

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Hurricane Lane lumbers toward Hawaii

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hurricane Lane spun in a dangerously unpredictable path Friday as it lumbered toward Hawaii, dumping rain on the mostly rural Big Island and forcing more than 1,000 people to flee to emergency shelters.

The Category 2 storm had winds of about 110 mph, with stronger gusts. It was unclear when the system would make an expected turn west and barrel toward the island chain. Even though it was not projected to make a direct hit on Hawaii, the storm could pass close to the islands, bringing a huge storm surge, high wind and heavy rain, meteorologists said.

“There’s a lot of uncertainty in this forecast,” warned Federal Emergency Management Administrator Brock Long. “We’re going to see torrential rains occur for the next 48 to 72 hours. We hope all citizens are heeding the warning that local officials are putting out.”

Early Friday, National Weather Service meteorologist Chevy Chevalier described flooding on the Big Island as catastrophic. Some areas re-

corded 35 inches of rain in 48 hours. The hurricane was edging away, and may drop less rain, but the Big Island “is not out of the woods,” Chevalier said.

“The sponge is full,” he said. “There’s nowhere for the water to go except to pond up and flood these areas.”

At 5 a.m., the center of the hurricane was about 200 miles south of Honolulu. The island had recorded wind gusts up to 60 mph. Oahu and the other central islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai braced for hurricane or tropical storm conditions later Friday.

Many of the safety concerns focused on high surf and storm surge, Chevalier said.

“We’re expecting surf in the 15- to 20-foot range on the southern shores of these islands,” he said. When heavy rain falls on steep mountains, “that water comes down fast. So it comes down and joins the water that’s coming up on the southern shores, and what does that do? It floods the coastal areas.”

Police warned tourists to leave the world-famous Waikiki Beach ahead of the storm’s ar-

rival in Honolulu. So far, about 1,500 people, mostly on Oahu, were in emergency shelters, said Brad Kieserman of the American Red Cross.

Emergency crews rescued five California tourists from a home they were renting in Hilo after a nearby gulch overflowed and flooded the house on the Big Island.

Suzanne Demerais said a tiny waterfall and small stream were flowing near the home when she first arrived with four friends from the Los Angeles area. But the stream turned into a torrent, and the river rose rapidly over 24 hours.

Hawaii County firefighters, who were in touch with the home’s owner, decided to evacuate the group before the water rose any higher. They floated the five out on their backs, Demerais said.

Elsewhere, a brush fire forced the relocation of a hurricane shelter in Lahaina, on the island of Maui. Nearby residents were also being evacuated. A Maui County spokesman said it’s was not clear if the fire was hurricane related.

Hurricane Lane lashed the Big Island with more than 30

inches of rain in about 24 hours. A wind gust of 67 mph was recorded at Kohala Ranch on the northern side of the island.

About 200 miles north of Hilo, on the state’s most populated island of Oahu, employees of the Sheraton Waikiki resort filled sandbags to protect the oceanfront hotel from surging surf.

Stores along Waikiki’s glitzy Kalakaua Avenue stacked sandbags along the bottom of their glass windows to prepare for flash flooding.

Police on loudspeakers told surfers and swimmers to get out of the water, saying the beach would be closed until further notice.

The Marriott Resort Waikiki Beach in Honolulu designated a ballroom on the third floor as a shelter for guests and began removing lounge chairs from around the pool and bar area.

At the Hilton Hawaiian Village, guest Elisabeth Brinson said hotel staff left a notice that rooms will still have water and phone service, and a backup generator would power one elevator per building in the event of an electrical outage.

## Army removes general at Fort Lee, Va., amid probe

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The general in charge of training for the Army’s sustainment and logistics programs has been relieved of duty and is the subject of an official investigation, defense officials said Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Paul C. Hurley was fired as the commander of Fort Lee in Virginia by Gen. Stephen Townsend, the commander of Army Training and

Doctrine Command, due to a “loss of confidence in his ability to effectively command,” Army Col. Michael Indovina, a TRADOC spokesman, said in a prepared statement. Hurley was also dismissed as commander of the Army’s Combined Arms Support Command.

It was not immediately clear Thursday what sparked the investigation into Hurley or what the general has been accused of doing. Indovina, who confirmed

the investigation, said he could not provide further comment.

Army Brig. Gen. Douglas McBride Jr. has temporarily replaced Hurley to lead the command, Indovina said. McBride has been serving as the commandant of the Quartermaster School at Fort Lee.

Combined Arms Support Command oversees training and develops policy for the Army’s logistics corps. It includes the Army’s Ordnance

Corps and School, the Quartermaster School, the Transportation Corps and Transportation School, U.S. Army Soldier Support Institute and Army Logistics University.

Hurley took command of the Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee in May 2017. He was commissioned into the Army in 1986 and has served deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# McCain stops treatment for brain cancer

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The family of Sen. John McCain announced Friday that the Arizona Republican will discontinue his treatment for brain cancer.

McCain, who left Capitol Hill in December to fight his illness, said the disease has presented a tough battle for him. He will be 82 years old on Wednesday.

“Last summer, Senator John McCain shared with Americans the news our family already knew: He had been diagnosed with an aggressive glioblastoma, and the prognosis was serious,” the McCain family said in a statement issued by the senator’s office.

“In the year since, John has surpassed expectations for his survival. But the progress of the disease and the inexorable

advance of age render their verdict. With his usual strength of will, he has now chosen to discontinue medical treatment.”

McCain, a former Navy pilot and Vietnam War prisoner of war who entered politics in the 1980s and was the GOP’s presidential nominee in 2008, expressed gratitude for the support that he has received during the last year. He was diagnosed in July 2017 with

glioblastoma.

“Our family is immensely grateful for the support and kindness of all his caregivers over the last year, and for the continuing outpouring of concern and affection from John’s many friends and associates, and the many thousands of people who are keeping him in their prayers,” the McCain family said. “God bless and thank you all.”

## Senators battle Pentagon over funding of ‘beerbots’

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Robots might be taking over the world, or just trying to tend bar, but not on the Pentagon’s dime if the two U.S. senators from Arizona have their way.

Republicans Jeff Flake and John McCain pushed for an amendment to defense spending legislation that would bar the Pentagon from continuing to spend money on research to produce “beerbots,” or robot bartenders.

“Did you hear the one about three robots that walk into a bar?” asked Flake, while flanked by the image of the futuristic bartenders. “No, you haven’t. It’s not a joke but rather a project paid for in part by the Department of Defense.”

Flake, who filed the amendment earlier this week, took to the Senate floor Thursday to argue for the measure ahead of a vote on the defense spending bill that would direct more than \$670 billion toward a wave of Defense Department increases, including a 2.6 percent servicemember pay raise, plus new gains in the number of troops, equipment and weapons for the 2019 fiscal year.

The so-called “minibus” appropriations measure, H.R. 6157, is part of a larger package of more than \$850 billion to

fund labor, health and human services and education priorities. It will also fund priorities directed in the recently passed 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, which directs policy and spending plans for DOD. Flake, who cosponsored the amendment with McCain, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee who has been battling brain cancer and away from Washington since December, said DOD shouldn’t be worrying about robots serving drinks.

The Pentagon could fund grants that help universities to further research on the automation of U.S. jobs, such as the robotic bartenders, which slowly have made appearances at bars and even Royal Caribbean cruises in recent years. And schools such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have long worked with DOD to develop robots and other technology.

The senator has been pushing for a series of amendments to cut nearly \$500 million in spending from H.R. 617. But most of them were not slated for a debate ahead of a vote on the funding measure.

However, shortly before H.R. 617 passed Thursday, the “beerbots” amendment was included.

“This may be the last call for the beerbots,” he said.

## Senate approves massive defense spending measure

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday approved a massive spending bill that would direct more than \$670 billion toward a wave of Defense Department increases, including the largest boost to servicemember pay in nearly a decade and gains in the number of troops, equipment and weapons for the 2019 fiscal year.

The measure, which was part of a larger funding package of more than \$850 billion, will fund priorities directed in the recently passed 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, which directs policy and spending plans for DOD.

The Senate voted 85 to 7 to pass the legislation, with some lawmakers absent, including Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who is battling brain cancer. The legislation, H.R. 6157, now goes to a congressional conference committee to be reconciled with its House version before requiring votes in both chambers.

“The funds meet many of the requirements of our military commanders, equipping and training units to meet and overcome the most dangerous of emerging global threats,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said ahead

of Thursday’s vote. “As ever, our obligation to this all-volunteer force is to provide adequate training, weaponry and skills so that Americans always prevail on the battlefield.”

Last week, President Donald Trump signed into law a more than \$715 billion NDAA authorizing a 2.6 percent pay raise for servicemembers, as well as new purchases of aircraft, ships, submarines and weapons. In June, the House passed its defense appropriations measure, H.R. 6157, 359 to 49.

The defense budget moves on two tracks: The annual NDAA sets policy changes and expenditures determines how the money will be spent; the defense appropriations bill is what moves money to the Pentagon to support the plan. The legislation is part of a larger labor, health and human services and education spending bill.

“It probably sounds like a pretty unusual combination even though I think most voters, most taxpayers, understand that to get this work done in the time frame we have to do it, we generally need to bring more than one topic together on the floor at the same time,” Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said Thursday of the combination of efforts being funded by the same bill, adding it could be on Trump’s desk for signing by the start of the fiscal year Oct. 1.



# Tabloid kept damaging stories on Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Enquirer kept a safe containing documents on hush-money payments and other damaging stories it killed as part of its cozy relationship with President Donald Trump leading up to the 2016 presidential election, people familiar with the arrangement told The Associated Press.

The detail comes as several media outlets reported Thursday that federal prosecutors have granted immunity to National Enquirer chief David Pecker, potentially laying bare his efforts to protect his longtime friend Trump.

Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, pleaded guilty this week to campaign finance violations alleging that he, Trump

and the tabloid were involved in buying the silence of a porn actress and a Playboy model who alleged affairs.

Several people familiar with the Enquirer's parent company, American Media Inc., who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they signed nondisclosure agreements, said the safe was a great source of power for Pecker, the company's CEO.

The Trump records were stored alongside similar documents pertaining to other celebrities' catch-and-kill deals, in which exclusive rights to people's stories were bought with no intention of publishing to keep them out of the news. By keeping celebrities' embarrassing secrets, the company was able to ingratiate itself with them and ask for favors in return.

But after The Wall Street Journal initially published the first details of Playboy model Karen McDougal's catch-and-kill deal shortly before the 2016 election, those assets became a liability. Fearful that the documents might be used against AMI, Pecker and the company's chief content officer, Dylan Howard, removed them from the safe in the weeks before Trump's inauguration, according to one person directly familiar with the events.

It was unclear whether the documents were destroyed or simply moved to a location known to fewer people.

Pecker's immunity deal was first reported Thursday by Vanity Fair and The Wall Street Journal, citing anonymous sources. Vanity Fair reported that Howard was also granted immunity.

# Trump escalates feud with attorney general

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump escalated his long-running feud with Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Friday, pressing him to investigate those who are probing his administration.

Responding to Sessions' declaration that he would not be influenced by politics, Trump tweeted that Sessions must "look into all of the corruption on the 'other side,'" adding: "Come on, Jeff, you can do it, the country is waiting!"

The president's tweets marked the second day of a highly public smackdown by Trump of his attorney general.

Earlier this week, Trump, concerned by the legal downfall of two former advisers,

accused Sessions of failing to take control of the Justice Department. Sessions punched back Thursday, saying that he and his department "will not be improperly influenced by political considerations."

Trump's anger with Sessions boiled over in an interview with Fox News in which the president also expressed frustration with the plea agreement his onetime legal fixer Michael Cohen cut with prosecutors, implicating Trump in a crime that Cohen admitted. Trump said it might be better if "flipping" — cooperating with prosecutors in exchange for more favorable treatment — were illegal because people cooperating with the government "just make up lies" to get a break from prosecutors.

Trump also addressed the five-year sen-

tence given to a former government contractor convicted of mailing a classified U.S. report to a news organization.

Trump tweeted Friday that is "small potatoes" compared with "what Hillary Clinton did." Prosecutors are calling that sentence handed down to Reality Winner, 26, the longest imposed for a federal crime involving leaks to the media.

Earlier, he defended himself on Fox against talk of impeachment — "the market would crash. ... Everybody would be very poor" — tried to dissociate himself from Cohen and said anew that he hadn't known in advance about Cohen's hush money payments to silence women alleging sexual relationships with the celebrity businessman.

# Cohen sets up GoFundMe page to cover legal defense

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michael Cohen is sticking his hand out and asking the public for help paying for his legal defense, and one anonymous donor already has ponied up \$50,000.

Through his lawyer, President Donald Trump's former "fixer" says collecting contributions through a GoFundMe page set up after his guilty plea this week is the only way to ensure the truth comes out about the president.

It's also the latest sign that Cohen is broke.

Trump's former personal lawyer owes at

least \$1.4 million to the IRS after pleading guilty Tuesday to tax evasion, campaign finance violations and bank fraud, and he has racked up millions of dollars in debt. Because of his plea, he is being forced to give up his New York City taxi medallions, which have shrunk in value as Uber and Lyft shake the industry.

"He's without resources and owes a lot of money," Cohen's lawyer, Lanny Davis, said in television interviews Wednesday.

Cohen, who once said he would "take a bullet" for Trump, commented in court Tuesday that Trump had directed him to arrange payments of \$130,000 to porn ac-

tress Stormy Daniels and \$150,000 to former Playboy model Karen McDougal to buy their silence about alleged affairs before the election.

While Trump denies the affairs, his account of his knowledge of the payments has shifted. In April, Trump denied he knew anything about the Daniels payment. He told Fox News in an interview aired Thursday that he knew about payments "later on."

By Friday morning, the GoFundMe page, dubbed the "Michael Cohen Truth Fund," had raised more than \$149,000 from about 2,770 donations.

# Examiner: Iowa student died from stab wounds

Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Iowa — The Iowa college student who was allegedly abducted by a stranger while running last month in a small town died from stab wounds, a medical examiner says.

Authorities announced Thursday that preliminary autopsy results from the state medical examiner's office show 20-year-old Mollie Tibbetts was the victim of a homicide who died from "multiple sharp force injuries."

State medical examiner Dennis Klein said in an interview that the finding means a sharp-edged or pointed object such as a knife was used to attack Tibbetts. He declined comment on the details of her injuries, and said that his office would hire

consultants, including forensic anthropologists, to analyze her remains further and make additional findings.

The man charged with first-degree murder in Tibbetts' death, Cristhian Bahena Rivera, allegedly led investigators to her body early Tuesday in a cornfield outside of Brooklyn, Iowa, the town where the University of Iowa psychology major was last seen one month prior. While investigators were confident then that the body was that of Tibbetts, the autopsy definitively confirmed her identity.

Prosecutors allege that Rivera, 24, abducted Tibbetts while she was out for an evening run in Brooklyn on July 18, killed her and disposed of her body in the secluded location.

A criminal complaint alleges that Rivera

confessed during a lengthy interrogation that began Monday to following Tibbetts in his car, getting out on foot and chasing after her. Rivera told investigators that he panicked after Tibbetts threatened to call police on her cellphone, he blacked out and later came to when he was unloading her bloody body from the trunk of a car, it says.

Rivera worked for the last four years at a dairy farm a few miles from where Tibbetts was last seen. He and Tibbetts have no known connections other than that Rivera allegedly told investigators that he saw her running previously. Investigators zeroed in on him as the suspect after obtaining footage from surveillance cameras showing a vehicle connected to him circling the area of Tibbetts' running route.

# St. Louis archdiocese to open files for state AG

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Archdiocese of St. Louis has agreed to open its files to the state attorney general's office for an investigation of potential clergy abuse cases, Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley said Thursday, and at least two of the state's other Catholic dioceses say they're willing to follow suit.

Hawley's announcement came amid renewed concern about sexual abuse by priests that followed the release of a scathing report in Pennsylvania citing abuse of more than 1,000 children by hundreds of priests since the 1940s, along with cover-up by church leaders.

Last week, Hawley downplayed the possibility of an investigation from his office, saying local prosecutors, not the attorney general, had investigative authority.

But Hawley, who is the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate opposing incumbent Democrat Claire McCaskill in November, said during a teleconference with reporters that he received a letter earlier Thursday from St. Louis Archbishop Robert Carlson offering to open the archdiocese files for an impartial review.

"The Archdiocese of St. Louis, during my episcopacy here, has always taken the protection of children and youth as one of our highest priorities," Carlson wrote.

Hawley asked the three other Catho-

lic dioceses in Missouri to similarly open their files. Representatives of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and the Diocese of Jefferson City, responding to questions from The Associated Press, pledged cooperation with any investigation by the attorney general. A message seeking comment from the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau was not immediately returned.

Hawley called the review his "top priority" and said several prosecutors will work on it under the direction of assistant attorney general Christine Krug, a former sex crimes prosecutor in St. Louis. Hawley will issue a report and any potential charging recommendations once the review is complete, but declined to offer a timetable.

# DeVos moves to ease rules on for-profit colleges

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For-profit colleges are facing complaints, lawsuits and ongoing government scrutiny as Education Secretary Betsy DeVos engineers a seismic shift in the regulatory landscape that stands to benefit the multibillion-dollar industry.

DeVos' actions amount to an about-face from the Obama administration's push to clamp down on the industry and forgive student debt for those who were charged top dollar but left with worthless degrees.

In an ongoing lawsuit against Ashford University, California's attorney general accuses the online school of peddling "false promises and faulty information" to lure

students who were eligible for federal financial aid, the school's primary source of revenue. Ashford denies the accusations.

The lawsuit's allegations are strikingly familiar to those that plagued now-defunct for-profit chains including Corinthian Colleges and ITT Technical Institute, spurring the Obama administration to craft sweeping rules to police the industry. And they're being echoed in other ongoing complaints against several of the biggest for-profit colleges.

Education Department documents obtained by The Associated Press through an open-records request show that students filed nearly 24,000 federal fraud complaints between President Donald Trump's

Jan. 20, 2017, inauguration and April 30 this year, almost entirely against for-profit colleges. More than 3,600 were lodged against DeVry University, while the University of Phoenix drew 1,100.

Separately, the Federal Trade Commission is investigating the University of Phoenix chain for possible deceptive or unfair business practices, a probe that began under the Obama administration.

And the Department of Veterans Affairs is in an extraordinary dispute with Ashford over the school's eligibility to receive federal GI Bill funding, which many military veterans use to pay tuition. The outcome could have major implications for Ashford if it's cut off from that funding.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Olive Garden offers year of unlimited pasta

**FL** ORLANDO — Olive Garden customers who can't get enough pasta have a chance to enjoy unlimited servings for a year.

The restaurant chain is offering its first annual pasta pass as part of its never ending pasta bowl promotion. The pass is available to 1,000 customers who pay \$300.

The 52-week pass, along with 23,000 passes that offer eight weeks of unlimited access for \$100, went on sale Thursday.

Olive Garden's Executive Vice President of marketing Jennifer Arguello said the annual pass was added after customers made it clear eight weeks was not enough.

## Zoo looking for female stork that flew away

**MA** STONEHAM — Maybe she just had a few babies to deliver.

A Boston-area zoo is looking for a female stork that flew away last week and has evaded experts since. The Stone Zoo in Stoneham posted on Facebook that the 3-foot-tall, white-bellied stork took off Aug. 17 during training for the "Masters of Flight: Birds of Prey" show.

The bird, named Las, has a white belly, dark iridescent purple wings, neck and back, a featherless face and a wingspan of about three feet.

The zoo said anyone who sees her should contact the zoo and not approach because she might fly away.

## Man tries to sell vets' grave markers

**PA** EBENSBURG — A man was arrested in New York after authorities al-

lege he tried to sell nearly 1,000 pounds of veteran grave markers believed to have been stolen from western Pennsylvania.

State police in New York said Ronald Cichinelli Jr., 29, of Johnstown, faces charges of criminal possession of stolen property.

Police said a Seneca County scrap yard reported that he offered for sale numerous brass veterans cemetery grave markers. The Cambria County veteran affairs office said some were stamped "Cambria County Ebensburg, PA."

Police said Cichinelli likely faces charges in Pennsylvania, where officials said such theft is a second-degree misdemeanor.

## Fish heads left near school attract bear

**AK** ANCHORAGE — Anchorage police are looking for a man who dumped fish heads in woods near an elementary school.

The fish-dumper faces a \$300 fine for discarding garbage that attracts animals.

The incident occurred July 31 at Ravenwood Elementary School.

A summer school host spotted a man and boy on an all-terrain vehicle with coolers.

The host found the fish heads behind the school, but they were gone a day later.

The host said a bear seen earlier likely cleaned up the fish.

A school security camera captured the suspect's image.

## Video of girl sparks anger over hair policy

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — Video of a young black girl leaving her New Orleans-area Catholic school in tears after being told her hair extensions violated school policy prompted thousands of so-

cial media comments — many expressing puzzlement or outrage.

Sixth-grader Faith Fennidy's brother, Steven, posted Facebook video showing her leaving Christ the King Middle School with relatives. Her braids are pulled back and hang slightly below the neckline.

A statement from the Archdiocese of New Orleans school superintendent said the school told families of the policy over the summer. Fennidy's post says there are practical reasons for the hair extensions. The family told WWL-TV they are considering a discrimination lawsuit.

## Alpaca eats peanuts dumped in field, dies

**FL** FLEMING ISLAND — A young alpaca died after eating whole peanuts that were dumped in a Florida field by a man in a blue car.

The Creekside Animal Hospital in Fleming Island said it has asked the man on at least four occasions not to toss the food onto the field.

On the last visit, the hospital said the man dumped three boxes of animal crackers, two large boxes of cheese crackers, a large bag of Doritos and two bags of whole peanuts. It was the first time nuts were left.

The hospital said it couldn't save the alpaca from endotoxemia, bacterial toxins in the bloodstream.

The sheriff's office has been notified.

## Man sentenced for scamming elderly

**AZ** PHOENIX — An Arizona man who scammed hundreds of elderly people out of hundreds of thousands of dollars was sentenced to prison.

The Arizona Republic reported Phoenix resident Raheem Oliver was sentenced last week to 14 years in prison after pleading guilty in February to fraud conspiracy charges.

The U.S. Attorney's Office accused Oliver of playing a role in a magazine scam that defrauded at least 354 elderly victims out of more than \$640,000.

Court records said one of the scam's victims was World War II veteran Norman T. Hatch, who served as a U.S. Marine Corps combat cinematographer. His work was used in the Academy Award-winning documentary "With the Marines at Tarawa." Court documents said Oliver convinced Hatch to send over \$98,000 of his savings in the form of personal checks.

## Car found after doll mistaken for baby

**NC** LUMBERTON — Authorities said a man saw a doll inside a parked truck and called police about an unresponsive infant, leading to the recovery of a stolen truck and real baby.

Lumberton Police Department Capt. Terry Parker told The Fayetteville Observer that a woman reported her pickup and 3-week-old baby stolen Monday.

Parker said the woman was taking two other children inside a house when someone stole the vehicle and baby inside it.

Police issued an alert, and Parker said the truck and baby were abandoned in a nearby parking lot minutes later.

He said a man walking past the truck noticed a window was down and peered inside.

Parker said the man saw a doll lying on the floor and called police.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Surging Cards challenging in NL Central

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Matt Adams could see something special going on with the St. Louis Cardinals from the opposing side of the field with the Washington Nationals.

He recognized the solid pitching and timely hitting that have made the Cardinals baseball's hottest team in the dog days of August. So Adams couldn't believe his luck when he found out St. Louis had claimed him off waivers earlier this week.

The move brings Adams back to the organization that drafted him in 2009. More importantly, he's on a team that has gone from wild-card hopeful to threatening the NL Central-leading Cubs.

"They're playing with a fire and taking every pitch like it's the last pitch they'll ever play," Adams said. "How they go about their daily business is something special to watch."

St. Louis has undergone quite a transformation since firing manager Mike Matheny on July 14.

At that time, the Cardinals were 47-46 and trailed the

Cubs by 7½ games. After sweeping the Dodgers on Wednesday to win their eighth consecutive series, the Cardinals have won 24 of 35 and are 17-4 this month to pull within 2½ games of Chicago.

They're tied for the NL's top wild-card spot, too.

Riding an eight-game road winning streak, St. Louis visits Colorado on Friday. The Cardinals are 37-29 away from home this season.

"Everyone's kind of getting amped up," second baseman Kolten Wong said.

The turnaround is happening under bench coach Mike Shildt, who replaced Matheny when he was fired after seven years in a dramatic move by a club that hasn't changed managers often. Matheny was just the second since 1996.

Shildt began as a scout with the Cardinals organization and eventually combined those duties with being a part-time minor league coach. Elevating the 50-year-old veteran to interim status has gone over well in the clubhouse.

"Shildt's been really good at letting us play our own game and letting us play the way we

want to play. That's the biggest thing," Wong said. "We have so many different personalities and different guys in this clubhouse. You just have to allow people to be themselves and eventually people are going to mesh together."

Adams is eager to contribute, although there is no defined role for him. He could see time at first base against right-handed pitching or in left field with Marcell Ozuna on the disabled list or in right field.

The Cardinals could use his left-handed bat off the bench. He hit 56 homers in his six previous seasons with the team.

"I just kind of want to stay out of everybody's way and do my part and mesh with them," Adams said. "I don't want to be that guy who comes in here and tries to do too much and messes up something special."

The Cardinals outscored Los Angeles 13-6 over three games in their first sweep at Dodger Stadium since 2006, putting the five-time defending NL West champions into a tailspin.

St. Louis is succeeding with a mix of youngsters and veterans that have embraced each other.

Rookies Jack Flaherty, Dakota Hudson and Jordan Hicks combined to hold the Dodgers to two hits Wednesday, when rookie Tyler O'Neill tied the game with a homer and Paul DeJong won it with a two-run shot.

Yadier Molina has found his stride, too, hitting a go-ahead two-run homer Tuesday. Wong made what Shildt called a "Gold Glove-caliber" defensive play the same night. The defense is holding the opposition to an average of 3.44 runs, best in the NL since the All-Star break.

"These guys have ability and they have aggression. They believe in themselves and they're in attack mode," Shildt said. "It's about not giving in, regardless of the situation."

In just over a month, the Cardinals have gone from a team in line to miss the playoffs for a third straight year — something they haven't done since 1997-99 — to contending for a division title.

Adams has fond memories of his previous playoff runs with the Cardinals.

"I want to get back there this year," he said.

## MRI reveals stress reaction in arm of Cubs' Darvish

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Even though it meant a premature end to his first season in Chicago, Yu Darvish said Thursday that he was relieved when an MRI revealed a stress reaction in his right elbow.

"At first, I was told it was a simple tightness, but I always knew there was something else other than the tightness," Darvish said through a translator before the Cubs played the Reds at Wrigley Field.

"With the diagnosis, I'm relieved to know what that something is."

Darvish has been sidelined since May with what was at first diagnosed as triceps and

elbow injuries. The Cubs were hoping to get the veteran right-hander back for the final month of the season, but Darvish left a rehab start Sunday with Single-A South Bend after one inning and 18 pitches, complaining of elbow pain. He had an MRI the next day.

"I know what it's like, tightness in the triceps area," he said. "In the four to five weeks of the rehab process, the pain remained."

The 32-year-old Darvish signed a six-year, \$126 million contract with the Cubs as a free agent last offseason. The big contract and his performance this season before the injury — 1-3 with a 4.95 ERA in eight starts — didn't earn him the

benefit of the doubt with fans. Neither did his struggles in the World Series last season while pitching for the Dodgers (0-2 with a 21.60 ERA in two starts).

Writing in an emotional blog post earlier in the week, the Japanese player acknowledged that the criticism affected him.

"Every morning when I woke up, I would pray, 'I have to throw today, please let there be no pain.' Those were very gloomy days," Darvish wrote. "Meanwhile, the atmosphere around me had become, 'Is he faking an injury?' 'Is it a mental problem?' Those words made it extremely difficult for me to stop and rest, and it really took

a toll on me emotionally."

Darvish said Thursday that the failure of doctors to initially discover a significant injury caused him to doubt himself.

"Until the diagnosis, there were times when I thought it could be my mental side," he said.

Darvish said he was told that six weeks of rest should clear up the problem — no surgery is planned — and he is expected to be healthy for the start of spring training.

He was asked if he's looking forward to next season.

"It's really hard to think about next year at this point," he said. "Right now, all I can do is do what's best for my arm."



# Price, Red Sox earn split with Indians

Associated Press

BOSTON — Two and a half seasons after he came to Boston, David Price is finally delivering the excitement that accompanied his arrival.

“This is the pitcher Boston signed,” the Red Sox lefty said after pitching eight innings of three-hit, shutout ball to beat the Cleveland Indians 7-0 on Thursday. “For me to get back to that, it’s about time.”

Price (14-6) earned his fifth straight win, getting three bases-loaded doubles in a six-run fifth inning to help the Red Sox split their four-game series with the AL Central-leading Indians. After losing the first two games, Boston won twice in 20 hours to open a 9½-game lead over the idle New York Yankees in the AL East.

The Red Sox, who have the best record in baseball at 90-39, have not lost four games in a row all season, and they are the only team in the majors that has not been swept.

“Hopefully we can be the first to 100, too,” said Blake Swihart, who entered the game as a pinch-runner when Mitch Moreland bruised his knee and delivered the go-ahead double in the fifth.

Price signed a seven-year, \$217 million contract before the 2016 season and pitched well in his first season in Boston but has yet to win a playoff game with the Red Sox. He has allowed five runs in six starts since the All-Star break, an ERA of 1.09 that is the lowest in the league among regular starters.

On Thursday, he hit a batter but walked none, striking out seven before leaving to a standing ovation and high fives from his teammates after the top of the eighth. The Indians had not been shut out at Fenway Park since the final week of the 2009 season.

“That’s a playoff-caliber team,” Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. “That’s one of the best teams in the big leagues and he was outstanding today.”

Adam Plutko (4-4) matched him into the fifth, when Sandy Leon led off with a ground-rule double and moved to third on Jackie Bradley Jr.’s single. One out later, Plutko walked the bases loaded and then gave up Swihart’s line drive to right-center that made it 2-0.

J.D. Martinez was inten-

tionally walked, then Xander Bogaerts hit a one-hopper off reliever Adam Cimber that went over third baseman Jose Ramirez’s head and off the tip of his glove for another two-run double. Another intentional walk loaded the bases, and then Eduardo Nunez poked a double down the first-base line to make it 6-0.

In all, Plutko allowed five runs on five hits and five walks, striking out four in 4⅓ innings.

“He competed like crazy,” Indians manager Terry Francona said. “And then we got into the fifth and we just couldn’t stop the bleeding.”

Martinez singled in a run in the sixth — his major league-leading 109th RBI of the season — to give Boston a 7-0 lead.

## MLB roundup

### Nola matches Scherzer, Phils top Nats in duel of aces

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Aaron Nola outdueled Max Scherzer in a meeting of All-Star aces, Odubel Herrera hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning and the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Washington Nationals 2-0 Thursday.

Nola (15-3) was masterful in his matchup with the three-time Cy Young Award winner, allowing five hits and one walk. He escaped his biggest jam with his final pitch, striking out Bryce Harper with runners on first and second to end the eighth.

Nola struck out nine and finished with a 2.13 ERA — the exact same ERA as Scherzer.

Scherzer (16-6) was nearly as good in the first matchup of starters with at least 150 innings and a sub-2.25 ERA since St. Louis’ John Tudor faced Mets ace Dwight Gooden on Sept. 11, 1985. Scherzer gave up two hits in seven innings and struck out 10, increasing his major league-leading total

to 244.

Pat Neshek pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save.

**Braves 5, Marlins 0:** Rookie Ronald Acuna Jr. hit his 21st home run and got hit by another Miami pitch, though tempers stayed in check this time and visiting Atlanta went on to win.

It was the first meeting between the teams since the Aug. 15 game in which Miami starter Jose Urena earned a six-game suspension by plunking Acuna on his first and only pitch. This time, no hysterics broke out.

**Cubs 7, Reds 1:** Cole Hamels tossed a complete game to continue his dramatic turnaround with NL Central-leading Chicago, which got home runs from Anthony Rizzo and Javier Baez to beat visiting Cincinnati.

Hamels (4-0) allowed eight hits, struck out seven and walked two in his 17th career complete game.

**Rockies 4, Padres 3:** Ian Desmond hit a two-run, two-out homer in the ninth inning, and

host Colorado beat San Diego.

Desmond lined an 88-mph splitter from reliever Kirby Yates (4-3) over the fence in left after Trevor Story singled earlier in the ninth and stole second. It was Desmond’s second career walk-off homer. His other was May 2, 2012, against Arizona.

**Twins 6, Athletics 4:** With a two-run double by pinch-hitter Mitch Garver, host Minnesota overtook Oakland starter Trevor Cahill (5-3) in the fourth inning on the way to victory.

The A’s lost consecutive games for the second time in more than two months and dropped 1½ games behind AL West-leading Houston.

**Giants 3, Mets 1:** San Francisco’s Madison Bumgarner hit an RBI double for the only earned run off host New York’s Jacob deGrom (8-8) and topped him on the mound, too.

In his first appearance in New York since tossing a four-hit shutout in the 2016 NL wild-card game, Bumgar-

ner (5-5) allowed one run on five hits in eight innings. He struck out eight and walked none. Bumgarner extended his scoreless streak at Citi Field to 33 innings before Todd Frazier homered to begin the seventh. The big lefty is 7-0 with a 1.42 ERA in eight starts against the Mets.

**Rays 4, Royals 3:** A throwing error on Kevin Kiermaier’s bases-loaded grounder in the ninth inning helped host Tampa Bay complete a four-game sweep of Kansas City.

**Tigers 7, White Sox 2:** Matthew Boyd (8-11) pitched six scoreless innings and Ronny Rodriguez hit his first career home run to lift host Detroit over Chicago.

Rodriguez also hit an RBI double, and Nicholas Castellanos and Mikie Mahtook homered off James Shields (5-15). All three of Detroit’s homers were solo shots in the sixth inning.

Boyd allowed six hits, walked one and struck out six.

# Browns pick off Foles, shut out Eagles

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Super Bowl MVP has lost his magic touch. Nick Foles isn't playing like himself.

Foles threw two interceptions in the first half and Philadelphia's starting offense — missing some key players — struggled again while waiting for quarterback Carson Wentz to return and the Eagles were beaten 5-0 on Thursday night by the Cleveland Browns in a preseason game.

Foles, who replaced an injured Wentz last season and led the Eagles to their first Super Bowl title while becoming a cult hero, continued his ugly preseason. He did complete 13 of 17 passes for 127 yards, but he threw the picks and was sacked three times, stripped for a fumble and downed for a safety.

His overall statistics were better than a week ago against New England when he hurt his shoulder, but he made two poor decisions and hasn't led the Eagles' first-team offense to a point on 14 drives over three games.

"There are times where I'm feeling good, but I'm making some mistakes," Foles said. "It's as simple as that."

The Eagles (0-3) committed four turnovers, allowed seven sacks and missed a field goal. With just two weeks left to get ready for their opener against Atlanta, the Super Bowl winners have work to do.

At this point, Foles, the unlikely hero from last season, will likely start the season as the Eagles wait for Wentz, who recently began working in 11-on-11 drills, to be cleared following knee surgery.

Eagles coach Doug Pederson was upset with his team's offensive performance, not just Foles.

"I don't want to single out one player, so don't put this all on Nick," Pederson said. "I'm disappointed in the offense. It's not what you want obviously in the third preseason week. We still want to evaluate and make sure we got the right guys in the right spots."

Cleveland had a familiar quarterback scare.

Starter Tyrod Taylor injured

his left hand in the first quarter, and the sight of him heading to the sideline sent a shiver through fans in FirstEnergy Stadium. Rookie Baker Mayfield replaced him for two series before Taylor returned. Taylor finished 11-for-16 for 65 yards.

Taylor stayed in the locker room after halftime to receive treatment. He left the stadium before speaking with reporters.

Coach Hue Jackson said X-rays were negative but Taylor will undergo more tests Friday.

"I was very concerned, but I wouldn't have put him back in if I didn't think he was fine," Jackson said. "We'll continue to look at it and see where we are going into next week."

Mayfield, the No. 1 overall pick, played the entire second half and went 8-for-12 for 76 yards and an interception. He was checked for a concussion in the second half.

"Not my best game by any means," Mayfield said. "I'm disappointed in myself. I got in there with the first team and I've got to get the ball out

quickly. Not my best game at all."

The Browns intend for Taylor to start this season while Mayfield develops, with the only thing that might alter the plan being an injury — something Cleveland knows all too well while cycling through 28 starting QBs since 1999.

With Foles behind center, the Eagles' first-team offense, which was missing wide receivers Alshon Jeffery and Nelson Agholor, running backs Jay Ajayi and Darren Sproles and left tackle Jason Peters, hasn't scored a point in three exhibitions.

Foles floated a long pass that safety Briean Boddy-Calhoun easily intercepted. Then, with a chance to finally score, Foles forced a throw into a crowd near the goal line and was picked by linebacker Jamie Collins.

"I'm just making mistakes," Foles said. "For me, it's just getting back into rhythm — and keep playing ball. We had an opportunity to win and made too many mistakes and that's on me. If I clean that up, we win this game."

## Cardinals' Fitzgerald keeping mum about retirement

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — If his 15th NFL season is to be his last, don't expect Larry Fitzgerald to tell anyone.

Not until long after the season is over.

"I told you this a long time ago," he said after the Arizona Cardinals practiced Thursday. "There's never going to be a farewell tour. It's not about me. There's 53 guys on this roster. There's 53 guys who are giving their all to compete and make this team better, and coaches. It's so much bigger than any one individual."

It's pretty much the same thing Fitzgerald has said each of the past few years when questions are raised about the inevitable end to one of the greatest careers of any wide

receiver in NFL history.

"No game was ever won by one man and no game was ever lost by one man," he said. "When you start thinking that it's bigger than that and it's about you, that's when you've lost touch with what this game is all about and what the spirit of this game is about."

Make no mistake about it. Fitzgerald knows all about where he stands statistically on the NFL career lists. The numbers do mean a lot to him. But he spends very little time talking about them. Maybe there will come a time, perhaps at that Hall of Fame induction ceremony. But for now, Fitzgerald is insisting he's just one guy on a team.

When Sam Bradford tosses one in a regular-season game to Fitzgerald, he will become the

18th quarterback to complete a pass to No. 11 in the receiver's years with Arizona. That is a lot of quarterbacks, to be sure.

"It's a privilege," Fitzgerald said. "Most guys don't get a chance to play long enough to be able to catch the ball from that many quarterbacks. I look at it as a blessing and a testament to my longevity. Hopefully, we can go a whole season and not have to make any changes."

Some of the quarterbacks are well known — including Hall of Famer Kurt Warner and recently retired Carson Palmer. There also was Brian St. Pierre, Max Hall and John Skelton, among many others.

Injuries led to in-season quarterback changes. So did poor quarterback play. But through it all, Fitzgerald usually catches whatever comes

his way. He has caught a pass in 211 consecutive games, the second-longest such streak in NFL history behind Jerry Rice's 274. Only once in his 218 career games did he not catch a pass.

Fitzgerald, who turns 35 on Aug. 31, is within striking distance of the No. 2 spot on two other significant career lists — receptions and yards receiving. He has 15,545 yards receiving and needs 390 to pass Terrell Owens into second (behind Rice's 22,895) and, with 1,234 catches, needs 92 to pass Tony Gonzalez into second, behind Rice's formidable 1,549.

If those numbers seem a stretch, consider that Fitzgerald was second in the NFL last season with 109 catches (tying his franchise record) for 1,156 yards.