

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Bomber kills at least 6 near mosque

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber dressed as a shepherd blew himself up near a Shiite mosque here Friday, killing at least six civilians and wounding 20 others, officials said.

The bomber had sheep with him, witnesses at the scene told Stars and Stripes.

The assailant blew himself up on a street about 300 yards away from the Hussainia Mosque, Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said.

“Women and children are

among the wounded,” Danish said, adding that three suspects were arrested in connection with the incident.

NATO’s Resolute Support mission condemned the attack, which the local branch of Islamic State later claimed.

“This is another example of the atrocities caused by the insurgent group,” Resolute Support said in a statement. “We offer our most sincere condolences to the families of innocent victims martyred in these cowardly attacks.”

The blast could be heard in neighboring areas of Kabul and prompted some residents to come out into the streets to see

what had happened.

Whole families evacuated the area amid the ensuing confusion. One man with blood dripping from his face was heard saying, “Where are you? Where are you?” on his phone.

Volunteer security guards dressed in black and carrying rifles and pistols diverted traffic throughout the Qala-e-Fathullah area shortly after the blast. They had been amassed to protect minority Shiites for the coming Ashura holy day, amid decreasing confidence in the Afghan security forces to do so.

After years of relative security, Kabul is today regarded as one of the most dangerous

places in Afghanistan.

The United Nations in April said Kabul province had the highest number of civilian casualties in the country because of suicide and complex attacks in Kabul city.

Friday’s attack came two days after the U.S. conducted its first airstrike in recent memory in Kabul in response to an attempt by militants to hit Defense Secretary Jim Mattis’ plane during a visit. The U.S. military said a “missile malfunction” during the strike resulted in several noncombatant casualties.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for Friday’s blast

## Afghanistan vet under fire for social media posts

BY DIANNA CAHN  
AND MEREDITH TIBBETTS

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Since graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point last year to become an infantry officer, 2nd Lt. Spenser Rapone has left a long trail of social media posts that take aim at top political leaders including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and paint a picture of a man with deep anti-establishment convictions.

It was only when he posted pictures of himself this week in full uniform with blatant communist propaganda that Rapone drew the attention of authorities who are now investigating him on suspicion of violating military regulations.

Rapone had deployed to Afghanistan as an enlisted soldier before becoming an officer. He graduated from West Point in May 2016 and just completed infantry officer training school at Fort Benning, Ga. The images

went up within a month of his arrival at the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y., for his first assignment as an officer, Brigade spokesman Capt. Michael Mahar said.

In a tweet Sunday from his Twitter account @punkproletarian, Rapone posted a photograph of himself in his West Point cadet uniform with the words “Communism will win” written inside his hat.

The tweet bore the hashtag #VeteransForKaepernick, referring to former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, whose refusal to stand for the national anthem last year in protest of police mistreatment of minorities sparked controversy that mushroomed this week into a standoff between President Donald Trump and NFL players.

Rapone’s tweet went viral on social media, sparking outrage. “This man is in my unit. He is a traitor of the United States and at the same time a com-

missioned officer,” one soldier wrote on Facebook.

“Watch your 6 with that (expletive) around,” said one response, using military jargon for “be careful.”

On Monday, Rapone posted another photo of himself in uniform, pulling open his jacket to expose an image of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara. He tweeted the words: “In case there was any lingering doubt, hasta la victoria siempre,” a favorite saying of Guevara’s that means “To victory, always!”

The tweets were the latest in a long stream of political social media posts that were public on his Twitter and Facebook accounts until Thursday, when they were turned private. In the posts, he took aim at President Donald Trump, calling for resistance, and used expletives and insults against Mattis, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and McCain, the Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman.

Mahar said Rapone was in the field all week with his battalion,

where he is an assistant operations officer helping to facilitate live-fire exercises. Those were to conclude Friday, he said.

Rapone was being scrutinized under Department of Defense directive 1344.10, Mahar said, which states that “a member of the Armed Forces on active duty may register, vote and express a personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces.”

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team issued a statement saying, “Both the Department of Defense and the Army have long-standing policies encouraging soldiers to participate in the democratic process. However, the Army has strict rules regarding the wear and appearance of Army uniforms. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division chain of command is aware of 2nd Lt. Rapone’s alleged actions and is looking into the matter.”

## Salvage effort ends at site of crash off Oahu

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Salvage operations have been completed for a Black Hawk helicopter that crashed off Oahu's northwest coast last month.

Investigators determined that enough "physical and visual evidence" had been collected to allow a thorough investigation of the Aug. 15 crash, which took the lives of all five crewmembers aboard, an Army statement said.

The Black Hawk, with the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, was one of two helicopters conducting routine night training out of Wheeler Army Airfield.

Search-and-rescue operations were suspended on Aug. 21.

Navy salvage divers, using underwater drones, systematically mapped the ocean floor off Kaena Point, Oahu, the Army said. Once divers identified the main debris field, they began diving from the Motor Vessel HOS Dominator in early September in search of human remains, the Army said.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brian Woerber and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Cantrell were declared deceased by Army officials late last month, though no remains were found, an earlier Army statement said. The other three soldiers — 1st Lt. Kathryn Bailey, Staff Sgt. Abigail Milam and Sgt. Michael Nelson — were declared dead after analysis of organic matter discovered among recovered debris matched their DNA.

Officials from the 25th Infantry Division ended the monthlong salvage-and-recovery operation after concluding searches were unlikely to find any additional remains of the crewmembers, the Army said.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

## Syria Osprey crash hurts 2

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A Marine MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft crashed in Syria on Friday, injuring two U.S. servicemembers, according to defense officials.

The cause of the incident was not immediately clear, but it was not caused by enemy activity, an official said on the condition of anonymity. The Osprey could not be salvaged, spurring troops to destroy the \$70 million aircraft.

The servicemembers' injuries in the crash, which was described as a "hard landing," were not life-threatening, according to U.S. Central Command. "The two were evaluated for non-life-threatening injuries and quickly transported to a medical treatment facility, where they were seen and released," a Central Command statement read.

Officials declined to identify the injured servicemembers' military branch and where in Syria the crash occurred.

The Pentagon acknowledges having

some 500 troops inside Syria training and assisting Syrian Democratic Forces in their fight against Islamic State militants. Military operations against ISIS are ongoing in east Syria, primarily along the Euphrates River from Raqqa to the country's border with Iraq. U.S. troops operate at several other locations to the north and south of the river where they train Syrian fighters.

The Central Command statement said the cause of the incident Friday was under investigation. It is the latest in a string of military mishaps that include recent incidents, some deadly, among all four Defense Department services in training and combat operations.

It is also at least the third major crash involving an Osprey in 2017.

Three Marines died in an Osprey crash off the coast of Australia last month. In January, an Osprey crashed during a special operations raid on al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen, leaving two servicemembers injured.

## US: Kurd vote impedes anti-ISIS mission

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Mounting tensions between Iraq's government and the nation's Kurdistan region after the semi-autonomous northern region voted overwhelmingly this week for independence have distracted fighters from their mission to defeat Islamic State militants, a U.S. military spokesman said Thursday.

The Iraqi central government's demand that Kurdish officials by Friday relinquish control of their airports, including ones from which anti-ISIS combat missions are

flown, have yet to impact U.S.-led coalition operations, said Army Col. Ryan Dillon, a spokesman in Baghdad for Operation Inherent Resolve. But he warned it could cause problems as the Iraqis clear the final pockets of ISIS fighters from the country.

"Prior to the referendum, there were no questions about where the focus was from the Iraqi security forces," Dillon told reporters Thursday at the Pentagon. "That focus, which used to be like a laser beam on ISIS, is now not 100 percent there. There has been an effect on the overall mission to defeat ISIS in Iraq as a result of the referendum."

## USS Wasp rescues 2 after Cessna crashes in Caribbean

BY LEON COOK  
*Stars and Stripes*

An amphibious assault ship bound for Japan has rescued two people from a downed civilian aircraft in the Caribbean, the Navy said Thursday.

The USS Wasp, which departed Norfolk, Va., on Aug.

30 for its new duty station at Sasebo Naval Base, found the crashed Cessna off Dominica about 5.30 p.m., according to a post on the Navy's official Twitter account.

The French Coast Guard had alerted the warship to the downed plane and asked for assistance. The aircraft was

found by an MH-60S Seahawk from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 22 that launched from the Wasp, the Navy said.

Medical personnel on the ship treated the dehydrated, but otherwise uninjured, male passengers from Guadeloupe and Antigua, who are both in their 50s, the Navy said.

The Wasp was the first Navy ship to arrive in the U.S. Virgin Islands after Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 storm that raged through the Caribbean early this month.

The ship has been a critical part of relief efforts since then, the Navy said.

# General to lead relief effort

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Thursday deployed a battle-tested general to coordinate military response operations in Hurricane Maria-ravaged Puerto Rico, where some 4,400 troops were fanning out across the U.S. territory to deliver life-sustaining supplies, according to defense officials.

Army Lt. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan will take command of the military portion of rescue-and-relief operations on the island, which was struck Sept. 20 by the Category 4 storm, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Joe Nawrocki, a spokesman for U.S. Northern Command. Buchanan serves as commander of U.S. Army North.

The general's deployment comes just one day after the Army sent Brig. Gen. Rich Kim to Puerto Rico to lead land-based forces as the operation shifted from a primarily

Navy ship-based response to the disaster.

President Donald Trump's administration has faced criticism it was too slow to respond with military and other federal assistance following the hurricane's direct hit on the island of 3.5 million people. Eight days after impact, the vast majority of the island remains without power, and nearly half its inhabitants were without access to drinking water, FEMA officials said Thursday.

John Rabin, the acting administrator for FEMA Region II, which includes Puerto Rico, said at least some supplies had been delivered to each of the island's 78 municipalities

On Thursday, National Guard and active-duty troops across the island were working to clear debris from roads so supplies — including 1.1 million liters of drinking water and some 1 million meals — could be moved to 11 key distribution centers set up across the island, officials said. From those

locations, Puerto Rico National Guard members were driving or flying by helicopter to deliver supplies to more remote regions, sometimes going door to door to find people in need, Rabin said.

The Pentagon was expecting about 2,000 more troops to flow into Puerto Rico in the coming days. Logistics specialists from the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 4th Sustainment Brigade from Fort Carson, Colo., were deployed to Puerto Rico to lead efforts to move supplies across the island, Kim told reporters at the Pentagon on Thursday. Additional air and medical assets also were being moved to the island, he said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was tasked Thursday with supporting the government of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Department of Energy to help repair the island's ravaged power grid, said Rob Holland, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers.

## White House slammed for comments on Maria response

*The Washington Post*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The mayor of Puerto Rico's capital city on Friday sharply criticized a senior Trump administration official for calling the government's disaster response "a good news story," comments that came amid mounting criticism of the federal reaction to the disaster here.

Acting Homeland Security Department head Elaine Duke told reporters Thursday that the federal response is "a good news story in terms of our ability to reach people and the limited number of deaths that have taken place in such a devastating hurricane."

After watching Duke's comments, San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz told CNN, "Maybe from where she's standing, it's a good news story. When you're drinking from a creek, it's not a good news story. When you don't have food for a baby, it's not a good news story."

Cruz praised the federal government for getting "boots on the ground," and she thanked President Donald Trump for calling the capital. But she said the situation in Puerto Rico has worsened as people have struggled to get basic supplies.

Critics of the administration have compared it to the government's poor reaction to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 or unfavorably contrasted it with the efforts shown after other disasters, including the recent intense hurricanes that battered Texas and Florida.

The Trump administration has ramped up its efforts, rushing military hardware and other assets to Puerto Rico as it became apparent the initial response was inadequate.

Cruz pleaded with the federal government to remove "red tape" that is slowing down the relief efforts.

"The FEMA people have their hearts in the right place," she said of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. But "there is a bottleneck somewhere."

## HHS chief to pay \$50K toward cost of flights

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said he'll write a personal check to reimburse taxpayers for his travel on charter flights taken on government business and pledged to fly commercial — "no exceptions."

The repayment — \$51,887.31, according to Price's office — covered only the secretary's seat. Price did not address the overall cost of the flights, which could amount to several hundred thousand dollars and is under investigation.

A former congressman from Georgia regarded as a conservative policy expert, Price said he hopes to keep his Cabinet seat.

All his travel was legally approved by officials at HHS, Price said. It amounted to 10 trips with 26 different segments.

On Wednesday President Donald Trump had declared that he's "not happy" over reports that Price flew on costly charters when he could have taken cheaper commercial flights. Asked whether he'd fire Price, Trump said, "We'll see."

Price told reporters Thursday, "I think we've still got the confidence of the president." About the controversy, he said, "We're going to work through this."

Taxpayers "won't pay a dime for my seat on those planes," Price said in a statement.

Prompted partly by controversy over Price, the

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has launched a wide-ranging investigation into travel by Trump's political appointees. On Wednesday the committee sent requests for detailed travel records to the White House and 24 departments and agencies, dating back to the president's first day in office.

Trips by Department of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt also have drawn criticism.

A senior GOP lawmaker urged Trump to lay down some rules.

"Considering the many travel options to and from Washington, D.C., I'm urging you to emphasize to Cabinet secretaries the necessity of using reasonable and cost-effective modes of travel in accordance with federal restrictions," Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, wrote to Trump on Thursday.

The president had vented about Price to reporters on Wednesday as he left the White House for a trip to sell his tax overhaul in Indianapolis.

"I was looking into it and I will look into it and I will tell you personally I'm not happy about it," Trump responded when asked about Price's travel. "I am not happy about it. I'm going to look at it. I'm not happy about it and I let him know it."

Price's travels were first reported last week by Politico, which said cheaper commercial flights were a viable option in many cases.

# US warns against travel to Cuba

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States on Friday abruptly warned Americans not to visit Cuba and ordered more than half its Havana embassy personnel to leave the island in a dramatic response to mysterious recent “specific attacks” harming the health of U.S. diplomats.

The actions deal a blow to already delicate ties between the U.S. and Cuba, longtime adversaries who only recently began putting their hostility behind them. The embassy in Havana will lose roughly 60 percent of its U.S. staff, and will stop processing visas in Cuba indefinitely, officials said. Roughly 50 Americans are currently working at the embassy in Havana.

“Until the government of Cuba can ensure the safety of our diplomats in Cuba, our embassy will be reduced to emergency personnel in order to minimize the number of diplomats at risk of exposure to harm,” Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in a statement announcing the step.

He and President Donald Trump reviewed the options in a White House meeting this week, officials said.

In Friday’s travel warning, the State Department said some of the unexplained physical effects have occurred in Cuban hotels, and that while American tourists aren’t known to have been hurt they could be exposed if they travel to Cuba. Tourism is a critical component of Cuba’s economy that has grown in recent years as the U.S. has relaxed restrictions.

“Over the past several months, numerous U.S. Embassy Havana employees have been targeted in specific attacks,” the department said in the warning. “These employees have suffered significant injuries as a consequence of these attacks. Affected individuals have exhibited a range of physical symptoms including ear complaints and hearing loss, dizziness, headache, fatigue, cognitive issues and difficulty sleeping.”

For now, the United States is not ordering any Cuban diplomats to leave Washington, a move the administration had considered, officials said. Several U.S. lawmakers have called on the administration to expel all Cuban diplomats. In May, Washington asked two to leave, but emphasized it was to protest

Havana’s failure to protect diplomats on its soil, not an accusation of blame.

Almost a year after diplomats began describing unexplained health problems, U.S. investigators still don’t know what or who is behind the attacks, which have harmed at least 21 diplomats and their families.

Until now, the State Department has called them “incidents” and generally avoided deeming them attacks. Tillerson made the decision to draw down the embassy after considering other options that included a full embassy shutdown and less significant personnel reductions.

To medical investigators’ dismay, the symptoms in the attacks vary widely from person to person. In addition to hearing loss and concussions, some experienced nausea, headaches and ear-ringing, and The Associated Press has reported some now suffer from problems with concentration and common word recall.

Though officials initially suspected some futuristic “sonic attack,” the picture has grown muddier. The FBI and other agencies that searched homes and hotels where incidents occurred found no devices.

# Senators question strategy on North Korea

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A senior State Department official acknowledged Thursday that U.S. intelligence agencies don’t believe North Korea will ever pull the plug on its nuclear program, raising concerns among lawmakers over the Trump administration’s strategy for bringing a mounting crisis to a peaceful close.

Susan Thornton, the acting assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, said her department and other federal agencies are “testing” the conclusion reached by the intelligence agencies. The administration, she told members of the Senate Banking Committee, is ratcheting up “international isolation and pressure” on North Korea, with essential help from China, which she called Pyongyang’s “leading enabler.”

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un views nuclear weapons as “his ticket to survival” and there’s virtually nothing to make him turn back. Corker, who also chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, asked Thornton and Sigal Mandelker, the undersecretary of the Treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence, what steps could quickly steer North Korea from being able to fire missiles at the United States.

“We’re trying to turn China’s position from looking at North Korea as some kind of asset to looking at them as a liability,” Thornton said. “I think that (Secretary of State Rex) Tillerson has made a lot of progress on that front.” But Corker said that while he applauded Tillerson’s efforts, the secretary is “working against the unified view of our intelligence agencies.”

Echoing Corker’s concerns, Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., said “there may be a contradiction between the conclusions of the intelligence community and what the secretary of state is trying to do.”

# US hits ISIS in Libya for 2nd time in week

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — U.S. Africa Command said it has conducted its second round of airstrikes in Libya in less than a week, killing several Islamic State fighters in an attack that signals ongoing concern over the militant group’s efforts to gain a foothold in the oil-rich country.

U.S. forces conducted two airstrikes Tuesday about 100 miles southeast of Sirte, a coastal city that was the site of a lengthy AFRICOM bombing campaign last year.

While ISIS has lost territory in Libya and largely was routed from Sirte by early 2017, militants have dispersed to different parts of the country and still

pose a threat, the military said.

“I’ll say losing Sirte was a significant setback for ISIS, and the group could no longer claim to be holding territory,” said Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Falvo, an AFRICOM spokesman. “That said, we still consider them to be a threat to the Libya peace process and a direct threat to Americans, both home and abroad, our allies and interests worldwide.”

Last week, U.S. forces conducted six airstrikes that killed 17 ISIS fighters holed up in a desert compound about 150 miles southeast of Sirte, AFRICOM said.

Both strikes were conducted in coordination with Libyan authorities.

In addition to ISIS, al-Qaida poses a threat in Libya, where

chaos has served as a magnet for the two groups as they seek out sanctuaries, AFRICOM said.

“The United States stands by our Libyan counterparts and supports their efforts to counter terror threats and defeat ISIS in Libya,” AFRICOM said. “We are committed to maintaining pressure on the terror network and preventing them from establishing safe haven.”

The airstrikes of the past week were the first in Libya since January, when U.S. B-2 bombers dropped more than 100 precision-guided bombs onto ISIS camps.

“The United States will not relent in its mission to degrade, disrupt and destroy terrorist organizations and bring stability to the region,” AFRICOM said.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Pot-bellied pig on the loose caught by cops

**VA** HENRICO — A pot-bellied pig that had been on the loose for weeks in a Virginia neighborhood has been nabbed by police.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that the pig had become a familiar sight in Henrico's Twin Hickory subdivision as it scurried around the neighborhood.

Lt. Shawn Sears, of the Henrico Animal Protection Police, said officers had been hearing reports for weeks about pig sightings.

On their Facebook page, Henrico police posted video of them chasing the animal. "Just another day at the office," police wrote.

## Pixies end show with smoke, firefighters

**ME** PORTLAND — An alternative rock band's finale at the Maine State Theater included an encore song, theatrical smoke — and firefighters.

Officials said the theatrical smoke or fog used by The Pixies set off a smoke alarm Tuesday night, forcing concertgoers to exit the building.

Fire Capt. John Brennan told the Portland Press Herald the theater's doors were opened, the smoke cleared and the alarm was reset.

Jeremy DaRos, of Portland, who attended the sold-out show, said "there was never a sense of panic."

## Officer avoids stinky situation during rescue

**ME** YORK — A Maine police officer put his nose in harm's way during a wildlife rescue.

While on patrol early Sunday, York Police Department Officer David McKinnon found a skunk with its head stuck in a cup.

He decided to help despite the high risk of a malodorous outcome.

He recorded video with his smartphone in one hand and gently tugged on the paper cup with the other hand while speaking reassuringly to the skunk.

Once freed, the skunk lifted its tail in preparation to spray. But it decided instead to scamper away as McKinnon exclaimed, "I never thought in a million years!"

## Officials to reinstall Confederate marker

**OH** FRANKLIN — Officials in an Ohio township say a marker honoring Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee will be reinstated and rededicated.

Some Franklin Township residents became angry when they learned the 90-year-old marker had been removed in August after violence during a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., over a statue honoring Lee.

The marker was removed by a city crew in neighboring Franklin, which controlled the location near an intersection. The city subsequently returned the marker to Franklin Township.

Township Trustee Brian Morris said at a meeting Wednesday that it hasn't been decided where the small stone marker would be placed.

## Kickboxing instructor repels trail attacker

**KS** OVERLAND PARK — A man got more than he bargained for when he attacked a kickboxing instruc-

tor as she ran on a suburban Kansas City trail.

The Kansas City Star reported Stephanie Steiniger, 51, of Overland Park, Kan., ripped her arm free and kicked him in the groin. Police said the apparent kidnapping attempt happened Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Steiniger warned other women in a public plea while wearing a purple tank top that read, "Strong is the new pretty." She said she believes "everything happens for a reason" and that "maybe it's so I can warn other women to be aware."

## GPS dart helps lead officers to suspect

**OH** TOLEDO — An Ohio sheriff's office said a system that shoots GPS-tracking darts at vehicles led to the arrest of a man who fled after pulling out a handgun during an encounter with a deputy.

WTOL-TV reported the Lucas County deputy launched a dart from a StarChase unit mounted on the front of his cruiser, allowing deputies and dispatchers to track the man's vehicle. The man was arrested after stop sticks were used to flatten his tires.

The Monday encounter occurred after the deputy saw the man digging through a trash bin and asked him to leave.

The sheriff's office has bought five StarChase units with grant money.

## Candidate dressed as clown unnerves some

**MA** BOSTON — A man dressed as a clown who's running for a Boston City Council seat has caused a stir on a college campus.

Police told The Boston Herald that Pat Payaso's presence near a polling location at

Roxbury Community College made some people nervous on Tuesday, and they called the authorities.

A photo Payaso posted on social media indicated he was there to vote.

Police spokesman Officer Stephen McNulty said Payaso later was stopped by an officer who realized he wasn't a threat.

The Roxbury resident has donned a rainbow wig, a red nose and clown makeup in recent campaign photos and videos on social media. His last name means clown in Spanish.

Payaso will be on the November ballot along with seven other candidates for an at-large City Council seat.

## Police: Woman lied about child to shoplift

**NJ** EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP — Authorities said a New Jersey woman made up a story that her granddaughter was missing inside a Walmart so that her son could steal clothes and candy.

Police in Egg Harbor Township said that Donna Hall and her son Nicholas Hall were charged after Tuesday's incident.

According to police, Donna Hall told employees she had last seen the 8-year-old girl in the store's jewelry section.

Security guards said they saw Nicholas Hall filling bags with clothes and candy while the store was locked down. Police later determined there was never a girl missing.

Donna Hall was charged with creating a false public alarm and shoplifting and Nicholas Hall was charged with shoplifting and drug possession.

From wire reports

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# Green Bay perseveres to beat rival Chicago Bears

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Two more key players hurt. A starting cornerback benched. The Green Bay Packers even had to weather a lightning storm delay.

But they just keep finding ways to win.

Aaron Rodgers threw four short touchdown passes, and the injury-riddled Packers converted three of Bears quarterback Mike Glennon's four turnovers into scores in an eventful 35-14 victory over mistake-prone Chicago on Thursday night.

Rodgers connected with Davante Adams and Randall Cobb on short touchdown passes to help build a 21-0 lead in the second quarter of a game delayed 45 minutes by lightning between the first two periods. The Packers overpowered the Bears down the stretch to slog out a win as intermittent rain fell at Lambeau Field.

"This was a big character win for us," Rodgers said.

The already-depleted Packers (3-1) lost starting running back Ty Montgomery to a rib injury in the first quarter. Adams left the field on a stretcher after getting hit in the head during a tackle by Danny Trevathan in the third quarter.

The game was delayed for about 5 minutes while medical personnel tended to the receiver, who gave a thumbs-up signal as he was wheeled off the field. The Packers said Adams was conscious and taken to a hospital for evaluation for possible head and neck injuries, and that he had feeling in all of his extremities.

"The news I was given on Davante — everything looks positive. That's a great sign," McCarthy said.

Known as a hard hitter, Trevathan said the hit wasn't intentional. He was whistled for unnecessary roughness.

"I'm sorry about that and you know I'm going to reach out to him and try to send him a message," Trevathan said, "because you know you play a physical game, but you never wish that on nobody."

Other notes and takeaways from the game:

**Bears QB:** With two fumbles and two interceptions, Glennon did little to quiet the calls from Bears fans to give No. 2 overall pick Mitchell Trubisky a try at quarterback. Glennon did finish 21-for-33 for 218 yards, but the Bears never recovered from his awful start. He fumbled on his first snap on a strip sack by linebacker Clay Matthews.

"We'll evaluate everything and we've got a lot of work to do before we line up against Minnesota," Fox said. "We're going to look at everything."

**Packers OL:** The Packers' patchwork offensive line held up well and allowed just two sacks. That was impressive given that Green Bay essentially fielded a starting five of four guards and center Corey Linsley. Lane Taylor, normally a left guard, made his first start at left tackle with David Bakhtiari (hamstring) sidelined. Right tackle Bryan Bulaga (ankle) also missed the game.

Rodgers was 18-for-26 for 179 yards.

**Benched:** Packers starting cornerback Damarious Randall was benched in the second half for an undisclosed issue. He barely moved on the Bears' opening series after halftime, his arms outstretched at each side while sitting on the sideline.

McCarthy said it was an "internal matter and we're working through it." At one point, cornerback Davon House, who was not active because of a quad injury, sat down next to Randall on the bench.

"Just to shake it off, it's all part of the game as a cornerback," House said about his message to Randall.

**National anthem:** Players, coaches and other staffers on each team locked arms on their respective sidelines during the national anthem. Packers players released a statement this week saying they would intertwine arms before the game as a show of unity. They asked fans to join in the stands and at home, though it didn't appear that many fans locked arms. Many people in the crowd held up small flags during and after the anthem.

Rodgers said he was proud of his team, and that that issue was a "galvanizing situation" for the locker room.

"We could hear some USA chants as it started, which is fantastic. Could also hear some negativity being yelled during the anthem," Rodgers said. "What's disrespectful to the anthem? Yelling things during it, or standing at attention with arms locked, facing the flag? That's for you to decide."

**Milestones:** The Packers are 95-94-6 against the Bears, their first lead in the series since 1933. It's the oldest rivalry in football, dating to 1923. ... Matthews' sack on Glennon in the first quarter was the 75th of his career, breaking the franchise record since 1982 held by Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila.

# Pressure mounts on QB Glennon

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Quarterback Mike Glennon lost the handle on the football on his first play from scrimmage for the Chicago Bears.

It may be just a matter of time before he loses his starting job.

Glennon had two fumbles and two interceptions, and the mistake-prone Bears couldn't recover from their quarterback's awful start in a 35-14 loss on Thursday night to the Green Bay Packers.

He did nothing to quiet the pleas from Bears fans to give No. 2 overall pick Mitchell Trubisky a try at quarterback.

"Like I said, we need to make a lot of changes," coach John Fox said when asked if he was contemplating a switch under center. He's got a little time to ponder the decision with the Bears now off until Oct. 9, when they face the Minnesota Vikings.

"We'll evaluate everything and we've got a lot of work to do before we line up against Minnesota," Fox said. "We're going to look at everything."

The film will not be pretty.

Glennon fumbled on his first snap on a strip sack by Clay Matthews. Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers hit receiver Randall Cobb for a 2-yard touchdown pass three plays later for a 14-0 lead.

The rout was on.

Glennon fumbled on his next series, too, but the Packers couldn't score on that drive.

It was only a matter of time because the mistakes kept mounting.

Glennon threw his second interception with 2:54 left in the third quarter. Six plays later, receiver Jordy Nelson caught his second touchdown pass, an 8-yarder from Rodgers, to make it a 28-point lead.

"Just No. 1 thing we obviously have to fix is the turnovers, because I'm not giving our team a chance when you turn the ball over like that," Glennon said.

Asked if he could hold on to his job during Chicago's 10-day break, Glennon said that was "not my focus. I'm going to watch this film, learn from my mistakes and look forward to improving myself as a player."

Glennon did finish 21-for-33 for 218 yards. He found receiver Kendall Wright for a 5-yard touchdown pass with 8 seconds left in the second quarter to get within 21-7. The score gave the Bears a little hope because they were receiving the second-half kickoff.

# US takes early lead at Presidents Cup

Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The opening ceremony at the Presidents Cup was unlike any other in golf with former Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton on the first tee.

The results were all too familiar.

The Americans led at some point in all five of the four-somes matches Thursday at Liberty National. They won the first three. And when they jumped on a ferry to take them across the New York Harbor to their Manhattan hotel, they had the lead.

Behind a new tandem of Rickie Fowler and Justin Thomas, and an old one of Jordan Spieth and Patrick Reed, the Americans jumped out to a 3½-1½ lead. It was the sixth consecutive time they led after the opening session in an event they haven't lost in two decades.

"Jordan mentioned that this

first session is pretty critical and we need to go out there and take care of business," Fowler said. "I feel like as a team, we did a really good job of that. If we can do the same thing tomorrow and win another session, it puts us in a great position."

Thomas and Fowler lost only two holes in a 6-and-4 victory over Hideki Matsuyama and Charl Schwartzel. Spieth and Reed improved to 6-1-2 as a tandem in the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup. Spieth holed a 35-foot putt on the 11th hole right when it looked as if Emiliano Grillo and Si Woo Kim might gain some momentum. Instead, the match was over three holes later, 5 and 4.

Dustin Johnson and Matt Kuchar remained unbeaten in four matches, not taking the lead until the 16th hole and making it stand in a 1-up victory over Adam Scott and Jhonnattan Vegas.

"We've been off to poor starts for a while on Thursdays," In-

ternational captain Nick Price said. "We have a resilient team. They have this ability to come back and bounce back, and they have done it. They did it last time in Korea."

Indeed, the Americans had a 4-1 lead after the first session two years ago, and that Presidents Cup came down to the final match.

Phil Mickelson, playing in his 23rd consecutive team competition, ended the tough, wind-swept afternoon at Liberty National by missing an 8-foot par putt, or the U.S. lead would have been even greater. He and Kevin Kisner were 1 down with two holes remaining to Jason Day and Marc Leishman, so a half-point wasn't bad.

Mickelson's only complaint was that he botched his selfie with the presidents, with barely his head showing.

For the most part, everything else went the Americans' way.

The lone bright spot for the International team was Louis

Oosthuizen and Branden Grace, who improved to 5-0 as a tandem. The South African duo pulled away for a 3-and-1 victory over U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka and Daniel Berger.

"Listen, we're a half-point better than last time, so that's a big up for us," Grace said. "We've got a great team. We all want it really badly. ... I'm sure we're going to have a good night and then going to come back tomorrow blazing."

The stars on this day didn't hit a shot.

The leader of every country where the Presidents Cup is held is invited to be honorary chairman, but this was a first — three U.S. presidents together at this event, sitting together in a box on the first tee and then posing with the trophy, the players and their wives.

The Americans have a 9-1-1 lead in the series, their lone loss in 1998 at Royal Melbourne a few weeks before Christmas.

## Buechele, Texas hold off Iowa State in Big 12 opener

Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State was supposed to be better. Texas was supposed to be vulnerable.

In the end, neither team looked like they were ready to compete for a Big 12 title on Thursday night — but it was the Longhorns who survived the conference opener.

Shane Buechele threw for 171 yards and a score, and Texas beat Iowa State 17-7.

Chris Warren III added a rushing TD to help the Longhorns (2-2) improve to 13-2 against the Cyclones (2-2). Iowa State gained just 256 yards — and only 10 on the ground.

"The defensive performance was phenomenal," Texas coach Tom Herman said. "To hold a team to 10 yards on the ground, to get the turnovers and fourth-down stops that we did in their stadium was impressive."

Warren had an 11-yard touchdown run and Toneil Carter caught a 22-yard TD pass from Buechele to give Texas a 14-0 halftime lead.

The game — which was about as ugly as one can get four weeks into the season — hinged on a pair of plays in a 21-second span late in the third quarter that went the Longhorns' way.

Texas appeared to fumble away a kickoff deep in its own territory, but the runner was ruled down on replay. Iowa State then took an apparent fumbled backward pass into the end zone, but the officials ruled the ball was going forward after a review.

Jacob Park threw for 246 yards and had a career-high three interceptions for Iowa State, which had scored at least 40 points in each of its first three games.

"They brought a lot of pressure in the first half and had

more guys on the line of scrimmage than there were blockers. It can put you in a tough situation," Iowa State coach Matt Campbell said.

**Eleven-up:** Buechele certainly spread the ball around, completing passes to 11 different receivers. Lil'Jordan Humphrey led the way with four catches, and six Longhorns caught at least two passes. Buechele made a poor choice that led to an interception, but he was largely accurate, completing 19 of 26 passes against a talented Iowa State secondary. "Offensively we've got to get better, but I was really excited to get back on the field," Buechele said after missing the USC game.

**Where's Montgomery?:** Montgomery came into play with 321 yards and four TDs on 5.7 yards per carry. But Iowa State unsuccessfully tried to open things up with its

passing game in the first half, which forced them to abandon the running game after it went down by 14 points. Montgomery finished with 34 yards on nine carries, while Park threw the ball 48 times. "I think Jacob got rattled a little in the game because of the pressure, and we didn't do a good enough job of protecting him," Campbell said.

**Key numbers:** Iowa State linebacker Joel Lanning — who was the quarterback when the Cyclones beat Texas 24-0 in 2015 — had 20 tackles. ... Warren finished with 44 yards rushing and Buechele had 42. ... Iowa State was 3-for-12 on third down and 0-for-2 on fourth. Texas's Malik Jefferson stuffed Park on a fourth-and-4 at the 50 midway through the fourth quarter. ... Factoring in sacks, Iowa State finished with just 10 yards rushing.

# Astros get 17 hits, beat Boston

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox stumbled on their way to an AL East title — and got a pretty scary look at what's waiting for them if they get there.

Major league batting leader Jose Altuve had three of Houston's 17 hits, Carlos Correa had four and the Astros chased Red Sox starter Eduardo Rodriguez in the second inning on Thursday night to win 12-2 and keep Boston from clinching the division title.

"We ran into a buzz saw tonight," Red Sox manager John Farrell said.

If the standings don't change, the Red Sox and AL West champion Astros would meet in the American League Division Series. The Red Sox were guaranteed no worse than a tie for the division title when the New York Yankees lost 9-6 to Tampa Bay, lowering Boston's magic number to one.

"I'm pretty sure we'll see them again," Hous-

ton third baseman Alex Bregman said. "Now we've seen them once."

Boston needs one more win or a Yankees loss to clinch the first back-to-back division titles in franchise history; otherwise, the teams would meet in a one-game tie-breaker in New York on Monday to see who needs to play in the wild-card game and who advances to the ALDS.

"The sooner the better," Farrell said. "But still we're not taking anything for granted."

Altuve had two singles and his 39th double to raise his batting average to .350. Brad Peacock (13-2) allowed two runs and four hits in five innings, striking out two and walking one as he tried to convince manager A.J. Hinch that he deserves a spot in the postseason rotation.

"I'm sure they'll tell me something in the next couple of days," said Peacock, who is fighting to join the staff that will include Justin Verlander and Dallas Keuchel and potentially Collin McHugh, Charlie Morton and Lance McCullers. "They've got six good starters to choose from."

# Stanton reaches 59 homers

Associated Press

MIAMI — Barry Bonds. Sammy Sosa. Mark McGwire. Roger Maris. Babe Ruth.

And now Giancarlo Stanton.

The Miami slugger homered twice to become the sixth player to reach 59 in a season, and the Marlins opened the last series of Jeffrey Loria's tenure as owner by beating the Atlanta Braves 7-1 on Thursday night.

"It's crazy to be in that company," Stanton said. "It doesn't sink in yet. It doesn't make sense, really, yet. But it's really cool. It's everything I've worked for and it's something really cool."

Stanton hit a solo home run in the fourth, then added a two-run drive in the eighth that would have gone 467 feet unimpeded, according to MLB's Statcast. He has 33 home runs since the All-Star break and 10 multi-homer games this season.

"It's impressive. I think he should be impressed, because it's been something special here," Marlins manager Don Mattingly said. "Those two balls he hit tonight are obviously loud and quick and fun to watch. It's amazing when you see them. It's been fun watching this, that's for sure. Pretty amazing to me that somebody hits that many. It's just a lot of homers."

Braves manager Brian Snitker could only tip his cap to Stanton afterward.

"It's incredible to watch him hit," Snitker said. "He's having a monster year; a monster year all around."

Ichiro Suzuki got his 27th pinch hit of the year, one shy of the record John Vander Wal set in 1995. Dee Gordon had two hits for the Marlins, who despite a 75-84 record assured themselves of second place in the NL East, their highest finish since 2009.

Lane Adams homered for Atlanta, which fell to 34-17 at Marlins Park.

## Roundup

# Cardinals eliminated from race

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Cardinals were eliminated from postseason contention when Leonys Martin leaped at the center-field fence to rob Paul DeJong of a tying home run with two outs in the 11th inning, preserving the Chicago Cubs' 2-1 win over St. Louis on Thursday night.

St. Louis, which went 5-14 against its rival, missed the playoffs in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2007 and 2008. At 82-77, the Cardinals are assured their fewest wins since going 78-84 in 2007.

A day after clinched their second straight NL Central title, the defending World Series champions started only two position players who had played in at least 100 games: outfielders Ian Happ and Kyle Schwarber.

Schwarber singled off Matt Bowman (3-6) with one out in the 11th and Davis, who struck out in his first three at-bats, hit a run-scoring double down the left-field line.

Jen-Ho Tseng (1-0) pitched three hitless innings.

Happ homered in the first off Lance Lynn, who allowed three

hits in five innings. Lynn is eligible for free agency and likely was making his final start for the Cardinals.

**Rays 9, Yankees 6:** Aaron Judge hit his 51st home run to give his team a quick lead, but host New York missed a big chance to tighten the AL East race when Sonny Gray and the bullpen fell apart in a loss to Tampa Bay.

The Yankees stayed three games behind division-leading Boston. Each team has three games left and both are assured playoff spots — if they wind up even, the Yankees would host the Red Sox in a tiebreaker Monday.

**Indians 5, Twins 2:** Carlos Carrasco (18-6) struck out 14, Jason Kipnis and Roberto Perez hit two-run homers and host Cleveland notched its 100th win, over understandably sluggish Minnesota, which had clinched a wild-card berth hours earlier.

**Athletics 4, Rangers 1:** Ryon Healy hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the sixth inning to help visiting Oakland beat Texas.

**Brewers 4, Reds 3:** Host

Milwaukee closed within two games of Colorado for the National League's second wild card with three games left, rallying to beat Cincinnati as Brett Phillips hit a go-ahead double in the sixth inning.

**Nationals 5, Pirates 4:** NL East champion Washington began its last — and meaningless — series of the regular season without a sore Bryce Harper and with a blown save by closer Sean Doolittle in what became a victory over Pittsburgh, whose starting pitcher, Ivan Nova, left after getting hit by a pitch on his throwing hand while batting.

**White Sox 5, Angels 4:** Rob Brantly hit the game-tying home run in the eighth inning and Tim Anderson hustled home for the go-ahead run as host Chicago rallied for a victory over Los Angeles.

**Tigers 4, Royals 1:** Daniel Norris (5-8) threw five scoreless innings to pick up his first victory in more than three months as visiting Detroit snapped a season-high nine-game losing streak by beating Kansas City.