

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Hurricane Florence pummels Carolinas

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Hurricane Florence lumbered ashore in North Carolina with howling 90 mph winds and terrifying storm surge early Friday, splintering buildings and trapping hundreds of people in high water as it settled in for what could be a long and extraordinarily destructive drenching.

More than 60 people had to be pulled from a collapsing cinder-block motel at the height of the storm. Hundreds more had to be rescued elsewhere from rising waters. And others could only hope someone would come for them.

“WE ARE COMING TO GET YOU,” the city of New Bern tweeted at about 2 a.m. “You may need to move up to the second story or to your attic, but WE ARE COMING TO GET YOU.”

As Florence pounded away, it unloaded heavy rain, flattened trees, chewed up roads and knocked out power to more than a half-million homes and businesses.

Ominously, forecasters said the onslaught on the North Carolina-South Carolina coast would last for hours and hours because the hurricane had come almost to a dead stop at just 3 mph as of midday. The town of Oriental had gotten more than 18 inches of rain just a few hours into the deluge, while Surf City had 14 inches and it was still coming down.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said the hurricane was “wreaking havoc” on the coast and could wipe out entire communities as it makes its “violent grind across our state for days.” He called the rain an event that comes along only once every 1,000 years.

“Hurricane Florence is powerful, slow and relentless,” he said. “It’s an uninvited brute

### Millions in storm’s path hunker down

Associated Press

Millions of people in the path of Hurricane Florence are hunkering down Friday as the monster storm pummels North and South Carolina, bringing catastrophic inundations and flooding and forceful, destructive winds. Here are snapshots of people struggling to cope with the slow-grinding storm.

■ Tourists nowhere to be seen: The heart of the downtown historic district of Charleston, S.C., was nearly empty as Florence made its slow trek across the Carolinas.

Pat Reilly, of neighboring Mount Pleasant, was one of the few people out walking Friday morning on Market Street, where downtown shops typically teeming with tourists were boarded up and fortified with sandbags.

Reilly, who sells real estate in the Charleston area, has seen his share of storms over the past two decades, including Tropical Storm Gaston in 2004 and Hur-

ricane Matthew in 2016. “I love a good storm. I haven’t left for any of them over the years,” he said.

Potentially heavy rainfall was expected in Charleston as Florence crept inland.

■ The best-laid plans: Steve Wareheim said his home in Shallotte, N.C., was holding up as Florence crept closer.

Wareheim said he lost power early Friday. He bought a generator earlier this week, but at the moment, it wasn’t very helpful.

“I wish I read the instructions a little more carefully on that generator. It can’t be operated near rain,” Wareheim said. “So I’m going to have to wait until the rain stops. That may be a while.”

The National Weather Service said the area should get heavy rain through Sunday.

Wareheim said so far the wind has only knocked down branches and limbs small enough to be carried. “Nothing you need to get a chain saw after yet,” he said by phone.

who doesn’t want to leave.”

There were no immediate reports of any deaths.

Florence made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane at 7:15 a.m. at Wrightsville Beach, a few miles east of Wilmington, not far from the South Carolina line, coming ashore along a mostly boarded-up, emptied-out stretch of coastline.

Its storm surge and the prospect of 1 to 3½ feet of rain were considered a bigger threat than its winds, which had dropped off from an alarming 140 mph — Category 4 — earlier in the week. Forecasters said catastrophic freshwater flooding is expected well inland over the next few days as Florence crawls westward across the

Carolinas all weekend.

The area is expected to get about as much rain in three days as Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd dropped in two weeks in 1999. Preparing for the worst, about 9,700 National Guard troops and civilians were deployed with high-water vehicles, helicopters and boats that could be used to pluck people from the floodwaters.

For people living inland in the Carolinas, the moment of maximum peril from flash flooding could arrive days later because it takes time for rainwater to drain into rivers and for those streams to crest. Authorities warned, too, of the threat of mudslides and the risk of environmental havoc from floodwaters washing over industrial waste sites and hog farms.

Florence was seen as a major test for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which was heavily criticized as slow and unprepared last year for Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, where the storm was blamed for nearly 3,000 deaths in the desperate aftermath.

The National Hurricane Center said Florence will eventually make a right hook to the northeast over the southern Appalachians, moving into the mid-Atlantic states and New England as a tropical depression by the middle of next week.

Meteorologist Ryan Maue, of weathermodels.com calculated that 34 million people in the U.S. could get at least 3 inches of rain from Florence, with more than 5.7 million people probably receiving at least a foot. Maue said Florence could dump about 18 trillion gallons of rain over a week on North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Maryland. That’s enough to fill the Chesapeake Bay, he calculated.

## Air Force cadets face charges in hazing case

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Two U.S. Air Force Academy cadets face charges stemming from a hazing incident involving the Colorado school's swim team.

The Gazette reports that the criminal charges announced by the academy Thursday are without precedent in the academy's 64-year history because previous hazing cases have been handled through the school's administrative discipline process.

The two seniors are accused of obstruction of justice and dereliction of duty and are two of 11 swimmers suspended from the team in February amid an investigation.

A summary of the 900-page investigative file obtained by The Gazette showed the hazing took place on Sept. 29, 2017.

The hazing involved trying to get the freshmen swimmers to throw up as well as stripping and blindfolding them. However, no sexual acts were alleged to have taken place.

# SIGAR: US spent \$90M finding jobs for 55 Afghanistan women

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — After spending nearly \$90 million on an ambitious program designed to provide employment for women and to promote gender equality in Afghanistan, the U.S. development agency could find jobs for just 55 women, said a new report by a government watchdog.

Improving the status of women is seen as vital to stabilizing Afghanistan, a deeply patriarchal country where U.S. troops have been fighting for 17 years. But the U.S. Agency for International Development's costly program to do so has shown weak results and may be unsustainable, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in a report released Thursday.

In 2013, USAID announced its \$216 million, five-year Promoting Gender Equity in National Priority Programs, or Promote. The aim was to help more than 75,000 women in all levels of society.

"After more than three years and \$89.7 million spent, USAID/Afghanistan has not demonstrated whether the program has made progress toward this goal," the report said.

"An end-of-program performance indicator target for one component is for 2,100 women to find new or better employment with the Afghan government. As of September 2017, USAID said 55 women did." The program is scheduled to run through 2020.

Other goals were to help 420 women find new

or better employment, to enroll 1,968 women in the internship program and to have 900 program graduates by the end of 2017.

As of Sept. 30, 2017, only 39 women had found new or better employment, 995 had enrolled in the apprenticeship program and 132 had graduated, SIGAR said.

It said its analysis raises doubts about the sustainability of Promote, the USAID's largest single investment to advance women globally.

"USAID/Afghanistan told SIGAR it does not expect the Afghan government to sustain Promote, except by providing internships and employment opportunities for women," the report said. "However, it is unclear whether this is possible as the Afghan government might not be able to hire all of Promote's graduates."

SIGAR said it also was unclear whether the graduates would obtain jobs in large numbers in the private sector because of Afghanistan's anemic economic growth rate.

"This raises questions about whether Promote is sustainable at all and could put USAID's investment in the program in jeopardy," SIGAR said.

Given that so far, Promote has expended \$89.7 of its potential \$216 million, SIGAR urged USAID to re-evaluate the program and to make changes to enhance its sustainability, rather than waiting until the program is over in 2020 or 2021 and potentially wasting taxpayers' money.

USAID agreed to SIGAR's recommendations.

## Report finds sub repairs cost less in private sector

Daily Press (Newport News, Va.)

Private shipyards have overhauled Navy submarines since 1993 at an average cost that is 38 percent lower than identical work done at the Navy's four public shipyards, a new report says.

The findings from the Congressional Budget Office highlight the urgency of the Navy's plan to spend \$21 billion to modernize its aging public yards, including Norfolk Naval Shipyard, said Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va.

The Navy has turned to private shipyards like Newport News Shipbuilding to overhaul submarines due to backlogs at its public yards. The Navy has stated a preference for public yards "because it believes that they cost less," the CBO report states.

"It is a national security imperative

that we have functioning public yards, as they can serve to complement our private yards," said Wittman, who chairs the House Armed Services sea power subcommittee.

The 15-page document is considered preliminary and focuses on overhauls of Los Angeles-class attack subs from 1993 to 2017. It does not mention any private shipyard by name, although Newport News Shipbuilding was part of the study, a CBO spokeswoman said. The Newport News shipyard, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries, currently has overhauls planned or in progress for three Los-Angeles class boats: Helena, Columbus and Boise.

General Dynamics Electric Boat of Groton, Conn., also does overhaul work on Los Angeles-class subs.

Newport News and EB are the only

yards that design and build nuclear-powered subs for the Navy. Los Angeles-class submarines were built from the early 1970s to the mid-1990s. Both yards now build the newer Virginia-class submarines and are joining forces to manufacture the Columbia class, a fleet of ballistic missile submarines.

CBO's analysis focused on the most common type of overhaul for Los Angeles class subs, known as a docking selected restricted availability.

The cost difference between public and private yards fluctuated between 1993 and 2017, but the private sector always did the work for less money, the report states.

The gap was largest in the 1990s, when the adjusted average cost was 53 percent lower at private yards.



## Congress approves spending measure

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Moving to head off a government shutdown that neither party wants, Congress overwhelmingly has approved a compromise spending bill and pledged agreement on a short-term bill to fund the government through early December.

The House on Thursday approved a \$147 billion package to fund the Energy Department, veterans' programs and the legislative branch. The 377-20 vote came a day after the Senate passed the measure, 92-5. The bill now goes to White House, where President Donald Trump is expected to sign it.

The quick action in the House and the Senate came as legislative leaders announced agreement on a bill to fund the rest of the government through Dec. 7. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said the short-term plan would be added to a separate spending bill that lawmakers are negotiating to cover the Defense Department and labor, health and education programs.

# Manafort will cooperate with special counsel, pleads guilty

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort pleaded guilty Friday to two criminal charges under terms of a plea deal that includes his cooperation as a potential witness for special counsel Robert Mueller.

The decision by Manafort to provide evidence in exchange for leniency on sentencing is a stunning development in the long-running probe into whether any Trump associates may have conspired with Russia to influence the 2016 election.

Manafort's defenders have long insisted that he would not cooperate with Mueller, and didn't know any incriminating information against the president.

Prosecutor Andrew Weissmann said at the beginning of Friday's plea hearing that Manafort has agreed to cooperate with investigators.

Speaking at the hearing before U.S. District Court judge Amy Berman Jackson, Weissmann said the 17-page plea document included the terms of Manafort's expected cooperation.

The deal will short-circuit Manafort's trial scheduled for later this month.

A criminal information — a legal document filed by prosecutors to detail the criminal conduct to be admitted by the defendant — was filed in advance of the plea. The document shows Manafort intends to plead guilty to two crimes of the seven he faced at trial: conspiring to defraud the United States and conspiring to obstruct justice.

The document indicates he will admit to funneling millions of dollars in payments into offshore accounts to conceal his income from the

Internal Revenue Service. "Manafort cheated the United States out of over \$15 million in taxes," the document states.

The filing also offers new details about the various ways in which Manafort sought to surreptitiously lobby the U.S. government and to influence American public opinion toward Ukraine.

In 2012, Manafort set out to help his client, Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich, by tarnishing the reputation of Yanukovich's political rival, Yulia Tymoshenko, according to the document.

"Manafort stated that '[m]y goal is to plant some stink on Tymo,'" according to the document. At the time he made that statement, he was trying to get U.S. news outlets to print stories that Tymoshenko had paid for the murder of a Ukrainian official, according to the criminal information.

As part of his deal, the government plans to seize four properties, including a nearly \$2 million house in Arlington, Va., owned by one of Manafort's daughters. The deal also calls for forfeiture of four financial accounts and a life insurance policy.

The move toward a guilty plea is another reversal for Manafort, 69, who has fought vociferously — but unsuccessfully — against Mueller's probe. The political consultant was convicted last month in Alexandria federal court on charges of bank and tax fraud.

In-person jury selection for his Washington trial was set to start Monday, with opening statements scheduled for Sept. 24 before U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson. Any deal would not be final until Manafort admits guilt before the judge, who would need to approve the plea.

## In video, Google execs bemoan Trump's election in 2016

Associated Press

A recently leaked video from 2016 shows Google executives lamenting the election of President Donald Trump, who has accused the company of doctoring search results for his name.

The video, posted on the Breitbart website, shows Google co-founder Sergey Brin saying the elevation of Trump was not consistent with what the company stands for. During what was clearly an emotional, companywide meeting, Google executives also extolled demo-

cratic values.

Breitbart says the video was provided by an anonymous source.

Google said Thursday in a prepared statement that some workers and executives expressed their own personal views at the 2016 meeting — which is what has occurred at the regularly scheduled meetings for more than 20 years.

"Nothing was said at that meeting, or any other meeting, to suggest that any political bias ever influences the way we build or operate our products.

To the contrary, our products are built for everyone, and we design them with extraordinary care to be a trustworthy source of information for everyone, without regard to political viewpoint," the company said.

At the meeting, executives talked about a rising xenophobia and nationalism at home and abroad. Some appeared near tears when they spoke about the U.S. election.

Last month, Trump accused Google and other U.S. tech companies of rigging search results

about him "so that almost all stories & news is BAD."

Google, based in Mountain View, Calif., consistently has denied any political bias or consideration in developing the algorithms it uses for internet searches.

Republicans and conservative groups have alleged that there is a liberal bias in Silicon Valley and that companies such as Google, Facebook and Twitter actively work to suppress conservative views.

The video fueled that narrative across social media.

## Gas explosions destroy Mass. homes; teen dies

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Mass. — A series of gas explosions an official described as “Armageddon” killed a teenager, injured at least 10 other people and ignited fires in at least 39 homes in three communities north of Boston, forcing entire neighborhoods to evacuate as crews scrambled to fight the flames and to shut off the gas.

Authorities said Leonel Rondon, 18, of Lawrence, died Thursday after a chimney toppled by an exploding house crashed into his car. He was rushed to a Boston hospital but was pronounced dead there in the evening.

Massachusetts State Police urged all residents with homes served by Columbia Gas in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover to evacuate, snarling traffic and causing widespread confusion as residents and local officials struggled to understand what was happening.

“It looked like Armageddon, it really did,” Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield told reporters. “There were billows of smoke coming from Lawrence behind me. I could see pillars of smoke in front of me from the town of Andover.”

Gov. Charlie Baker said state and local authorities are investigating but that it could take

days or weeks before they turn up answers.

“This is still very much an active scene,” he said. “There will be plenty of time later tonight, tomorrow morning and into the next day to do some of the work around determining exactly what happened and why.”

Early Friday, the utility issued a statement saying its crews need to visit each of the 8,600 affected customers to shut off each gas meter and conduct a safety inspection.

“Additional support is being provided by crews from several affiliated Columbia Gas companies and other utilities,” the statement said. “We expect this will be an extended restoration effort, and we will work tirelessly to restore service to the affected customers.”

Baker previously said authorities hadn’t heard directly from Columbia Gas, but later called the company’s response “adequate.”

By late Thursday, all of the fires had been doused but many areas remained silent and dark after residents fled and after power companies cut electricity to prevent further fires. Schools in all three communities were canceled for Friday, and some schools were being used as shelters for residents.

## Cuomo easily wins NY gubernatorial primary challenge

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo easily beat back a primary challenge from activist and actress Cynthia Nixon on Thursday, thwarting her attempt to become the latest insurgent liberal to knock off an establishment Democrat.

Cuomo, who always led in the polls and outspent his rival more than 8 to 1, seldom mentioned Nixon by name during an often nasty campaign, instead touting his experience, his achievements in two terms as governor and his work to push back against President Donald Trump.

In his moment of victory, Cuomo was oddly silent, skipping his own election-night party in Manhattan to celebrate with family at the governor’s mansion in Albany. He put out a tweet that said simply, “Thank You New York.” His campaign declined to issue a statement.

“It’s New York’s obligation to stand up and lead and lead against a lot of these changes in Washington that are totally opposite of who we are as New

Yorkers and what we believe,” he said earlier at his Westchester County polling place. “There is a divisiveness coming out of Washington that I think is cancerous to this nation.”

Thursday’s results were good across the board for Cuomo, whose preferred candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general also survived contentious primaries. And despite Nixon’s loss, liberals celebrated victories for several left-leaning challengers who ousted long-time legislative incumbents.

With registered Democrats outnumbering Republicans more than 2 to 1 in New York, Cuomo becomes the automatic front-runner in November’s matchup with Republican Marc Molinaro and independent former Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner.

Nixon, a longtime education activist and actress best known for her Emmy-winning role as lawyer Miranda Hobbes on HBO’s “Sex and the City,” was counting on a boost from liberals looking to oust establishment politicians.

## Officials call teen vaping ‘epidemic,’ weigh flavor ban

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. health officials are sounding the alarm about teenage use of e-cigarettes, calling the problem an “epidemic” and ordering manufacturers to reverse the trend or risk having their flavored vaping products pulled from the market.

The warning from the Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday cited recent data pointing to a sharp rise in underage use of the devices, including Juul, Vuse and others.

It marks a shift in the agency’s tone on e-cigarettes. Since 2017, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has discussed e-cigarettes as a potential tool to wean adult smokers off cigarettes, although that benefit hasn’t been proven.

But Gottlieb said in an address at FDA headquarters that he failed to predict the current “epidemic of addiction” among youth, mainly driven by flavored products.

“The disturbing and accelerating trajectory of use we’re seeing in youth and the resulting path to addiction must end,”

Gottlieb told agency staffers and reporters.

The FDA said it remains committed to exploring e-cigarettes as a less harmful alternative for adult smokers, but Gottlieb added “that work can’t come at the expense of kids.”

E-cigarettes are vapor-emitting devices that have grown into a multibillion-dollar industry in the U.S. despite little research on their long-term effects, including whether they are helpful in helping smokers quit. They’re generally considered a less dangerous alterna-

tive to regular cigarettes. But health officials have warned nicotine in e-cigarettes is harmful to developing brains.

They typically contain nicotine and sometimes flavorings like fruit, mint or chocolate.

Health advocates have worried about the popularity of vaping products among kids and the potential impact on smoking rates in the future. A government-commissioned report in January found “substantial evidence” that young people who use e-cigarettes are more likely to try cigarettes.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## New newspaper called The Uranus Examiner

**MO** URANUS — Cue the giggling: A small Missouri town has a new newspaper called The Uranus Examiner.

KYTV reports that the newspaper's launch was announced Wednesday, just days after GateHouse Media said it was shuttering Pulaski County's local paper, the Daily Guide.

The new publication's editor, Natalie Sanders, led the Daily Guide before leaving in June to start what she calls a "fun" paper that will include local news and will promote the tourist town of Uranus, which is pronounced the way any self-respecting class clown would say it.

Uranus sits along historic Route 66 and is known for quirky attractions, including a fudge shop and the world's largest belt buckle.

## Officer freed before trial, with conditions

**NJ** TOMS RIVER — A New Jersey police officer accused of trying to meet a 15-year-old girl for sex has been released from jail.

The judge ordered Howell Sgt. Richard Conte, 47, released Tuesday with the condition that he can only leave his home for court appearances and doctor's appointments.

Conte was charged with second-degree attempted luring Sept. 6 after authorities said he tried to meet the girl in Toms River. The girl actually was an undercover police detective.

Howell Police Chief Andrew Kudrick said Conte has been suspended without pay.

Conte has served in the police force since 1997, and he previously was the volunteer fire chief for the South Wall Fire Department.

## No one is hurt when bus hits dump truck

**FL** WESLEY CHAPEL — Authorities say everyone is safe after a school bus was involved in a crash with a dump truck north of Tampa.

The crash happened Thursday morning as the bus was taking students to Quail Hollow Elementary School in Wesley Chapel. The Florida Highway Patrol said the bus stopped at a stop sign before entering an intersection and colliding with a dump truck.

## Minister charged with felony credit card use

**RI** NEWPORT — A non-denominational minister from Rhode Island has been charged with using a credit card reported stolen by a guest at a wedding he officiated.

The Newport Daily News reported that James Stern, 39, was released on personal recognizance after appearing in court Wednesday to face a felony charge of fraudulent credit card use. He did not enter a plea. He pleaded not guilty to two related misdemeanor charges.

Police said a woman reported her purse containing the card was stolen from a Newport hotel room where she was staying for her friend's wedding. The card was used at several locations. Police said they have surveillance video of Stern making a purchase.

## Ex-officer guilty of lying in stun gun case

**TN** NASHVILLE — A former corrections officer at a Tennessee jail has pleaded guilty to making false statements to federal agents in connection to an incident involving the suspected use

of a stun gun on a restrained detainee.

News outlets cited a statement sent Wednesday from the U.S. Attorney's Office announcing the plea agreement in which former Cheatham County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Gary Ola admitted to making false statements during two interviews with federal investigators.

Another corrections officer, former Cpl. Mark Bryant, is accused of using a stun gun on an 18-year-old while the detainee was in a restraint chair. Bryant also is accused of stunning the detainee while handcuffed. His trial is scheduled for next year.

## Suspicious item is science experiment

**MO** PLATTE CITY — Authorities say officers spent two hours investigating a suspicious plastic container that was found behind a Missouri sandwich shop before determining it was a high school science experiment.

KMBC-TV reported that police were summoned Tuesday to a Jimmy John's in Platte City. The strange-looking plastic container they encountered was filled with blue fluid and had other items attached to it. Police eventually determined it was an experiment meant to demonstrate how hydrogen can be used as a power source.

The student who built the project demonstrated it to friends at the Jimmy John's and then left it behind the store so other friends could see it. But a worker at a nearby convenience store called 911 after spotting the gadget.

## Collection of Lincoln items to be auctioned

**NY** NEW YORK — A leading Abraham Lincoln scholar's extensive collection of images, documents

and artwork pertaining to the nation's 16th president is being auctioned in Manhattan later this month.

Harold Holzer's collection will highlight Swann Galleries' Sept. 27 auction of printed and manuscript Americana featuring American Revolution, Civil War and frontier material.

Holzer, 69, is an award-winning historian best known for his books on Lincoln and the Civil War. The Brooklyn native collected a trove of Lincoln material over the years, including an 1860 painting of the president before he grew a beard.

Other artifacts for sale include a plaster Lincoln bust and a rare print produced for the 1860 Republican Convention held in Chicago. The print is just one of four known to exist.

## Officer uses spray to break up student fight

**MD** EDGEWATER — Four students have received juvenile citations for a fight at a Maryland high school during which a student resource officer used pepper spray.

Citing an Anne Arundel County police release, The Capital reported two officers and South River High School administrators found three boys assaulting a fourth inside a men's restroom Wednesday.

The adults told the students to stop and a struggle ensued, during which an officer used department-issued pepper spray. One of the suspects was hit by the spray. Police said a female student ran into the bathroom to interfere with the officers' attempt to handle the situation. She and the male student hit by the spray were taken to the hospital for decontamination.

County schools spokesman Bob Mosier said five students went to the nurse's office.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Dalton leads Bengals past Ravens

By JOE KAY

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Andy Dalton has turned into a big pain for the Baltimore Ravens.

He threw four touchdown passes Thursday — three of them to A.J. Green — as the Cincinnati Bengals got ahead big and held on for a 34-23 win that left them alone atop the AFC North.

It's an unaccustomed spot for Cincinnati, which is off to its first 2-0 start since it won the division title in 2015.

Coach Marvin Lewis received a contract extension in part because of Dalton's 49-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Boyd in the closing seconds of the final game at Baltimore last season, which gave the Bengals a win and knocked the Ravens out of playoff contention. Dalton made the big plays again on Thursday, leaving the Ravens

(1-1) too far behind to catch up.

"We came out hot," Dalton said. "That's exactly how we wanted to start the game. That's a big one — puts us 2-0 to start the year and gives us a leg up in the division."

Down by 21 points, the Ravens made a run at it behind Joe Flacco, who threw a pair of touchdown passes. Flacco fumbled with 2:42 to go — Shawn Williams stripped the ball from behind — setting up a field goal by Randy Bullock that closed it out.

Flacco finished 32 of 55 for 376 yards with two touchdowns, two interceptions, a fumble and four sacks.

"You better bounce back quick on a Thursday night and we didn't do it quick enough tonight," Flacco said.

Some takeaways from Cincinnati's win:

**Seeing Green:** Green set a career high with his touchdown catches of 4, 32 and 7 yards. He became the fourth Bengals re-

ceiver to catch three TD passes in a half, joining Marvin Jones (2013), Chad Johnson (2003) and Isaac Curtis (1973). Green was upset with himself after fumbling twice in a 34-23 win at Indianapolis on Sunday, and he caught everything thrown his way early on.

"It just happened to fall that way," Green said. "We were clicking on all cylinders. We were in a groove."

**Dalton's day:** Heading into the game, Dalton had thrown more interceptions (17) than touchdowns (15) against the Ravens, including a four-interception performance at Paul Brown Stadium last year. He finished 24 of 42 for 265 yards with no interceptions and no sacks. It was the fourth time he's thrown four touchdown passes in a game. His career high is five against the Jets in 2013.

**Not the Bills:** The Ravens were coming off their third-most lopsided win in club his-

tory, a 47-3 victory over Buffalo on Sunday. Flacco was sharp in two-plus quarters, throwing touchdown passes to three receivers. But the Bengals gave him a tough time early, sacking him on each of Baltimore's first three possessions and forcing a pass that was picked off.

"It was tough sledding early on, and we weren't very precise," Flacco said.

**Missing Mosley:** Ravens middle linebacker C.J. Mosley left in the first quarter with a bruised knee. Coach John Harbaugh said an MRI found no ligament damage. The Ravens have two rookies as backup linebackers, Kenny Young and Chris Board.

"They didn't play perfect," Harbaugh said. "That's going to hurt you for sure, and it did. It hurt mainly in coverage more than anything."

## Jags' Ramsey 'definitely would' hit grandmother during game

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — No one is safe from Jalen Ramsey's trash talk. Not even his grandma.

The Jacksonville Jaguars star cornerback and one of the NFL's most outspoken personalities said Thursday he "definitely would" hit his grandmother if she lined up against him on the football field.

"To respect the game, you have to play it fierce," Ramsey said. "I don't believe in having friends on the field. I mean, my brother, my dad, my mom, grandma was out there, like it's on. After the game, we can be cool. It doesn't matter. That's how I feel, like, you've got to respect the game of football."

"Football is not a game meant to be played being nice to each other and all that, like kumbaya. After the game's over with, that's cool."

Ramsey wouldn't really hit his grandmother, would he?

"No, I definitely would," he said. "She knows that. My grandma knows that. I love you, but she knows that."

Ramsey added that granny "might not get up from one of my licks."

Ramsey is a renowned trash-talker and one of the most competitive guys on the team.

The Jaguars (1-0) host the New England Patriots (1-0) on Sunday, a rematch of the AFC championship game, and surely will have a lot to say before, during and after the game.

Ramsey made headlines last month when he said in a magazine article about Patriots star tight end Rob Gronkowski "I don't think Gronk's good" and added "I don't think Gronk is as great as people think he is."

Gronkowski responded Wednesday, saying "if that's how he feels, that's how he feels."

## Chargers defensive end Bosa to miss another game

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Los Angeles Chargers defensive end Joey Bosa will miss Sunday's game at Buffalo because of a bone bruise to his left foot.

Coach Anthony Lynn said Thursday that the team will be cautious before bringing the third-year lineman back. Bosa injured the foot during training camp, which caused him to miss the preseason. He then reinjured it during practice on Sept. 5.

Bosa has 23 career sacks in two seasons, including an NFL-record 19 in his first 20 games. His presence was missed in last week's 38-28 loss to Kansas City.

## Gonzalez, Reed, Bailey, Fletcher among 1st-year HOF nominees

Tony Gonzalez — the most accomplished tight end in NFL history — and defensive standouts Ed Reed, Champ Bailey and London Fletcher are first-year eligible players among the 102 modern-era nominees for the class of 2019 for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Gonzalez retired in 2013 after 17 pro seasons in which he had 1,325 receptions, second to Jerry Rice on the career list. He finished with 111 touchdown catches and 15,127 yards receiving. He made six All-Pro teams and was a member of the all-decade team for 2000-10.



# Alvarez-GGG could be knockout

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Gennady Golovkin and Canelo Alvarez had to follow a circus to town the first time they met a year ago.

The clown show by Floyd Mayweather Jr., and Conor McGregor a few weeks earlier cast a long shadow on a middleweight title bout that turned out to be quite a show itself. Golovkin and Alvarez put on a real fight that had a little bit of everything — except a winner.

The two return Saturday night for a rematch on the Las Vegas Strip that might be even better. The 160-pound titles are at stake once again as the two fighters try to settle what they couldn't in last September's draw.

And this time it's personal.

A failed drug test by Alvarez didn't just postpone the rematch from the original date in May. It sparked a debate that left Golovkin openly questioning an excuse about contaminated meat in Mexico and whether Alvarez was clean for their first fight.

"I don't believe all his stories about contaminated meat," Golovkin said this week. "I think it's all nonsense. I don't like to hear his nonsense stories about contaminated meat."

Golovkin and Alvarez have shared a room only once since the fight was announced — at

Wednesday's final prefight press conference — and Alvarez is so upset about Golovkin's comments that he refused to do a traditional faceoff with Triple G for photographers.

When they finally do meet Saturday night it will be with some hard feelings on both sides that didn't surface in the first fight, which The Associated Press scored as a 114-114 draw.

"I'm angry but I'm going to use it in my favor in this fight," Alvarez said. "I'm bothered by all the stupid things they've been saying."

A fight that had to happen after the disputed draw in the first bout almost didn't come to be after Alvarez tested positive for clenbuterol just before beginning training for what was supposed to be a May rematch. Alvarez was suspended by the Nevada Athletic Commission for six months, and then Golovkin's camp demanded a better split of the purse than he got for the first bout.

A last minute agreement resolved the purse split, with Triple G getting closer to the 50-50 he was demanding. And both fighters will make millions for a sold-out fight that will be televised on HBO pay-per-view at a cost of \$84.95.

Now the rematch has to live up to the hype.

"I just want him (Alvarez) to do what he says he will do and try for a knockout," said Golovkin's trainer, Abel Sanchez. "If he does that we'll be treated to a great fight."

# Mets' Wright to start Sept. 29

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York Mets captain David Wright will return for the team's final homestand, making what will probably be his last appearance as a big-leaguer.

The Mets said that they plan to activate Wright when they return to Citi Field on Sept. 25 against Atlanta. Wright, 35, is scheduled to start at third base on the second to last day of the regular season against Miami.

It would be his first major league game since May 2016. Wright has worked to return from a litany of neck, back and shoulder injuries that have required surgery.

Although not officially retiring, Wright is not expected to play again after this season.

"The way I feel right now and from everything the doctors have told me, there's not going to be an improvement," Wright said when asked if he could play beyond 2018. "So, yeah, I don't see that as a possibility."

Mets Chief Operating Officer Jeff Wilpon and Senior VP of Baseball Operations John Ricco joined Wright for an emotional news conference prior to the club's doubleheader against the Marlins to make the announcement, ending speculation on whether the seven-time All-Star would return.

"David Wright is a Mets icon, one of the finest players and people ever to wear the uniform, Mets uniform or any uniform, and clearly our fan favorite," Wilpon said.

Wright's contract includes salaries of \$20 million this year, \$15 million next season and \$12 million in 2020. By reinstating him from the 60-day disabled list, it would likely lessen the amount of insurance money the Mets could collect.

A first-round pick of the Mets in 2001, Wright has hit .296 with 242 home runs and 970 RBIs in 1,583 regular-season games.

# For Celtics' Hayward, rehab was different kind of challenge

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Celtics were in sunny Los Angeles, it was another subzero winter day in Boston, and Gordon Hayward was stuck in rehab, shooting baskets from a chair and picking up marbles with his toes to work his surgically repaired ankle back into shape.

"The hardest part of the whole process has been the mental challenge," Hayward said Thursday, reporting that he is 100 percent healthy and preparing to be on the court for the Oct. 16 opener against the Philadelphia 76ers. "I think you find the fight within yourself."

The Celtics' top free-agent acquisition of the 2017 summer, Hayward was injured in the first quarter of the first game of the season when he landed awkwardly on his left leg, breaking his tibia and dislocating his ankle. He may have

been able to return before the end of the season, but then he needed more surgery in May.

Other players did their best to keep up his spirits: One time, Aron Baynes brought back some Krispy Kreme doughnuts from a road trip and drove them over to Hayward's house.

"There's so many days where I wake up and it's like, 'Man, here we go again,'" he said. "It was the most difficult thing I've done."

Speaking at the new practice facility named for Red Auerbach, Hayward said he celebrated each bit of progress — the walking boot coming off, or shooting baskets standing up, instead of sitting in a chair. Within the past two weeks, he has been able to play five-on-five basketball.

"With each step I get some joy," said Hayward, who then slipped into his Celtics uniform

and took part in a photoshoot.

Now, he said, he is ready to get back in the green for real.

"I expect to be out there," he said. "I would say I'm basically 100 percent. There are certain things that I think are going to take time. Even if I was 100 percent healthy, I'm not 100 percent basketball-wise, just because I haven't played in a year. I'm trying to figure those things out."

Despite losing both Hayward and, later, point guard Kyrie Irving, the Celtics earned the No. 2 seed in the East last season and took Cleveland to seven games in the conference finals.

"Watching the guys last year just gave me a lot of confidence in our team and what I think we have the ability to do," he said. "I've been playing with some of them these last two weeks, and we have a lot of talent on this team. ... It's going to be a fun year."

# Dodgers get past Cardinals

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Dodgers got some help from a former Cardinal before their pivotal series against St. Louis.

David Freese, who joined Los Angeles in a trade with the Pirates at the end of August, offered some insight on the Cardinals' young pitchers during the Dodgers' hitters meeting. The advice paid off.

Manny Machado homered and drove in three runs to back Clayton Kershaw, and the Dodgers beat the Cardinals 9-7 in the opener of a four-game series between playoff contenders.

"Just better approaches," Machado said. "Keep it simple."

The Dodgers snapped a five-game losing streak against the Cardinals and moved to within one game of St. Louis for the final NL wild-card spot. The Cardinals, who went 22-6 in August, lost their second straight game and fell to 5-7 in September.

Kershaw (8-5), pitching at Busch Stadium for the first time since taking the loss in Game 4 of the 2014 NL division series, struck out eight in six innings, allowing four runs — three earned — on eight hits and two walks.

Freese tripled on a 14-pitch at-bat against Austin Gomber to score Chris Taylor and Machado in the first. Matt Kemp followed with a single to score Freese.

"I threw him everything I had," Gomber said. "I went back and looked at the video. I thought the first 13 pitches were good pitches and the 14th one wasn't. He made me pay. Kind of just how the night went. They put some swings on pitches that I thought were good pitches."

Kershaw's RBI single started a four-run fourth and drove Gomber (5-1) from the game. Taylor followed with an RBI double, and Justin Turner and Machado had sacrifice flies as the Dodgers went ahead 8-1.

Machado went 3-for-4, and his solo homer in the seventh traveled 417 feet to center.

## MLB roundup

# BoSox close in on AL East title

Associated Press

BOSTON — J.D. Martinez hit his 41st home run and the Boston Red Sox moved closer to winning the AL East title, completing a three-game sweep of the Toronto Blue Jays with a 4-3 victory Thursday night.

Xander Bogaerts scored the go-ahead run on an eighth-inning error after the Blue Jays rallied in the top half with two runs to tie it 3-all.

Rafael Devers also homered for the major league-leading Red Sox (101-46). They pulled 10½ games ahead of the idle New York Yankees and decreased their magic number to six for clinching a third straight division crown. Boston is the only team in the majors that's already locked up a playoff berth.

Brandon Workman (5-0) faced one batter, ending Toronto's eighth-inning rally, and got the win. Craig Kimbrel earned his 40th save. Danny Barnes (3-3) took the loss.

**Mets 4-5, Marlins 3-2:** Michael Conforto and Todd Frazier hit back-to-back homers with two outs in the ninth inning, and New York stunned

visiting Miami in the first game of a doubleheader sweep.

Conforto drove in three more runs in the second game, and Jason Vargas pitched six effective innings to help the Mets win again.

In the opener, Kyle Barraclough entered with one out in the ninth and retired pinch-hitter Dominic Smith before Conforto lined a 1-0 changeup into the second deck in right to tie it. Frazier then hit a 1-1 pitch to left center field for his first walk-off homer since June 2015 for Cincinnati.

**Cubs 4, Nationals 3 (10):** Javier Baez drove in the go-ahead run with a bunt single in the 10th inning, and Chicago beat host Washington in a makeup of a game postponed earlier in the week.

Kris Bryant doubled with one out in the 10th against Sean Doolittle (3-3) and moved to third on ex-National Daniel Murphy's infield single. Baez, who homered in the sixth and drove in three on the day, bunted just to the right of first baseman Ryan Zimmerman to score Bryant.

Baez has 31 homers and leads the NL with 103 RBIs.

Chicago stretched its lead in the NL Central to 1½ games over idle Milwaukee.

**Orioles 5, Athletics 3:** Dylan Bundy had eight strikeouts in six solid innings, and Baltimore ended visiting Oakland's six-game winning streak.

Stephen Piscotty homered for the A's. They fell 3½ games behind first-place Houston in the AL West and 1½ back of the Yankees for the top wild-card slot.

Though he yielded his major league-high 38th home run, Bundy (8-14) was good enough to help Baltimore snap a six-game skid and avoid being swept for the 22nd time. He gave up two runs and six hits to earn his first win since July 29.

**Royals 6, Twins 4:** Salvador Perez and Jorge Bonifacio hit back-to-back homers during a four-run sixth inning, Heath Fillmyer pitched into the eighth and host Kansas City beat Minnesota.

**Mariners 8, Angels 2:** Nelson Cruz hit a three-run homer, Mike Leake pitched seven strong innings and Seattle started an 11-game road trip with a victory over Los Angeles.

## Rockies win, maintain lead in NL West

Associated Press

DENVER — Kyle Freeland got in on the fun at the plate, too, for the Colorado Rockies.

Freeland pitched effectively into the seventh and had two hits, and the Rockies beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 10-3 on Thursday to extend their NL West lead.

Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story homered and David Dahl had three hits and two RBIs to help Colorado take a two-game lead over Los Angeles and a 4½-game advantage over the third-place Diamondbacks. Los Angeles beat St. Louis later Thursday night; the Dodgers now trail the Rockies by 1½ games.

"We're playing good baseball, we're a very confident team," Arenado said. "Everyone's playing a part. It's great."

Freeland played two parts — keeping Arizona's offense in check until his left calf cramped up in the seventh and doing damage with his bat. He had an RBI double in the second inning and started a rally in the fourth with a bunt single down the third base line.

"I was amazed with him today. I really was," Arenado said. "I was like, 'He's an animal. He wants to pitch, he wants to hit, he wants to run, he just wants to be out there.' The best pitchers in this game, that's how they are."

Freeland (15-7) was just as

effective on the mound. He allowed two through six innings and left with one out in the seventh after giving up two extra-base hits. A cramp that bothered him in the sixth inning flared up again, but he said he is fine.

"I've had it on the mound a couple of times before the season," he said. "It's nothing that I have concern about."

A.J. Pollock homered for Arizona. The Diamondbacks are 3-12 in September. They lost 5-4 on Wednesday night when DJ LeMahieu hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning.

Things don't get easier for Arizona, either. They head to Houston to play the AL West leaders in a three-game weekend series.