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Alabama chief justice suspended for term

Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore was removed from the bench Friday for defying the U.S. Supreme Court on gay marriage, more than a decade after he was ousted for disobeying a federal order to take down a 2 1/2-ton monument to the Ten Commandments.

The nine-member Alabama Court of the Judiciary suspended Moore for the remainder of his term. Although the court stopped short of outright removing him as they did in 2003, the punishment has the same effect,

ending his period as Alabama's top jurist.

The judiciary court ruled that Moore defied law clearly settled by the high court's Obergefell vs. Hodges ruling when he told Alabama's probate judges six months later they were still bound by a 2015 state court order to deny marriage licenses to gays and lesbians.

They said Moore also flouted a federal judge's order that enjoined the judges from enforcing Alabama's same-sex marriage ban after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision.

The 50-page decision indicated a majority of justices wanted

to remove Moore, not just suspend him without pay, but they lacked unanimous agreement.

Moore told The Associated Press in a telephone interview he was shocked by the decision.

"I think it's clear it was politically motivated," he said.

The president of the civil rights organization that filed complaints against Moore in 2003 and 2016 praised the decision as a victory for the state.

"Moore was elected to be a judge, not a preacher. It's something that he never seemed to understand," said Richard Cohen, of the Southern Poverty

Law Center.

Moore, 69, had already been suspended from the bench since May, when the state's Judicial Inquiry Commission accused him of violating judicial ethics. By the end of his term in 2019, he'll be beyond the age limit of 70 for judges, unless voters raise the limit in November.

Testifying in his defense, Moore contended that his January order merely intended to clarify that the Alabama Supreme Court still had to decide what to do with its earlier order upholding the state's gay marriage ban in light of the Obergefell decision.

GI Bill overpayments add to hundreds of millions a year

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Schools approved for the GI Bill received \$247.6 million more than they should have during the 2013-2014 academic year, according to a report released Friday by the Department of Veterans Affairs Inspector General's Office.

The post-9/11 GI Bill paid out \$5.2 billion for 796,000 veterans to go to school from 2013 to 2014, the report states. However, about 5 percent of the payments were made in error, costing \$247.6 million in overpayments. An additional \$205.5 million was not recouped when students withdrew from school, dropped a class or repeated courses, making the veterans ineligible for the benefit that was already paid.

The IG report concluded the design of the program made it "susceptible" to doling out improper payments.

If the program isn't fixed,

the report states, the Veterans Benefits Administration, which administers the program, could issue \$1.2 billion in overpayments in the next five years and fail to recover about \$1 billion.

In a response, the VA's office of the undersecretary for benefits said the errors were far fewer. In its own review, the VA found five improper payments in the same sample.

The disagreement rests with who is accountable for checking information.

According to the IG report, the GI Bill program relies on school officials to submit information about tuition and fees, and those submissions comprise only "minimal" information, including a student's name, educational program, enrollment date and the total payment due.

VA officials argued it was not the responsibility of their staff to verify whether the submissions were correct before processing a payment.

14-year-old charged in SC school shooting

Associated Press

ANDERSON, S.C. — A 14-year-old South Carolina boy was charged as a juvenile Friday with murder and three counts of attempted murder after he, according to authorities, killed his father and opened fire on students at a school playground, wounding three people.

The boy did not show any emotion as he walked into the courtroom.

As the hearing unfolded, one of the wounded students, Jacob Hall, 6, was on life support and fighting for his life at a hospital about 30 miles away. He sustained a major brain injury due to the amount of blood he lost after being shot in the leg.

Authorities say the teen shot his father Jeffrey Osborne, 47, at their home on Wednesday afternoon before driving a pickup truck 3 miles down a country road to Townville Elementary.

Bullets struck two students and a first-grade teacher. The

building was immediately placed on lock down.

Authorities have not released a motive for the killing or the school shooting.

Prosecutors haven't given any indication about if they will ask to try the teen as an adult.

Anderson 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery said staff saved lives by flawlessly implementing active-shooter training drills conducted with students at Townville Elementary.

A teacher, though shot in the shoulder, "was with-it enough" to close the door, lock it and barricade the students, Avery said.

The shooter then fired toward students on the playground but missed. A teacher who heard the first gunshot was able to get those students safely inside, Avery said.

The teacher who was shot and another student who was hit in the foot were treated and released from a hospital, officials said.

Increased focus on how police treat veterans

BY ALEX HORTON

Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Two police officers watched Christopher Araujo pace back and forth, a gun in his waistband. Araujo was in Texas, but his mind was in Iraq.

"I'm here to help, bro," one of the officers said.

"You need to stay outside the wire," Araujo snapped back, his perimeter secured.

The pistols stayed in the holsters.

"I can get you in touch with some care," one of the officers calmly said. "Why don't you come on out?"

Araujo snapped out of his daze: "Yeah, I can do that."

The Roy Butler Training Academy last week transformed conference rooms into tense exercises. Scenes like the one involving Araujo were the culmination of a three-day course for 25 police officers from across Texas to learn how to defuse responses involving "trauma-affected veterans" — ones who might be dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury.

Texas Veterans Commission, a state-run program connecting veterans with resources and benefits, is among several federal, state and local partners across Texas that designed the training after advocates here expressed a need for localized, hands-on programs. A state bill later mandated the program.

Texas is home to 1.6 million veterans, second only to California, and veterans and their families add up to 18 percent of the state population. High employment and a low cost of living fuel growth in Texas, and troops rotating out of Fort Hood and Joint Base San Antonio will only add to the number of veterans in the state.

As troops leave the military as part of recent drawdowns, encounters between veterans and police rise, said Erin McGann, who works with veterans in the criminal justice

system at TVC. Though police do not specifically track veteran-related calls, an uptick in anecdotal stories from inside the veterans' community pointed to a growing issue, she said.

Problems in many of these encounters could have been reduced "if the officers were trained appropriately on how to handle veterans," she said.

"We have an obligation as a society to meet veterans where they are and get them services. The community needs to be a base of support. And law enforcement is a big part of that," said Sean Hanna, a Navy veteran and director of the mental health program at TVC.

The services Hanna describes are mostly tailored to veterans. Police can be confounded by encounters with mentally distressed civilians who might need care. Often the only choice is imprisonment, which can put more pressure on an overtaxed criminal justice system. For veterans, there are financial, housing and mental health resources that police in the training learn about to help those they encounter on the job, Hanna said.

The Texas training loops in the operating philosophy of crisis intervention teams — officers trained to diffuse situations involving people with psychological issues. McGann and other program leaders stressed to officers that PTSD issues are not unique to veterans, and only part of the veteran population is affected.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 11 to 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD symptoms in a given year, and up to 30 percent of Vietnam War veterans suffer from PTSD symptoms.

Documents for the commission's class caution trainees to assess how outside influences color their perceptions of veterans, which could lead to unconscious bias — and an overly aggressive posture.

"Pop culture does veterans

few favors in how they are shown," according to the documents. "Be careful about making assumptions."

Araujo, an Army veteran with five combat tours who works in veterans peer support, volunteered to play a traumatized

'We have an obligation as a society to meet veterans where they are and get them services. ... And law enforcement is a big part of that.'

Sean Hanna

Navy veteran and director of the Texas Veterans Commission's mental health program

background, I think the training gives them the veteran perspective. There's nothing more valuable than that," he said after the scenario.

Classroom instructors offered practical tips, such as looking for military-themed decals on a car during a traffic stop and understanding the sea of acronyms and vernacular a veteran might use during a police encounter.

The training comes amid building tensions across the country on the use of force by police.

Protests rocked Charlotte, N.C., last month after police shot and killed Keith L. Scott during a traffic stop. In Tulsa, Okla., an officer was charged with manslaughter after she fatally shot Terence Crutcher on Sept. 16, while he was unarmed.

Those shootings and protests, among others, have sparked debate about how and when officers choose to use deadly force. The training looks at that question through the framework of veterans.

Cory Hill, a deputy sheriff in Travis County, Texas, has a foot in both worlds. He's an officer but also served in Iraq with the Army, running convoy escorts.

He said he came home without PTSD, but the training made him realize that some veterans did not return home as unaffected as he did.

"The training helps me slow down and think about what's happening," Hill said. "All first responders should go through this. It gives us another tool and other options to get that person help and get us home safely."

Instructors emphasized that officer safety remains the top priority.

"We're not changing their rules," Hanna said. "We're asking them to keep an awareness and openness to identifying veterans and to use rapport to de-escalate the situation."

If there is no opportunity to do that, "a cop has got to be a cop," he said.

There is another benefit to learning about issues stemming from war, organizers said. A commonality between police and troops can help police see themselves in the veteran experience.

"You are not so different from that veteran you are de-escalating. You both don't know who the enemy is. You're accustomed with violence and traumatic events," said B.J. Wagner, a former police officer who works with veterans in the criminal justice system for the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas, a nonpartisan research and policy group.

"If you're aware of your own issues and consider your own trauma, suddenly you can approach that veteran with a different mindset," she said.

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'They put us through hell' Marine abused at boot camp explains why he spoke out

The Washington Post

Former Pvt. Thomas Jacob Weaver was in bed late one night, near the end of his three months at Marine Corps boot camp, when several drill instructors burst into his platoon's room. Many of them smelled like they had been drinking whiskey, he said, and they ordered the recruits to crawl over concrete floors covered in laundry detergent.

Soon after, the instructors left the room and then abruptly returned. One of them demanded to know where he could find "the terrorist." Weaver knew immediately who he was talking about: a fellow Marine recruit who was Muslim.

"We heard the door slam, and then we heard screaming, and then we heard loud noises, and then they left," Weaver said. "And then I saw [the recruit] come back half-naked, and some of us ran over to check on him. And he told us that they had stuck him in the dryer for a couple of minutes and let him spin."

That night in July 2015 was one of the last experiences for Weaver at Parris Island, S.C., one of the military's best-known boot camps. He graduated with plans to follow in the footsteps of uncles who had been Marines.

Within months, he began suffering a breakdown. He was hospitalized with suicidal thoughts and refused to continue training at Pensacola, Fla. He was sent home with an "other-than-honorable" discharge, according to military documents.

In November, he and his father began fighting his discharge, saying his breakdown was the result of the abusive environment at Parris Island.

'The right thing to do'

"They say it's a rite of passage to us," said Weaver, 21, of the abuse. "That that's why they put us through hell. But in no way is it benefiting us, or anything. It's pointless. I just felt like someone has to say something, and I know I'm probably

going to get a lot of flak and whatnot, but it's the right thing to do."

Weaver was the first to step forward with allegations that have now spawned the biggest investigation at Parris Island in decades and prompted concerns among defense officials and lawmakers about how the service's boot camps are run.

Among Weaver's allegations in addition to the dryer incident: Drill instructors took one recruit into the woods and beat him after a mistake on a rifle range; repeatedly slammed Weaver's head into a door frame another day; and forced recruits to lie down so drill instructors could walk on them.

"It was terrifying at times," Weaver said. "There are countless times where I experienced hazing from our drill instructors and there was abuse going on in the company. It wasn't just one period of boot camp. It was the whole three months of it."

His accounts were substantiated in a Marine Corps investigation that concluded in April, a few weeks after another recruit — Raheel Siddiqui, 20 — fell three stories to his death while running away from one of the same drill instructors who was involved in putting Weaver's fellow recruit into the dryer. Up to 20 Marines could face criminal or administrative punishment in the cases, and senior Marine officers already have removed several Parris Island officials from their jobs — some at least in part for not taking Weaver's allegations seriously.

The Marine Corps' drill instructors learn in 12-week programs that they must never physically abuse recruits. Instead, a variety of "incentive training" exercises with time limits are authorized, including pushups, crunches and running in place.

But a culture of hazing and bullying recruits remains, and not just at Parris Island, according to former drill instructors.

Sean Legaard, who served as a drill instructor in San Diego from 2010 to early 2014, said none of his colleagues wanted to be labeled a "recruit lover,"

and those who were faced retribution from peers. A drill instructor who pushes a recruit to "tap" — to either quit or confess thoughts of suicide — is well regarded and may bend or break rules to get there, he said.

Legaard, 30, said he once considered making a career of the Marine Corps but left the service disenchanted after facing and dishing out what is known as "hat hazing," in which drill instructors harass one another.

Hat hazing

Hat hazing, named after the distinctive, wide-brimmed hats worn by the instructors, has been prohibited for years. But Legaard recalled complying with an order to lock a fellow drill instructor out of their shared sleeping quarters at the recruit depot, forcing a colleague to sleep in his vehicle, instead.

"It was like, 'Do I really have to do this to be welcome here and successful?'" Legaard said. "You don't want to be called a recruit lover, and you want to slay yourself just so that you're accepted. It's all alpha-male stuff."

Senior Marine officials, including Commandant Gen. Robert Neller, have said that recruits must be trained with respect and stressed that most drill instructors carry out their duties faithfully. The service also has promised more reforms, including adding more supervisory officers, cracking down on "hat hazing" and requiring the suspension of anyone under investigation for hazing or abusing training recruits.

But the full extent of the recent mistreatment at the Marine Corps' boot camps is not known. Hundreds of hazing and abuse cases have been investigated in the past few years at Parris Island alone, and a third of them have been substantiated, according to Marine Corps documents. Most of those cases have received no attention outside the service, and Marine officials thus far have declined to release nearly

any details about them.

Retired Maj. Gen. Melvin Spiese, who oversaw boot camp training from May 2008 to August 2010 as commander of the service's Training and Education Command, said he is "offended and massively bothered" by any effort in the Defense Department to withhold information that "belongs to the American people."

"Those are the sons and daughters of Americans. They are Americans, and the services and leaders are accountable to the nation for how they are handled and treated," he said. "I believe transparency and accountability would have been helpful — it would have forced a very hard internal look of not just trying to clean things up but answer questions."

In one case, former Sgt. Jeffrey VanDyke was convicted in 2014 of numerous allegations of cruelty and maltreatment, assault and failure to obey a lawful order after an incident in which he forced a recruit to perform illegal exercises at Parris Island after his uniform was splashed with bleach, said a Marine official, disclosing details about the case on condition of anonymity due to its sensitivity.

The recruit suffered significant chemical burns as a result. VanDyke's sentence included one year of confinement at the Navy's brig in Charleston, S.C., a demotion to private and a bad-conduct discharge. VanDyke could not be reached for comment.

Weaver and his family are still trying to redeem his service record. They are planning an appeal to the Navy Discharge Review Board and are searching for legal help.

After Weaver's father contacted Marine officials again in July, the officer who approved the other-than-honorable discharge, recently retired Col. Jon Sachrison, said in an affidavit that he did not know that Weaver's doctors had linked his condition to his time at Parris Island. Sachrison said he would have given Weaver an honorable discharge if he had known.

Trump twitter tirade attacked

Associated Press

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. — Hillary Clinton is criticizing Donald Trump's Twitter tirade against a former beauty pageant winner, calling it "unhinged, even for him."

"Who gets up at 3 o'clock in the morning to engage in a Twitter attack?" Clinton asked at an event in Coral Springs, Fla. She said Trump's slew of tweets against 1996 Miss Universe Alicia Machado show that he is "temperamentally unfit" to be president.

Clinton raised Machado's name in the first presidential debate, noting Trump's mockery when Machado gained weight after winning Miss Universe in 1996. Trump denounced Machado in a television interview the next morning and resumed his attacks with the tweets Friday, questioning her sexual history and whether Clinton helped her become a citizen.

Clinton reached out to Machado on Friday afternoon

to thank her "for all she has done and the courage she has shown," according to campaign spokesman Nick Merrill. He said Machado promised to continue supporting her and said she would stand up to the attacks.

Campaign communications director Jennifer Palmieri said Clinton did not help Machado become a citizen.

The tweetstorm sparked a day of criticism focusing on the substance of Trump's remarks and how they derail his anti-Clinton message. At the same time, the tweets largely drowned out Clinton's policy speech, another example of the challenge she faces as she seeks to give voters a more uplifting message — and a reason to vote for her, not just against Trump.

Earlier in the day in Fort Pierce, Fla., Clinton focused her remarks on her plans to expand public service, acknowledging that some might question her choice of subject

matter.

"Some might say, 'Well, hey, my gosh, you've only got 39 days to go, why aren't you out there beating up on your opponent and doing everything to get the vote out and all the rest of it?'" Clinton said. "Well, I'll do that. ... But I've been thinking about this for a long time."

During her speech, Clinton detailed her plans to enhance service opportunities. She wants to triple the size of the AmeriCorps program, add to the Peace Corps and create a new national service reserve program. Under her proposed service program, people would enroll, receive some training and then state and local leaders could call on their help during natural disasters or emergency situations.

Clinton said that service had been a priority of Republicans and Democrats in the past, but added, "I don't think you'll hear anything about this from my opponent."

Path opens to self-driving, wheelless cars in Calif.

Associated Press

California regulators have changed course and opened a pathway for the public to get self-driving cars of the future that lack a steering wheel or pedals.

In a shift, the state's Department of Motor Vehicles said in a revision of draft regulations released late Friday that the most advanced self-driving cars would no longer be required to have a licensed driver if federal officials deem them safe enough.

The redrafted regulations will be the subject of a public hearing Oct. 19 in Sacramento.

The DMV has been wrestling for several years with how to oversee the emerging technology.

In December, the agency released an initial draft of regulations that required a licensed driver in any self-driving vehicle. In the industry, the ultimate vision of many companies is a car that has no wheel or pedals. That approach is based on the argument that humans are not very good at driving and cannot be relied on as a backup to a car that typically drives itself.

The DMV's new document coincides with the release last week of a 112-page federal proposal under which any self-driving car should pass a 15-point safety assessment before the public can get ahold of it. Among other things, the safety assessment asks automakers to document how the car detects and avoids objects and pedestrians, how hardened it is against cyberattacks and what how its backup systems will cope should the software fail.

The new draft regulations released Friday include several other new provisions. Among them is wording that would prohibit advertising vehicles with lower levels of automation from being advertised as "autonomous" or "self-driving."

Report: Zika often mild in children

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A first look at U.S. teens and young children who were infected with Zika suggests the virus typically causes at worst only a mild illness.

Zika infection during pregnancy can cause severe brain-related birth defects. But the report seems to confirm health officials' belief that infections after birth in children are similar to infections in adults — most people don't feel sick, and some develop only mild symptoms like fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes.

Some experts say there's not enough data to answer questions about the virus' potential impact on the developing brains of infants and small children, however.

The report, released Friday

by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is based on 158 infections from earlier this year in children ages 1 month to 17 years.

All the children picked up the virus while traveling abroad, and the bulk of them were in their teens.

Only 16 were 4 or younger, and only four were younger than 1. Experts are worried about very young children because they can be more severely affected by infections in general, and because their brains are developing rapidly.

"I'm really concerned about birth through the first birthday," said Dr. Carrie Byington, a University of Utah researcher who focuses on infections in children.

None of the children studied died, and none developed a paralyzing condition seen in some

infected adults called Guillain-Barre syndrome.

But Guillain-Barre is rare, seen only once in every several thousand Zika illnesses in adults. It may be that kids can still get it, but there weren't enough cases for it to surface, said Dr. Ganeshwaran Mochida, a pediatric neurologist at Boston Children's Hospital.

Also on Friday, the CDC updated its advice to U.S. couples who may have been infected with Zika and are thinking of having babies.

They recommend men use condoms or refrain from sex for at least six months after returning from a Zika-hit area. The recommendation for women is to use protection eight weeks from possible Zika exposure.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Sorry I tased you' cake doesn't cut it

FL PENSACOLA — A Florida's woman's lawsuit said a deputy shot her with a stun gun then apologized with a cake that said, "sorry I tased you" in blue frosting.

The cake didn't cut it for Stephanie Byron. She sued former Escambia County sheriff's deputy Michael Wohlers in May.

The suit alleges Wohlers violated Byron's civil rights, committed battery and caused her hardships, including physical injuries, monetary loss, medical expenses, humiliation and mental anguish.

Wohlers' attorney denied the allegations in a court document.

The incident happened in June 2015 when Wohlers stopped by an apartment complex where Byron was working.

He resigned from the sheriff's office the following month.

Man accused of shooting deer in city

DC WASHINGTON — Police accused a West Virginia man of shooting a deer in the nation's capital, close enough to residences that neighbors called police.

According to WTTG-TV, the gunfire was reported Tuesday night near the Palisades neighborhood in northwest Washington.

When officers arrived in the woods, they found Vernon Goyne, of Berkeley Springs, W.V., dressed in camouflage about to hit a deer with a stick. The animal had been shot but was still alive.

Hunting in the District is illegal, and Goyne faces charges, including animal cruelty and possession of an unregistered firearm.

Scott Giacoppo with the Washington Humane Society said the deer had to be euthanized.

Fat hotel cat loved in spite of weight battle

NH WATERVILLE VALLEY — A 31-pound cat that greets visitors at a New Hampshire resort is winning over guests and internet viewers alike as he — like many humans — deals with a metabolism issue.

Logan, an easygoing 7-year-old tabby, was adopted at a shelter six years ago by Susan and Tor Brunvand. The owners of the Best Western Silver Fox Inn at the Waterville Valley Resort found out he turned up his nose at fancy cat food and preferred to steal food from them.

Still, Susan Brunvand said Logan doesn't eat much. He didn't eat for a month once after a fight with a feral cat and lost a pound. But it's been a struggle.

Fans love him just the way he is — an online video has been making the rounds.

Two-headed rat snake gets new home at zoo

TX WACO — A two-headed rat snake found last month in a Central Texas yard has a new home at a zoo.

Officials with the Cameron Park Zoo in Waco on Wednesday provided details on the nearly foot-long snake. It remains under a mandatory 90-day quarantine before visitors have a chance to view the creature.

Zoo supervisor Brian Henley said a woman discovered the snake when her dog started chasing something under her front porch. She decided to contact the zoo about the rodent-eating snake, which has two full heads.

Henley said the snake ap-

pears to be about 6 to 8 weeks old. Rat snakes can grow to a length of 5 feet.

Men carjack woman at drive-thru, crash car

GA BROOKHAVEN — Authorities are looking for two men they said carjacked a woman at gunpoint while she was waiting in McDonald's drive-thru in the Atlanta area.

Brookhaven police spokesman Carlos Nino told news outlets that, while a woman was sitting in her car Thursday at the drive-thru, two men approached her, forced her out of her car and drove off. One suspect was armed with a handgun. The woman wasn't hurt.

Georgia State Patrol spokeswoman Tracey Watson said after the car was stolen, officers tried to pull it over for speeding. The officers were unaware it had been stolen.

The men crashed the car and then fled. They remain at large.

2 men accused in taxidermy shop theft

AZ PRESCOTT — Authorities said two Prescott Valley men have been arrested in connection with a burglary at a Prescott taxidermy shop.

Prescott police said Daniel Cutter, 39, and Stephen Little, 19, are being held in the Yavapai County Jail on suspicion of burglary and trafficking in stolen property. Detectives identified the men as suspects based on information provided by the Prescott community about the Sept. 21 burglary of the Wildlife Artistry Taxidermy shop.

Police said some of the items have been recovered. Still missing are a bear skin, a bobcat fur and several mule deer antlers.

Cutter and Little were ar-

rested Wednesday after police served a search warrant at a Prescott Valley residence.

Landlord says he stole from disabled tenant

NY ALBANY — A landlord admitted draining the bank account of an Albany tenant who had suffered a stroke.

Albany County District Attorney David Soares said Edward Thomas, 55, of New York City pleaded guilty to grand larceny and forgery on Wednesday. Prosecutors said Thomas stole checks from the victim, forged signatures and cashed the checks over the course of several months.

Thomas faces two to six years in state prison and has to pay restitution of over \$31,000 to the victim.

Century-old map helps reveal buried island

HI WAILUKU — Archaeologists uncovered several sections of rock walls that are helping define the perimeter of the buried island of Mokuula, where Hawaiian royalty once lived.

The Maui News reported the walls were discovered with help from a 100-year-old map. Previous studies of the site didn't have access to the map, which was found in a 19th-century printing shop on the grounds of a Maui high school.

Members of the community in Lahaina hope the discoveries will lead to restoration of the island. The nonprofit Friends of Mokuula said the island was a 1-acre sandbar island within a freshwater pond that served as the home of the high chiefs of Piilani in the 16th century. The group said King Kamehameha III ruled there between 1830 and 1845.

From wire reports

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Last weekend celebration of Ortiz's career

Associated Press

BOSTON — David Ortiz stole the show from himself.

On the opening night of a three-day celebration of his career, Ortiz hit a game-deciding homer to lead the Red Sox to a 5-3 victory over Toronto on Friday night and overshadow the pregame ceremony to honor him.

"You expect it," second baseman Dustin Pedroia said. "In this game it's so tough to do, and he makes it look easy."

Ortiz had an RBI single in the first inning, rewarding the rain-soaked crowd that rose to its feet chanting "Papi!" In his next at-bat, after another standing ovation, Ortiz lined the ball off Marco Estrada's leg and the pitcher regrouped for an easy putout at first.

In the fifth, with a runner on second, he hit a hard liner that right fielder Jose Bautista was able to chase down before it went over his head.

The Red Sox had already scored two in the seventh to tie the game 3-all when Ortiz came up. He lined a 2-1 pitch from Brett Cecil into the right-field stands to make it 5-3.

"On a night that begins a weekend celebration, I don't know that you can write a script for what David did here tonight offensively," manager John Farrell said. "Nights like tonight he almost leaves you speechless. ... (He) turned this place upside down."

Mowed down

Big Papi was in the field.

No, the longtime designated hitter didn't decide to play a few more games of defense before he retires. Instead, groundskeeper David Mellor mowed Ortiz's likeness into the center-field grass for the three-time World Series champion's final regular-season series at Fenway Park.

The image showed Ortiz pointing to the sky with both hands, the way he did when he crossed the plate following one of his 540 career homers.

Ortiz said before the game that he hadn't seen the tribute

but he hoped to visit the top deck at the ballpark to get a better view.

Still chasing

In a wide-ranging discussion in the media interview room before the series opener against the Toronto Blue Jays, Ortiz also spoke about trying to play well for the rest of the regular season and into the playoffs. Entering Friday night's game, the Red Sox were in contention for the top seed in the AL but also in danger of being the third-best division champion, which would force them to open the postseason on the road.

The Red Sox won 11 straight games before being swept in New York this week, including a loss on Wednesday night — the night they clinched the AL East for just the third time since 1995.

"We play to win," he said.

On deck

The rain-soaked pregame ceremony was brief, with bigger celebrations to come over the weekend.

The Red Sox took the time to acknowledge his charitable work, showing pictures of many of those helped by the David Ortiz Children's Fund, which provides medical care for kids in New England and the Dominican Republic. Ortiz was presented with a painting by artist Peter Max.

The big celebration is planned for Sunday, which barring a rainout would be the final regular-season game for Ortiz. The team is expecting to bring onto the field many of Ortiz's teammates from his three World Series championships.

The traditional "Play ball!" was delivered by three teens in Ortiz jerseys, who also shouted it in Spanish.

The start of the game was delayed 25 minutes.

There it goes!

Asked to pick his best moment in the ballpark, Ortiz smiled.

"I had a lot of good at-bats

here at Fenway. I'm not going to lie to you," he said as reporters chuckled. "But I've got to go back to 2004 and the walkoffs."

No one needed any more explanation.

Ortiz had game-winning, extra-inning hits in back-to-back playoff games against the New York Yankees in the ALCS in '04 as Boston become the first major league team to rally from a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series. The Red Sox went on to win the World Series — their first in 86 years.

"They put us back on track," Ortiz said, turning specifically to a walkoff homer off Paul Quantrill in the 12th inning of Game 4. "That's the one at-bat I never forget about. I think about that at-bat like it was yesterday."

So do Red Sox fans.

Numerology

In addition to the lawnmower art, the ballpark was decked out with banners featuring Ortiz's silhouette on the left-field light stanchions.

One said "Thank You"; the other had Ortiz's No. 34.

It's a likely preview of when Ortiz's number is retired and hung from the facade in right field.

The team also wore commemorative patches on their caps and on their sleeves.

Way back

Even the notes about other players had an Ortiz theme.

On the center field scoreboard, along with each batter's photo and statistic, the team usually gives a note about his history — anything from his favorite band to his latest hitting streak. On Friday, though, they were all along the lines of this one for Mookie Betts: "David Ortiz was 16 years old when Betts was born on October 2, 1992."

Lining up

It's not hard to see the seeds of the next great Red Sox teams on this year's club.

Although Ortiz is retiring at

the age of 40, Betts is an MVP candidate and fellow twenty-somethings Jackie Bradley Jr. and Xander Bogaerts also figure to anchor the lineup for years to come.

Ortiz also said he thinks the ballclub will find someone to take on the leadership role he has filled for most of his time in Boston.

Comparing it to the military, he said it might not just be one person, but more like a clubhouse hierarchy that will keep things in order.

"You've got the generals, and then you've got different levels that follow. Everything is kind of lined up," he said. "What we're seeing from all the kids, they walked into the organization and they saw what their elders are trying to do. When I watch batting practice, I see myself."

A day after making the final stop of his farewell tour at Yankee Stadium, Ortiz thanked his longtime rivals for their parting gifts. The team gave him a painting, along with a leather-bound book containing letters from members of the organization past and present.

Far, far away

Ortiz has climbed the leaderboards in several major categories this season, passing Mickey Mantle to move into 17th on the all-time list with 541 homers and moving into a tie for eighth with Ken Griffey Jr. and Rafael Palmeiro on baseball's career list with 1,192 extra-base hits.

But even with three more games to go, Ortiz conceded defeat on one of the franchise's more celebrated records: Ted Williams' 502-foot homer that is the longest ever hit at Fenway Park.

The June 9, 1946 homer is commemorated by a single red seat in the right field bleachers.

"I have been trying for that for 15 years, and I haven't gotten close to it. So I don't think it's going to happen," he said with a laugh. "I give up."

No. 10 Washington rolls No. 7 Stanford

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Washington stayed quiet. Stanford was just the next opponent, the Huskies said, and there was no extra meaning or motivation.

Then the celebration happened, complete with purple-clad fans rushing the field to celebrate Washington's 44-6 rout Friday night.

After months of hype surrounding a possible breakout performance for Washington (5-0, 2-0 Pac-12), the 10th-ranked Huskies showed they were ready for their return to the national stage.

And they did it emphatically, handing No. 7 Stanford (3-1, 2-1) its worst loss since a 41-3 setback against Arizona State in 2007.

"We have had this game circled since spring time," Washington defensive end Joe Mathis said. "They beat us so bad last year. We wanted them so bad."

Jake Browning threw for 210 yards and three touchdowns, Myles Gaskin added 100 yards rushing and two scores, and Washington claimed its most lopsided victory over an AP top 10 team since beating No. 5 Southern California 31-0 in 1990. That game 26 years ago announced Washington as a national contender and it went on to share the national title a year later with Miami.

It was Washington's biggest win over a

top 10 team, bettering a 36-point victory over Wisconsin in 1959.

But try getting Washington coach Chris Petersen to acknowledge the importance.

"We don't get any trophies for winning tonight," Petersen said.

Browning was the leader of an efficient offense that scored on seven of nine drives. He threw touchdown passes of 3 yards to Dante Pettis, 19 yards to John Ross and 3 yards to Aaron Fuller with 5:30 remaining. Browning was 15-for-21 and did not commit a turnover.

Equally important was Washington's ability to establish a running game. The Huskies rushed for 214 yards and averaged 5.2 yards per carry.

"Everyone just did their job," Browning said. "It wasn't anything flashy about it. Everyone did what they were supposed to."

Meanwhile, Stanford star Christian McCaffrey saw his Heisman Trophy aspirations hit a major speed bump. McCaffrey was held to 49 yards rushing on 12 carries, five catches for 30 yards and continued his streak of never scoring an offensive touchdown in a road game.

It was McCaffrey's fewest yards rushing since 2014 at California when he had 19 yards on three carries.

Stanford's only TD came late in the third

quarter on a 19-yard pass from Ryan Burns to J.J. Arcega-Whiteside.

"We didn't play well. We didn't block well. We couldn't run the ball. We couldn't pass protect and we couldn't complete passes with any consistency, particularly the first two and a half quarters," Stanford coach David Shaw said. "Just not the style of football that we can play and not as well as we can play."

Burns was 15-for-22 for 151 yards, but Washington controlled the line of scrimmage on both sides. Stanford quarterbacks were sacked eight times, six in the first half. Stanford had allowed only four total sacks in the first three games combined.

"That was about as poorly as we can play from start to finish. That's the bottom line," Shaw said.

Poll implications: Washington has a chance to make a significant jump possibly into the top five depending on what happens in the other matchups of top 10 teams this weekend. The Huskies were as high as No. 8 but slipped to 10th after edging Arizona in overtime last week.

Stanford is likely to be punished for such a lopsided defeat, but still has quality wins over Kansas State, USC and UCLA. Expect the Cardinal to fall into the teens.

Stoops' seat could get hot, Oklahoma boosters say

By CLIFF BRUNT

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Two prominent Oklahoma boosters who support Sooners coach Bob Stoops say the team's early struggles have made some other boosters restless.

Jim Ross, a boxing announcer for CBS Sports best known for his work in professional wrestling, and Wallis Marsh, founder and CEO of the Extex Companies in Houston, say they have gotten many calls about this the past few weeks.

Losses to Houston and Ohio State already have knocked the Sooners out of the national championship picture. Oklahoma plays No. 21 TCU on Saturday and No. 22 Texas the following week — both possible defeats.

"If we lose a couple more

games, this unorganized tropical depression could become a named storm," Marsh said, referring to a possible attempt to pressure the athletic department to make a coaching change. Marsh said the most prominent boosters don't want that, but there is uneasiness, even among some of Stoops' supporters.

"The people that are close to the program, the people that support the program, the people that love the program the most aren't in that camp right now — yet," Marsh said. "It's starting to fester."

Stoops has a 180-48 career record. He is the winningest coach in Oklahoma history and the longest-tenured coach in major college football. His teams have played for national championships four times since he took over in 1999, winning it

in 2000. He has won nine Big 12 titles and entered this season favored to win again after last season's College Football Playoff run.

The Associated Press ranked Oklahoma No. 2 in its all-time poll, and Ross said the long-term success has spoiled the fans. The Sooners have won seven national titles, but not winning one for more than a decade has some folks thinking Stoops might have overstayed his welcome.

Ross, who lives in Norman, isn't one of them.

"In our right minds, how could you look at Bob Stoops' record, running a clean program and being a great mentor to these kids — he treats them like they're his. ... It's hard to believe that we're even having this conversation," he said. Marsh, who graduated from

Oklahoma in 1990 and remembers the down years in the '90s, said he appreciates Stoops bringing the program back to prominence. He said there was some negative sentiment from other boosters going back to the 2012 season, when the Sooners were embarrassed by Johnny Manziel and Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl. Oklahoma beat Alabama in the Sugar Bowl after the 2013 season, but the Sooners started the next season ranked No. 4 before stumbling to an 8-5 season.

Last season's trip to the play-off created a high and raised expectations. The Sooners started this season No. 3, but the losses to Houston and Ohio State brought the doubters back out, and LSU's firing of coach Les Miles added fuel for dissatisfied Sooners fans and boosters.

Trumbo's 47th HR helps O's blast Yanks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Buck Showalter was scoreboard watching through a fine, steady rain that gave Yankee Stadium a film noir feel.

"I had no choice, because it was right behind the pitcher's head," the Orioles manager said.

He got to see Baltimore keep up its late surge while monitoring Toronto's stumble in Boston.

Mark Trumbo hit his major league-leading 47th home run, Jonathan Schoop and Adam Jones also went deep in a six-run fifth inning and the Orioles beat New York 8-1 on Friday night to open a one-game lead over the Blue Jays for the AL's two wild cards.

Baltimore remained 1½ games in front of Detroit, with Seattle another half-game back.

Two games are left, and the Orioles' magic number for a postseason berth is two.

"It's definitely a position that you want to be in," Trumbo said.

Trumbo and Jones homered off Michael Pineda (6-12), who started with 3⅔ hitless innings and suddenly became ineffective.

Schoop tied his career high with five RBIs, hitting a go-ahead, two-run double in the fourth and a three-run homer in the fifth against James Pazos.

Baltimore has won three in a row and six of seven. The Orioles lead the major leagues with 250 home runs and have hit three or more in an inning 10 times.

"I think beyond the regular season we're going to see pitching that's going to be top of the line, and it's important against that caliber to be able to scrap together some runs that may be a little harder to come by at times," Trumbo said.

Yovani Gallardo (6-8) won for just the second time in nine starts since Aug. 5, allowing two hits, three walks and Mark

Teixeira's sacrifice fly in six innings.

"It's obviously just hard to grip the ball," Gallardo said. "Slipping off the mound."

There were maybe 1,000 people in the seats among the announced crowd of 33,955 when the game began, and there was standing water on the warning track. Only about 200 stayed in the seats for the final out.

Yankees second baseman Ronald Torreyes, center fielder Eric Young Jr. and first baseman Tyler Austin slipped to the turf while attempting to field balls. Third baseman Chase Headley splashed into a puddle in front of Baltimore's dugout chasing a foul popup and Torreyes, having moved to shortstop, snagged Chris Davis' wind-blown seventh-inning pop about 10 feet from home plate.

"It was just ugly. There's no other way to put it," Teixeira said.

Eliminated on Thursday, New York rested two regulars and pulled four others by the

sixth inning. Baltimore had lost 11 straight series openers in the Bronx since 2012.

Jones' 29th homer landed in the second deck in left. Schoop doubled high off the right-field wall and homered into the first deck in left. He also had five RBIs on May 14 against Detroit.

Pineda allowed five runs, six hits, two homers and three walks in 4⅓ innings, finishing with a 4.82 ERA. As Trumbo circled the bases, Pineda took off his cap and scratched his head.

Pineda leads in the AL with 10.6 strikeouts per nine innings but his ERA is 68th among 76 qualifying pitchers in the major leagues.

"It's mind-boggling," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said before the game. "It just doesn't make sense. And you look for reasons, and believe me, we'll look, and I'm sure we'll look a long time this winter."

Big Papi has big night, pushes Red Sox past Blue Jays

Associated Press

BOSTON — David Ortiz hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Toronto Blue Jays 5-3 on Friday night.

The AL East champion Red Sox snapped a three-game losing streak and stayed a half-game ahead of Cleveland in the race for home-field advantage when their playoff series begins next week.

The Blue Jays fell one game behind Baltimore in the wild-card race and are now within range of Detroit and Seattle in the fight for the AL's final postseason berth.

With his image mowed into the grass in center for the final regular-season series of his career, Ortiz hit his 38th homer of the year — and No. 541 of his career — to help Boston rally from a 3-1 deficit with four

runs in the seventh.

Dustin Pedroia had three hits for Boston, and Brad Ziegler (2-3) picked up the win with one inning of scoreless relief. Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 31st save.

Mets 5, Phillies 1: Jay Bruce homered for the third straight game and drove in three runs, Robert Gsellman (4-2) threw six sharp innings and visiting New York moved closer to securing a wild-card berth.

Cardinals 7, Pirates 0: Carlos Martinez (16-9) pitched seven sharp innings, Matt Holliday hit an emotional home run and host St. Louis stayed in the middle of the NL wild-card race.

Tigers 6, Braves 2: Miguel Cabrera hit two home runs, Ian Kinsler and Justin Upton also connected and visiting Detroit moved up in the playoff race.

Marlins 7, Nationals 4: Christian Yelich homered for

visiting Miami, and Dee Gordon's infield single in the sixth inning scored the go-ahead run.

Cubs 7, Reds 3: Ben Zobrist homered twice and drove in three runs, helping visiting Chicago beat Cincinnati.

White Sox 7, Twins 3: Carlos Rodon (9-10) tied an AL record by striking out the first seven batters and Tim Anderson had three hits to help host Chicago hand Minnesota its 103rd loss.

Indians 7, Royals 2: Ryan Merritt (1-0) retired his final 13 batters while pitching five strong innings in his first big league start and Francisco Lindor hit a three-run homer for visiting Cleveland.

Rockies 4, Brewers 1: Nolan Arenado hit his NL-leading 41st homer for host Colorado, and Chad Bettis (14-8) pitched effectively into the seventh inning.

Giants 9, Dodgers 3: Madi-

son Bumgarner lined a key two-run double in the sixth and emphatically pumped his arms while yelling in celebration at second base, and host San Francisco maintained its slim lead for the second NL wild card.

Angels 7, Astros 1: Jeffry Marte homered and scored twice and Daniel Wright earned his first major league victory to help host Los Angeles beat Houston.

Mariners 5, Athletics 1: Robinson Cano hit two home runs, Taijuan Walker (8-11) pitched six effective innings and host Seattle moved within one game of the second AL wild-card spot.

Diamondbacks 5, Padres 3: Paul Goldschmidt and Chris Owings each hit a two-run home run and host Arizona opened its final series of a disappointing season with a win.