

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Afghan soldiers training in US go AWOL

*The Washington Post*

Forty-five Afghan soldiers have disappeared in the United States during training on U.S. military installations in the past two years, Pentagon officials said Thursday, exposing a hole in security as many presumably stay in the country illegally and avoid returning to their military assignments.

Twenty-five were reported AWOL in 2015, and an additional 20 have disappeared this year, said Navy Cmdr. Patrick Evans, a Pentagon spokesman.

Others have disappeared before, however, including 17 soldiers reported missing from English-language training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas between 2006 and 2010. Since 2007, the United States has trained 2,207 Afghans in U.S.-based programs, Evans said.

Evans said the Pentagon is “assessing ways to strengthen eligibility criteria for training in ways that will reduce

the likelihood of an individual Afghan willingly absconding from training in the U.S. and going AWOL.”

The figures, first reported Thursday by Reuters, add a new wrinkle to the U.S. plan to train Afghan forces to take control of security in their own country. The disappearance of Afghan soldiers in the United States has been disclosed previously, but most reports focus on individual cases. Last month, the Pentagon disclosed that seven Afghan troops recently disappeared from five locations: Little Rock, Ark.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Lee, Va.; and Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia.

The disappearances also come as the Afghan military and police continue to face significant problems of attrition in Afghanistan. Thousands of soldiers and police officers are believed to desert each year, frustrated by everything from the Afghan government

not paying them on time to the violence they face from the Taliban and other insurgent groups.

Afghan troops have been included in a variety of training programs in the United States. Pilots, for example, receive instruction on how to fly the A-29 Super Tucano aircraft at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia.

A handful of Afghan officers also have gone through the Army’s grueling Ranger School, and Afghan troops regularly receive English-language training through the Defense Department in the United States.

Before coming to the United States, Afghan trainees are screened to ensure they are not affiliated with any known terrorist or insurgent groups and must apply for and receive a U.S. visa. They also must first go through vetting required by the so-called Leahy Law, Evans said.

First introduced in 1997 by

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., the law calls for the U.S. government to avoid providing training to individuals who have a history of human rights abuses.

“If at any time they fail one of these steps, they are ineligible to go to this training or any future U.S.-funded training,” Evans said.

Pentagon officials said Thursday they were researching the total list of locations from which Afghan soldiers have gone AWOL in the United States. The Defense Department referred questions about the current status or whereabouts of the 45 who have gone AWOL to the Department of Homeland Security, which did not immediately respond to requests for comment. In one case last year, three Afghan officers who were on Cape Cod in Massachusetts for a training exercise disappeared and were stopped at the border trying to cross into Canada.

## DOD works to eliminate Afghan ‘ghost’ soldiers

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. Defense Department has assured a watchdog agency that a number of efforts are being carried out to track Afghan active-duty security forces so that American taxpayer dollars are not wasted on so-called ghost soldiers.

In a letter to the Pentagon released Friday — 15 years to the day since the United States invaded Afghanistan to oust the Taliban — the office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said

it was worried about “significant gaps between the assigned force strength of the [Afghan National Defense and Security Forces] and the actual number of personnel serving.”

SIGAR expressed particular unease about southern Helmand province, where Afghan forces have been struggling to fend off relentless Taliban offensives.

Afghanistan’s TOLONews in June quoted Helmand’s incoming police chief as saying that up to half of the roughly 26,000 soldiers and police officers assigned to the province did not exist.

Officially, Afghan security forces — which include the

army and local and national police — are said to number about 320,000, but The Associated Press reported earlier this year that there were likely fewer than half of that number.

SIGAR said it was concerned that U.S. funds provided to the ANDSF could be pocketed by Afghan commanders under the guise of paying soldiers who have deserted or died or never existed. The watchdog group asked the DOD for an update on measures it previously pledged to implement to account for Afghan personnel.

The DOD said several efforts were underway, including person-by-person verification

and biometric registration. It said roughly 90 percent of police and 70 percent to 80 percent of soldiers have been biometrically enrolled.

“When the initial inventorying is completed in July 2017, DOD and the Afghan [Defense Ministry] will have a more accurate representation of actual force strength,” the Pentagon said.

Efforts at changing the way salaries are paid so that they go directly to employees also are expected to be implemented by next year, DOD said.

The United States has spent \$68 billion since 2002 to help support the ANDSF.

# US troops respond to Hurricane Matthew

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — U.S. servicemembers began initial search-and-rescue operations in South Florida and in Haiti on Friday as powerful Hurricane Matthew moved along the East Coast toward Georgia and South Carolina.

In Florida, some 3,500 National Guard troops began aerial and ground-based search-and-rescue operations in the southern portion of the state as the Category 3 hurricane moved slowly north along the coastline, said Air Force Maj. Gen. J.C. Witham, the National Guard Bureau's operations director.

Meanwhile, active-duty Marines, soldiers and airmen continue planning operations in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and expected to begin initial search-and-rescue flights by early Friday afternoon over the nation left devastated by the storm, said Rear Adm. Cedric Pringle, the commander of the 350-servicemember task force sent there for relief. By early Friday afternoon, the death toll in Haiti had risen to more than 400, according to news reports.

The National Hurricane Center downgraded Hurricane Matthew to a Category 3 storm with winds of up to 120 mph before it approached Florida early Friday morning.

The Miami-based center projected the storm would lose some strength as it moved just off the coast of Georgia and into South Carolina early Saturday. Officials warned that Jacksonville in northeastern Florida could take the brunt of the storm in the United States late Friday.

More than 6,000 National Guardsmen had been activated in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina by Friday and thousands more had been notified they soon could be mobilized to support a range of

operations from helicopter surveillance to law enforcement and security assistance, Witham said.

"The Guard is very well postured to be able to support these operations with well-trained soldiers and airmen who have specific skill sets that will allow them to assist civil authorities," the general said, adding it could be the largest regional National Guard mobilization since Superstorm Sandy in the northeastern United States in 2012.

In Florida, the Guardsmen were just beginning disaster-response operations in areas where the hurricane had passed. They were expected to move from south to north as the hurricane progressed, Witham told reporters Friday at the Pentagon.

National Guardsmen from other states, including North Carolina, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee, also were prepared to deploy to aide in relief efforts, if necessary, he said.

In Haiti, Pringle said he surveyed the damage from the air on Thursday.

The storm destroyed buildings, including homes, and ravaged roads, bridges and infrastructure, leaving much of the country's south impassable, the admiral said. Aid workers had yet to reach some of the more remote devastated areas because of the damaged infrastructure.

The U.S. military task force soon would deploy to some of those locations, Pringle said, including the town of Jeremie, one of the hardest-hit areas, where dozens already had been reported killed.

"The damage is pretty extensive here," Pringle told reporters at the Pentagon via telephone. "There's a lot of work to be done over the next several weeks or however long it takes."

Pringle's Joint Task Force-Haiti, which includes nine heavy- and medium-lift helicopters and Coast Guard cutters, is assigned

to assist the U.S. Agency for International Development's relief efforts. About 250 servicemembers had arrived in Haiti's capital as of Friday morning and another 100 were expected by Saturday, he said.

Additionally, the Navy's USS Mesa Verde, an amphibious transport dock ship, had been tasked with aiding Haiti relief efforts, two defense officials said Friday on the condition of anonymity. The Navy also has the USS George Washington, an aircraft carrier, and the USNS Comfort, a hospital ship, ready to assist with the response, if requested by Haiti's government.

Pringle said his troops were making progress and were committed to helping the people of Haiti.

"This is a major effort here to restore some stability to the people of Haiti," he said. "Our helicopters and our people are going to be a critical element for supporting this operation simply because of the terrain here in Haiti and the number of people who are cut off in any other way."

In the United States, officials at military bases along the southeastern coastline dismissed nonessential personnel, canceled training operations, ordered those living in mandatory evacuation zones to leave, and evacuated aircraft and warships. Top officials ordered evacuations of coastal counties in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina with a total population of 2 million people.

The National Hurricane Center's projections Friday showed the eye of the storm remaining just off the coast, but powerful winds and rains were expected from Florida through South Carolina and, perhaps, into North Carolina. Hurricane Center officials warned it could pour up to 15 inches of rain in some areas and could cause dangerous storm surges in excess of 9 feet.

## Large storm quiets campaign ahead of debate

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — It appears the only thing that can knock this presidential campaign off television is a monster hurricane.

The candidates, their aides, their surrogates, even some of their ads, went quiet Friday, as swing-state Florida was pounded by Hurricane Matthew, coastal residents hunkered down in their homes and the 15 months of constant political chatter almost disappeared.

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton kept

far away from the storm at their home bases in New York. Both planned to use most of the day to prepare for their second debate on Sunday night, a town-hall-style forum in St. Louis.

The pause was a reminder of the possibilities and perils of campaigning during a crisis. Plenty of presidents and presidential hopefuls before them have used similar natural disasters to showcase their leadership — or their shortcomings — in ways that can change the trajectory of the race. Both Clinton and Trump appeared to be moving carefully, for now.

The campaigns spent Thursday moving staff and volunteers, closing offices and canceling events in the path of the storm, as many Floridians heeded calls to evacuate. In Florida, the Clinton campaign pulled its ads from the Weather Channel, amid criticism about insensitivity, and the Trump team pulled its negative TV ads.

"Even if you want to do politics, no one is there to listen," said Steve Schale, a Democratic consultant who directed or advised Barack Obama's campaigns in the state in 2008 and 2012.



# US, Philippines conduct joint drills

BY SETH ROBSON

*Stars and Stripes*

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines — Marines from the U.S. and the Philippines stormed ashore Friday on Luzon island in a joint military exercise that President Rodrigo Duterte has said will be the last between the two longtime allies.

Hundreds of troops landed on the west coast of the Philippines' main island in 13 assault amphibious vehicles launched from the dock landing ship USS Germantown as part of this month's annual PHIBLEX exercise.

Each of the floating armored vehicles transported six Filipino marines and six U.S. Marines to the shore. As the personnel carriers emerged from the surf and advanced on their tracks across the sand, explosives detonated inland to simulate support fire.

The vehicles drove on through a swamp and engaged an imaginary enemy with blank rounds, while hundreds of Philippine sailors and Marines watched from the beach.

The cooperation among the two countries' troops contrast-

ed with the increasingly sharp rhetoric between the governments in Washington and Manila after Duterte took office June 30. Duterte has pushed back angrily at complaints by the U.S. and the European Union that his anti-drug campaign, the signature issue of his election campaign, has produced widespread human rights abuses and extrajudicial killings.

President Barack Obama canceled a meeting with Duterte in September after the Philippine president responded to U.S. complaints with a Filipino expression that translates as "your mother's a whore." He also lashed out at the U.S. military role in the Philippines, demanding the withdrawal of U.S. special operators from southern Mindanao island and vowing to cancel future exercises after the current PHIBLEX maneuvers.

Filipino troops watching the training said they were not authorized to talk to members of the media, and U.S. forces did not facilitate interviews with senior commanders at the exercise.

As Friday's training ended, however, Brig. Gen. John Jan-

sen, commander of the Okinawa, Japan-based 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, saluted and shook hands with several smiling Filipino officers, including Navy Rear Adm. Narciso A. Vingson Jr., commander of the Naval Education and Training Command, and Marine Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo, chief of the Northern Luzon Command.

The friendly display took place only a few feet from a tent where 45 members of local and international media had gathered to watch the beach assault.

"It would be unfortunate if it was the last," said Maj. Roger Hollenbeck, a 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade spokesman, said of the exercise. "PHIBLEX is in its 33rd iteration, but we have been working together for 70 years side by side as partner nations." Marines from 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., worked with their Filipino counterparts for several days before the beach assault.

Capt. DeWayne Papandrea, 37, the 2-4's air officer, stood on the beach in driving rain with a radio ready to coordinate simulated air raids during

the exercise until the rain and fog convinced commanders to go ahead without planes and helicopters.

Papandrea, an F/A-18 pilot who flew missions against the Islamic State group in Iraq last year, said the Marines have been learning about Filipino culture from their counterparts.

"They offered us balut (chicken embryo in an egg, a local delicacy). Ten of our Marines shared it with them," he said.

U.S. personnel can learn a lot from their Filipino counterparts, who have experience calling in close air support against Islamic rebels in the country's south, he said.

Another 2-4 Marine, Sgt. Jacob Hunter, 25, of Easton, Pa., said he and his buddies have been working closely with the Filipino troops.

Hunter said he wasn't aware of Duterte's recent comments. He described the Philippine marines as "squared away and fun to talk to," and said the troops aren't talking politics in the field. Instead, they are swapping hats and badges, he said.

## Report: N. Korea might be prepping for test

BY AARON KIDD

*Stars and Stripes*

Recent movements at North Korea's underground nuclear-test site could indicate preparations for another blast, a Washington-based think tank said.

Satellite images taken Oct. 1 at Punggye-ri, in the communist country's remote northeast, show "continuing activity" at all three of the complex's test tunnels, according to an analysis by 38 North, a website run by Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies that monitors North Korean activities.

Activity at the north portal, where the North's fifth and most recent nuclear test took place Sept. 9, could be for a

number of purposes, including "collecting post-test data, sealing the portal or preparing for another test," the group said. The images show a large vehicle, possibly a truck, near the portal's entrance, and a large canopy in a nearby parking lot that has been in place for the past couple of months.

"There is no evidence of new excavation, but there appear to be boxes or material around the side of the main building," 38 North said.

At the south portal, where excavation stopped in 2012, images show a group of people standing near a tunnel entrance, indicating ongoing work or maintenance.

"The purpose of this activity is also unclear, although the portal is assumed to be capable

of supporting a nuclear test once a decision is made to move forward," the report said.

At the west portal, mining carts or furrows are visible on a spoil pile, but it is "unlikely that tunnel excavation has resumed since the pile has not grown over the past two months," the analysis said.

Little activity was detected at Punggye-ri's main support area, and a few crates and possible vehicles were visible at the south command center.

South Korea's military is on high alert amid concern the North might stage another provocation to celebrate the 71st anniversary of its ruling Workers' Party on Monday. The communist regime conducted its first nuclear test a day before the 2006 anniversary.

## New Navy ship to honor Pa. lawmaker

PHILADELPHIA — The U.S. Navy is commissioning the USS John P. Murtha, a new ship named in honor of the late longtime Pennsylvania congressman and decorated Marine Corps veteran.

Thousands are expected to honor Murtha on Saturday at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia during a ceremony to place the ship into active service.

Murtha, a Democrat, served as a U.S. Marines Corps Reserve officer and later as a member of the Pennsylvania House.

The two-time Purple Heart recipient earned a number of other accolades for his service, including the Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

From The Associated Press

# Officials: NJ train speeding before crash

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — A damaged New Jersey Transit commuter train that crashed into Hoboken's terminal last week, killing a woman on the platform and injuring more than 100 people, has been removed from the station to undergo further examination.

Federal investigators released new information Thursday gleaned from a data recorder and video from a camera in the front of the train, but a final report on what caused the crash could take a year or

longer to complete.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board, the train sped up and was going twice the 10 mph speed limit just before it slammed into a bumping post at the end of the rail line, went airborne and hurtled into the station's waiting area on Sept. 29.

The train was traveling at 8 mph, and the throttle was in the idle position less than a minute before the crash. Approximately 38 seconds before the crash, the throttle was increased and reached a maximum of about

21 mph, the NTSB said. The throttle went back to idle and the engineer hit the emergency brake less than a second before the crash, investigators said.

NJ Transit trains have an in-cab system designed to alert engineers with a loud alarm and stop locomotives when they go over 20 mph, according to a NJ Transit engineer.

The engineer said the throttles have eight slots, putting the fourth spot at about half power. The engineer said the throttle should be set to idle, or the first and slowest speed spot, when

entering Hoboken Terminal.

Video from the train's forward-facing camera showed the front of the train smashing into and overriding the bumper at the end of the track, causing a large flash, investigators wrote.

On Thursday, NJ Transit said the conductor must join the engineer whenever a train pulls into Hoboken Terminal or its Atlantic City station.

Investigators recovered the data recorder, a video recorder and the engineer's cellphone from the front car of the train on Tuesday.

## President of Colombia wins Nobel Peace Prize

Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos won the Nobel Peace Prize Friday for his efforts to end a civil war that has killed more than 200,000 people — and said he received the award in the name of the Colombian people.

The award came days after Colombian voters narrowly rejected the peace deal that Santos helped bring about. Nobel judges conspicuously did not honor his counterpart, Rodrigo Londono, the leader of the rebels.

"The referendum was not a vote for or against peace," the Nobel Committee said, insisting the peace process wasn't dead. "What the 'No' side rejected was not the desire for peace but a specific peace agreement."

Santos said the Colombian people deserved the honor.

Reacting to the award on Twitter, Londono said "the only prize to which we aspire" is one of social justice for Colombia, without far-right militias or retaliation.

Santos and Londono — the leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia who's better known by his nom de guerre, Timochenko — signed a peace deal last month to end Latin America's longest-running conflict after more

than four years of negotiations.

Six days later, Colombians rejected it by less than a half-percentage point over concerns that the rebels, who were behind scores of atrocities, were getting a sweetheart deal. Under the accord, rebels who turned over their weapons and confessed their crimes would be spared jail time, and the group would be given 10 seats in Congress through 2026.

In Bogota, 20 activists camped out in front of Colombia's Congress to demand the peace deal not be scuttled. They shouted, "Peace deal now!" and "Colombia wants peace!"

The Norwegian Nobel Committee said it believes Santos, despite the vote, "has brought the bloody conflict significantly closer to a peaceful solution."

It said the award should also be seen "as a tribute to the Colombian people who, despite great hardships and abuses, have not given up hope of a just peace, and to all the parties who have contributed to the peace process."

Awarding Santos alone was a departure from the Nobel committee's tradition of honoring both sides in a peace process, like it did in 1994 for an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord and in 1998 for peace talks in Northern Ireland.

## NY archdiocese to compensate victims of sexual abuse

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Victims of clergy sex abuse willing to forego lawsuits against New York's Roman Catholic archdiocese can seek compensation through a new church fund announced Thursday, but any records of such abuse and what the church did about problem priests will remain private.

The program will be led by Kenneth Feinberg, who managed the federal compensation fund for Sept. 11 victims, with oversight by former New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, among others.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the New York archbishop, said he created the fund because victims have said they need "a tangible sign of the church's outreach and sense of reparation."

The archdiocese announced the program at a time when victim advocates are pressing New York legislators to expand or temporarily abolish time limits on lawsuits over child sex abuse.

The inner workings of the fund will be private, although victims can decide whether to

reveal their involvement.

Under the program, people with abuse claims pending with the archdiocese will have until Jan. 31 to apply.

A second phase starting Feb. 1 will be open to new applicants, who will be asked for documentation, such as evidence they complained about the abuse at the time it occurred.

Feinberg and mediator Camille Biros will evaluate the claims and decide how they will be paid. There will be no cap on compensation and the archdiocese has agreed to pay whatever amount Feinberg and Biros order.

New York state lawmakers have long debated extending the statute of limitations on suing child sex abusers or creating a window of opportunity for past victims to file civil suits against abusers.

The leading proposal in the Legislature would eliminate the statute of limitations for several child sexual abuse crimes going forward. It also would create a one-time, one-year window for past victims to file civil suits at the time the measure becomes law.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Driver crashes into cruiser, is charged

**MD** BELTSVILLE — Officials said a Columbia woman has been charged with driving under the influence after her car hit a Maryland Transportation Authority police officer's cruiser on Interstate 95.

Maryland State Police said in a statement that a trooper responded to a crash at I-95 and the Intercounty Connector in Beltsville late Tuesday, and a transportation authority officer arrived to help. As the officer sat in his cruiser in a construction zone with his emergency lights on, police said a car hit the driver's side, then fled.

According to police, troopers found and stopped the car, then arrested the driver. Sgt. Travis Brown said Carol Reed, 43, of Columbia has been charged with driving under the influence and other traffic offenses.

The officer was not injured.

## Yogurt business tests delivery via drones

**MI** HOLLAND — A Michigan frozen yogurt business is trying out the idea of making deliveries using a drone.

A test run of Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt's drone delivery took place Tuesday at Hope College in Holland. Dubbed "Project Flying Orange Unicorn," the business said it's planning to offer deliveries from its Holland store located a few blocks from campus.

The effort is led by Jeremy Latchaw, franchise owner of Orange Leaf locations in Holland and Grandville. He's also president of Mishigami Group, a drone business that's working with fire and police departments to develop unmanned aerial vehicle programs.

The Holland Sentinel reported Tuesday's delivery was greeted by cheers and applause from students, faculty and other curious onlookers.

## Man sentenced for phony cancer scheme

**WV** CHARLESTON — A Virginia man has been given prison time after admitting to a phony cancer scheme involving The Greenbrier resort.

Federal prosecutors said in a news release that Carmelo Carrozza, 57, of Charlottesville, Va., was sentenced Wednesday to one year and two months in prison after pleading guilty to wire fraud in May. He must also pay about \$48,000 in restitution to The Greenbrier.

Carrozza began working at the resort in 2013 as the director of fine dining and lied in June 2013 when he said he had cancer. He left the resort and continued to collect his salary, but instead of getting cancer treatments, Carrozza got another job two months later in Charlottesville.

## Man grows marijuana plants at cemetery

**VT** RUTLAND — A man has been charged with growing more than 40 marijuana plants in a Vermont cemetery.

The Rutland Herald reported that Adam Mahoney, 23, pleaded not guilty Monday to a felony marijuana cultivation charge.

Authorities said Rutland County deputies found five grow sites while patrolling the Chippenhook Cemetery in Clarendon in August. Deputy Jessica Ryan-LeBlanc said she found the first site before spotting Mahoney in the woods near the cemetery.

Authorities said when they

searched Mahoney's vehicle, they found fish fertilizer, a box of Miracle-Gro, containers filled with water and animal repellent spray.

An affidavit said Mahoney admitted to caring for and cultivating marijuana plants.

## Woman returns excess cash ATM spits out

**PA** GLENOLDEN — An eastern Pennsylvania bank said a woman did the right thing when an ATM spit out hundreds of dollars that weren't hers: She returned the money.

Kristina Edwards, 35, told the Delaware County Daily Times that she went to the Wells Fargo bank ATM on Sunday morning to withdraw \$60.

When the machine at the drive-thru instead popped out \$380, she chased down the customer who was in line in front of her to see if the money belonged to him. When she found out it didn't, she called Wells Fargo and was told to return the money to a bank branch when she could.

The single mother of two did that on Monday.

## Snowmobile race to use trucked-in water

**NH** FREMONT — Organizers of an annual Columbus day weekend snowmobile race on water in New Hampshire said they had to truck in water for the event because of the drought.

WMUR-TV reported Brookvale Pines Farm in Fremont is the setting for the Race to Winter. More than 40,000 people are expected.

They hold their watercross event on a pond. But the level is lower than normal and organizers had to bring in about two tractor-trailers' worth of water.

Once the event is over, the

water will be used for farm animals returning to the fields.

## Farm stand sets up outhouse voting booth

**NH** ASHLAND — A New Hampshire farm stand is showing off a decorative outhouse-turned-voting booth with mannequins of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, and side-by-side toilets to cast ballots.

Chris Owens, who runs Owens Truck Farm in Ashland, put up the "Official NH Voting Booth" sign on the structure. He told New Hampshire Public Radio customers like it, taking the attitude, "that's about the only place this ballot belongs is in the toilet."

He says he's collected about 100 ballots already.

Above the Trump mannequin is a sign that reads, "If I am elected, we will build a wall between Plymouth and Rumney, and Rumney will pay for it," referring to two nearby towns.

## Some claim Bigfoot spotted on camera

**MI** BEULAH — Some people think they've spotted Bigfoot on a live camera trained on an eagle's nest in Michigan.

The clip from a camera mounted on a tree near a state fish hatchery shows baby eaglets in the nest while a dark figure walking on two legs moves on the ground below.

The Detroit Free Press reported the clip was highlighted on the website of CarbonTV, which has partnered with the state to install the eagle cam. The company told the Free Press the clip was captured in May.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Indians rock Porcello, Red Sox in Game 1

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Boom! Bang! Pow! Nine pitches, three homers, one devastating inning.

Back in October's spotlight, the Cleveland Indians rocked Rick Porcello for three long balls in the third inning in their AL Division Series opener. Francisco Lindor's homer capped the rampage off the 22-game winner, and the Indians held on to beat the Boston Red Sox 5-4 Thursday night.

Lindor, Jason Kipnis and Robert Perez went deep in the third off Porcello, who lasted 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings in his shortest outing this year.

After skipping down the third-base line and touching home plate, Lindor pointed toward the starry sky.

"If this is what October's like, I want to do this every year," Lindor said. "I didn't even know where I was. I was just jumping and screaming."

Before a sea of red-towel waving, screaming fans, the Indians got a jump in the best-of-five series against the AL East champions.

Andrew Miller, acquired by Cleveland in a July trade for an October night like this, pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Summoned by manager Terry Francona earlier than usual, the lefty struck out David Ortiz with two on to end the fifth.

Bryan Shaw gave up a lead-off homer to Boston's Brock Holt in the eighth that made it 5-4 before Cody Allen struck out Xander Bogaerts with the potential tying run at third to end the inning. B

Boston put a runner on with two outs in the ninth but Allen struck out Dustin Pedroia on a full-count check swing, his 40th pitch, for the save.

Ortiz went 1-for-4 with a double in the first game of his final postseason.

Rookie Andrew Benintendi and Sandy Leon also homered for the Red Sox, who were to start David Price in Game 2 Friday afternoon against Cleveland ace Corey Kluber.

Cleveland unloaded on Porcello in the third, connecting for the three homers that shook Progressive Field.

Perez started the salvo with

just his second homer in 82 home at-bats this season. One out later, Kipnis drove a pitch over the wall in right-center, giving Cleveland a 3-2 lead and sending the raucous crowd into delirium. Kipnis had just finished getting a celebratory ride through the dugout when Lindor's shot to right barely cleared a leaping attempt by Mookie Betts.

"After the first one it was exciting," Kipnis said. "After mine it was even kind of getting nuts in there. And the third one our dugout was kind of losing it. We played with a lot of energy. We played with a lot of emotion. That's the way our team goes. We've got up and down the lineup, 25 guys who are baseball players who love to compete and we ride the waves."

"And that was a pretty high one."

Leon's homer pulled the Red Sox to 4-3 in the fifth. Francona, who won two World Series with the Red Sox before coming to Cleveland, pulled starter Trevor Bauer for Miller, who hadn't come in earlier than the sixth all season.

Miller gave up a double and walk before getting Ortiz to swing at a low third strike.

Francona extended both Miller and Allen because he knew the importance of winning the opener.

"We'll take inventory of what we got," he said. "You're certainly not going to see the same exact way tomorrow. But we wanted to win the game to-night and we did. Tomorrow might have to be a little bit different design."

**Speedy Perez:** Cleveland tacked on another run in the fifth, helped by Perez's alert baserunning. The slow-footed catcher tagged and took second on a fly to left and scored on Kipnis' single to make it 5-3.

"I saw the ball kept carrying," Perez. I think he kind of hesitated to throw it back or probably didn't know I was going to tag up," Perez said of Benintendi. "I normally don't do that. I was taking advantage of the situation. I did it on my own. It worked out for us. We scored a run."

## Blue Jays open ALDS by hammering Rangers

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Jose Bautista hit another long, punctuating home run for the Toronto Blue Jays in the playoffs against the Texas Rangers.

This time, Bautista dropped his bat softly near home plate and rounded the bases after a 425-foot, three-run blast in the ninth inning of the Blue Jays' 10-1 romp Thursday in Game 1 of the AL Division Series.

"I have a couple of home runs in my career and I think I've only flipped it once," Bautista said. "Just kind of been blown out of proportion because of the moment last year. So I don't think there was anything too special about laying it down the way I did, because that's the way that 99.9-plus percent of

the time I do it."

Bautista had that emphatic bat flip after his tiebreaking homer in the ALDS Game 5 clincher last October against the Rangers, and got punched the last time the Blue Jays played in Texas in May. He drove in four runs this time, including an RBI single in Toronto's five-run third off All-Star lefty Cole Hamels.

Marco Estrada took a shutout into the ninth inning. The All-Star right-hander with an impressive changeup, who won Game 3 in last year's ALDS after Toronto lost the first two at home, struck out six without a walk.

"He's mastered his craft," manager John Gibbons said. "He's a very calm guy. ... He

doesn't get down on himself. As well as he's pitched in two years here, really no need."

Estrada has never pitched a complete game in the majors and the Blue Jays didn't throw one this season. No matter, Estrada gave them all they needed to start this best-of-five series.

"Who cares. We won," Estrada said.

The last of the Rangers' four hits off Estrada was Elvis Andrus' leadoff triple in the ninth. Gibbons removed the right-hander after Shin-Soo Choo's RBI grounder ended the shutout bid.

Troy Tulowitzki hit a bases-loaded triple for the Blue Jays. Toronto has won four straight overall, including an 11-inning,

5-2 victory over Baltimore in the AL wild-card game Tuesday night.

Bautista was booed heartily during pregame introductions and while he batted in the first inning. There also were chants of "Rougie! Rougie!" — those were for Rowned Odor, the second baseman who punched Bautista and ignited a bench-clearing brawl in their last meeting May 15. Odor was suspended seven games.

"When you give up the amount of runs that I did early in the game, it can kind of deflate anything and everything of what home-field advantage really is," Hamels said. "It was a major letdown for what I was able to not do."



# Cards make most of 49ers' mistakes

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — After stumbling at the start of the season, the Arizona Cardinals hope a road win without their starting quarterback is just what they need to get their season back on track.

After a fourth straight loss and another lackluster performance by quarterback Blaine Gabbert, the San Francisco 49ers must decide if it's time to make a change at quarterback.

Drew Stanton threw two touchdown passes to Larry Fitzgerald in the quarterback's first start in two years, David Johnson ran for 157 yards and two scores and the Cardinals capitalized on San Francisco mistakes to beat the 49ers 33-21 on Thursday night.

"We've been saying all week it just starts with one. Just get one win and try to stack them," said defensive lineman Calais Campbell, who had two sacks,

an interception and a safety for the Cardinals (2-3).

"We've been a team in the past that can rip off a bunch of them. ... Now we have to figure out what we can do to keep that ball rolling."

The 49ers (1-4), on the other hand, need to figure out whether it's time to start over and give Colin Kaepernick a chance at quarterback.

Gabbert went just 18-for-31 for 162 yards against the Cardinals, throwing two interceptions and once again struggling to get the ball downfield. Gabbert ranks last in the NFL in yards per attempt (5.9) and his 69.6 passer rating is second worst in the league.

"It's extremely frustrating," Gabbert said. "I let this team and this organization down tonight and did not play good whatsoever and that's on me. I had two crucial turnovers there that led to points for the

Cardinals and that was the difference in the game right there. I got to do a better job protecting the football and leading this team to scoring more points and winning games."

Here are some other takeaways from the game:

**Dominant D:** The Cardinals managed to put pressure on Gabbert all day, especially with their front four. Campbell and Markus Golden each had two sacks as Arizona finished with seven in all against a team that had allowed only three through the first four weeks.

"It felt good to make a play or two to help the team," Campbell said.

**Bell cow back:** With Carson Palmer sidelined by a concussion, the Cardinals turned the offense over to their star second-year back, Johnson. He delivered with 157 yards and two TDs on 27 carries and three catches for 28 yards. Fitzger-

ald added 81 yards receiving as those two players combined to gain 266 of the team's 288 yards of total offense.

"I feel unstoppable, basically," Johnson said. "Especially with the help of the guys blocking, tight ends, receivers and obviously the O-line. It helps me get going, helps me get into the flow of being able to break some of the tackles, being able to get some of the yards we needed."

**Quick turnaround:** The game changed in a span of less than 4 minutes starting late in the second quarter. Campbell's interception of a deflected pass set up Arizona's first score on a 21-yard pass from Stanton to Fitzgerald with 1:40 left in the half. Davis' fumble of the second-half kickoff then set up Johnson's 4-yard run that put Arizona up for good. Gabbert's second interception led to a field goal.

## San Francisco fans start calling for Kaepernick

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The frustrated fans of the San Francisco 49ers made their feelings clear with chants of "We want Kap! We want Kap!"

Whether coach Chip Kelly is ready to bench quarterback Blaine Gabbert and give the job back to former starter Colin Kaepernick remains to be seen.

Gabbert threw two interceptions, missed a handful of open receivers and struggled to generate any offense as the 49ers lost their fourth straight game, 33-21 to the Arizona Cardinals on Thursday night.

"I don't think anybody played well on offense. Nobody," Kelly said. "I don't think we protected well enough, I don't think we threw it well enough and we had too many drops and two interceptions."

While there is plenty of blame to throw around after the team allowed seven sacks and a safety, committed three

turnovers and punted on four straight possessions to open the game, the focus right now will be on the quarterback position.

Gabbert beat out Kaepernick for the job in training camp based mostly on better practice play, more familiarity with the offense and better health.

Kaepernick led the Niners to the Super Bowl following the 2012 season and the NFC title game the following year before regressing and losing his job last year under coach Jim Tomsula. Three surgeries limited his offseason work and a tired arm cost him two crucial weeks of training camp, cementing Gabbert as the starter.

But Kelly opened the door a bit to a possible change after the game.

"We're 1-4. We're going to look at everything," he said. "We have to make sure we're giving our team the best chance to go out and win."

Gabbert isn't doing that right now. He went just 18-for-31 for

162 yards against the Cardinals, throwing two interceptions and once again struggling to get the ball downfield. Gabbert ranks last in the NFL in yards per attempt (5.9) and his 69.6 passer rating is second-worst in the league.

A week after badly underthrowing a deep pass to Torrey Smith that turned a possible go-ahead score in the fourth quarter into an interception, Gabbert missed an open Rod Streater on a deep ball in the first quarter.

"It's extremely frustrating," Gabbert said. "I let this team and this organization down tonight and did not play good whatsoever and that's on me. I had two crucial turnovers there that led to points for the Cardinals and that was the difference in the game right there. I got to do a better job protecting the football and leading this team to scoring more points and winning games."

He then had a pass deflected for an interception late in the

second quarter, setting up a tying score for Arizona and threw another interception in the fourth when he stared down Jeremy Kerley on a pass, leading to a second round of chants for Kaepernick.

But right now the players know there are more problems than just at quarterback after the offensive line was dominated for seven sacks.

"Sure I heard it," tackle Joe Staley said. "I'm out there trying to do my job to the best of my ability. That's what I'm focusing on."

Kelly has said that Kaepernick is still not completely healed from the surgeries on his non-throwing shoulder, left knee and right thumb. Kelly has said Kaepernick is not back to the shape he was in during his last good season in 2013, but with 10 days off before the next game at Buffalo, it could be the time for a change if the 49ers want to have any chance of saving their season.

# Hogs using 'Bama as measuring stick

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — If Arkansas coach Bret Bielema had a kindred spirit of sorts who he modeled the Razorbacks after when entering the Southeastern Conference, it was Alabama and coach Nick Saban.

The No. 1 Crimson Tide (5-0, 2-0 SEC) might not look like Bielema's pro-style offense quite as much anymore, but their success is still the standard by which the Razorbacks and the rest of the SEC measure themselves.

It's a standard No. 16 Arkansas (4-1, 0-1 SEC) — loser of nine straight to the Crimson Tide — would like to meet for a change when it hosts the defending national champion on Saturday night. And it hopes to do so using the style of power offense Alabama has used less and less of in recent years.

"From a defensive point of view, it's kind of a whole new preparation," Bielema said

about Alabama. "In recruiting, we used to compete with them quite a bit in pro-style offense settings and they don't look like that now. Alabama's in the Spread market now."

Regardless of the style of offense used by the Crimson Tide these days, the results have remained constant during the Saban era.

This season is no different, and Alabama's 17-game winning streak is currently the longest in the nation and the second longest under Saban — trailing only a 19-game stretch over the 2009-10 seasons. It's a streak that will be put to the test over the next three weeks with games against No. 9 Tennessee and No. 8 Texas A&M on deck, one that begins with the Razorbacks.

Arkansas enters the game with the SEC's most efficient quarterback in junior Austin Allen, but it has stayed true to Bielema's traditional offensive approach.

Some other things to watch as Arkansas tries to end its nine-game losing streak to the mighty Crimson Tide:

**Stopping hurts:** The Razorbacks have struggled in defending the running of quarterbacks like Texas A&M's Trevor Knight. Now, they face freshman Jalen Hurts, the Tide's No. 2 rusher with 276 yards and three touchdowns. Bielema expects offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin to continue using Hurts' running ability. "As we all know, Lane is a very creative, very good play caller, and I think they're using his strengths as good as anybody I've witnessed this year on film," the Razorbacks coach said. "He's a very talented player that's getting used in all the right ways, and he's got some good players around him."

**Ragnow's status:** Arkansas starting center Frank Ragnow missed much of practice this week after flying home to Minnesota last weekend following

the death of his father. However, the junior returned to the Razorbacks on Thursday night and is likely to play on Saturday night.

**Healthy again:** It appears likely that Alabama will have tailback Damien Harris and wide receiver ArDarius Stewart back. Harris, the leading rusher, was limited against Kentucky with a sprained right ankle. Stewart has missed the past two games with a knee injury after totaling 203 receiving yards in the first two games. He returned to practice this week.

**N-O-T again:** Alabama has already scored seven non-offensive touchdowns in five games, and that knack proved huge in the Tide's only other road game, against Mississippi. That's two on interception returns, three on fumble returns and two on punt returns. Safety Eddie Jackson has returned a punt and an interception all the way.

## Several college football games postponed by hurricane

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said his team's home game with Georgia has been moved from Saturday night to Sunday because of Hurricane Matthew.

The school and the Southeastern Conference announced Thursday night that the game would be played at 2:30 p.m.

"Due to the potential impact of the hurricane on Columbia and the surrounding area, it is in the best interest of safety to play the game on Sunday rather than Saturday night," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said. "I appreciate the cooperation of the schools who worked closely to make the appropriate operational adjustments in order to accommodate this change in the schedule."

The decision capped a long day of speculation about whether Matthew would signif-

icantly impact Williams-Brice Stadium.

When Muschamp started his weekly call-in show, he had not heard about any changes to the contest, originally scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday. By the end of the show, Muschamp told fans about the game's shift to Sunday.

Georgia (3-2, 1-2 SEC) and South Carolina (2-3, 1-3) are each coming off of two straight league losses.

This is the second straight year weather altered a South Carolina home game: its LSU contest was shifted to Baton Rouge, La., because of the fatal flooding that struck last October.

Muschamp thanked University of South Carolina President Harris Pastides, athletic director Ray Tanner and their staffs for taking precautions to keep fans safe and hold the game this weekend.

"There's a lot of moving parts and everyone's got to be on the same page moving forward," Muschamp said.

The Southeastern Conference earlier Thursday postponed the LSU-Florida game in Gainesville, Fla., because of Matthew.

The teams were unable to agree on any alternative arrangements to play the game elsewhere this weekend, and the Southeastern Conference said they would try to reschedule — though that seems unlikely since the Gators and Tigers do not have a common open date left this season.

Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley said the SEC made the final call on postponing the game.

"I know there will be a lot of opinions about how we came to this conclusion and when we came to the conclusion, but this is the right decision," Foley

said.

Florida State originally planned to fly to Miami on Thursday evening; the Seminoles now plan to make the trip south on Friday, storm permitting. Miami moved into its home-game hotel ahead of schedule, in part because its campus was closed Thursday and Friday and all classes were canceled.

"Our hope is to be able to play at Hard Rock Stadium," Miami athletic director Blake James said. "Obviously, things can happen that prohibit that."

There are several things to assess before deciding if the Miami-FSU game could and should go on as scheduled, namely if it's safe for fans to be on the roads and if police — who will likely be needed in storm-ravaged areas — would be able to assist with traffic and other matters related to what will likely be a capacity crowd.