:** Johnny Field homered twice, Jorge Polanco hit a bases-loaded triple and host Minnesota beat Detroit.