

STARS AND STRIPES®

Monday, October 8, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Marines remove commander in Darwin

Associated Press

DARWIN, Australia — The commander of more than 1,500 U.S. Marines in northern Australia was relieved of his duties after police caught him driving under the influence of alcohol, the Marine Corps said Monday.

Col. James Schnelle, 48, pleaded guilty in the Darwin Local Court on Monday to driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.102 percent after his breath was tested by police in the early hours of Sept. 30. The reading was more than double the legal limit in Australia of 0.05 percent.

The commander of the Ma-

rine Rotational Force in Darwin was “relieved of his duties on Sept. 30 due to a loss of trust and confidence,” U.S. Marines 1st Lt. David Mancilla said in a statement.

Schnelle later issued a statement saying “one extremely poor personal decision” should not overshadow the significant accomplishments made by the latest Marines rotation.

Lt. Col. Jeramy Brady will be officer in charge for the duration of the rotation, Mancilla said.

Schnelle’s driver’s license was suspended for six months and he was fined 500 Australian dollars (\$353).

Magistrate Greg Cavanagh did not record a conviction because of Schnelle’s good character and his lack of previous offenses. Magistrates have discretion to spare first offenders from having police records under exceptional circumstances.

Schnelle had been drinking in a bar in Darwin’s Mitchell Street nightclub precinct and was driving to his nearby home when he was pulled over for a random breath test.

He reported to both the Hawaii-based commander of Marine Forces Pacific, Lt. Gen. Lewis Craparotta, and the commanding general of III Marine

Expeditionary Force, Lt. Gen. Eric Smith, about four hours later. They called him back “to relieve him of his command,” Schnelle’s lawyer told the court.

U.S. military forces have been stationed in Darwin through a Marine Rotational Force since 2012 as part of the U.S. pivot to Asia. The numbers are to eventually rise to 2,500 Marines. The largest contingent of Marines arrived in Darwin for six months in April.

Darwin-based Marines are subject to curfews and are restricted to taking leave in small groups to reduce the risk of social disruption in the city.

Contractors working on self-driving subs to clear mines

The Washington Post

Over the past two decades, unmanned aerial drones have transformed how the Air Force wages war, allowing it to surveil hostile territory and neutralize enemy targets without putting the lives of pilots at risk.

Next, the Navy is hoping it can employ its own unmanned vehicles to clear mines, scout unfamiliar territory or wage anti-submarine warfare. And big-name defense contractors are eagerly buying the rights to next-generation technologies that they think could enable a revolution in sea-based autonomy.

For years, Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp. have invested in unmanned, autonomous drones of their own. And the New York-based defense contractor L3 Technologies is building out an entire business unit focused on sea-based autonomy, preparing for a future in which the Navy buys fewer aircraft carriers and more robots.

“I would predict there will

come a time when every manned vessel has an autonomous capability built into it, might even be required by regulation,” said Bill Toti, a retired Navy submarine captain and now an executive at L3.

Over the past 18 months, L3 has embarked on a slew of acquisitions focused on autonomous boats, submarines and their enabling technologies. Late last year, the company announced that it is teaming up with Boeing to handle autonomous technologies, navigation and cybersecurity for the Navy’s “extra-large unmanned undersea vehicle” competition. In April of last year, L3 bought a smaller firm called OceanServer Technology, a 15-year-old startup that makes unmanned underwater vehicles.

Last summer, it bought a company called Open Water Power, which focuses on specialized batteries that allow the subs to power themselves for longer periods of time. In September 2017, it bought Adaptive Methods, a Centreville, Va.-based company that develops the

advanced sensor and payload systems that go on unmanned underwater vehicles.

And last month, the company bought ASV Global, a market leader in “Autonomous Surface Vehicles,” self-driving boats that are sold to commercial and military customers.

Overseeing it all is Sean Stackley, a former Navy official who joined the company in January. In the Navy, Stackley served as assistant secretary for research, development and acquisition, playing a lead role in setting the service’s technology acquisition priorities. His hiring is part of a broader reorganization at L3, a publicly traded company whose most visible product has been 360-degree scanners that commercial flyers pass through at the airport.

He said the technology enabling such systems has only recently become available. For now, the approach is based mainly around teaming manned ships with robots, delegating dangerous or menial tasks like mine-clearing to unmanned submarines.

“When you use manned mine countermeasure ships, it is an extremely laborious process and it means you’ve got a manned ship in a minefield,” Stackley said. “About 10 to 20 years ago, a decision was made to think about using unmanned vehicles to sense and neutralize mines in a minefield. But while that was the right path to go down at that time, frankly, the technology was not mature enough.”

He is following a broader school of thought for the U.S. military, in which military services develop autonomous technologies that can be deployed alongside manned vessels. The Air Force is working on robotic drones that could fly alongside fighter jets or scout ahead and absorb enemy fire. The Army has deployed small robots meant to defuse roadside bombs so soldiers don’t have to.

L3’s acquisition of ASV is an early step for the company in building production lines for unmanned systems. The company says it has more than 100 unmanned surface vehicles deployed around the world.

Army officer files suit after getting shot by contractor

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The four men on duty had agreed to watch the movie “Anchorman” as they settled into a security shift on Afghanistan’s Bagram Air Field one December afternoon nearly two years ago.

Zachary Woods, an Army lieutenant deployed with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at the time, was carrying on a friendly debate about handgun skills with Marine veteran Dylan Barrett, a security contractor and former police officer, witnesses said.

What happened next isn’t entirely clear. But the conversation ended with a bang and Woods dropped to the floor with a gunshot wound in his torso.

Woods filed a lawsuit this past summer in Illinois’ Cook County Circuit Court, claiming that “horseplay with a loaded firearm” caused him serious, permanent injuries and pain. The suit alleges that Barrett and his employer, Triple Canopy, were negligent. Woods is seeking more than \$100,000.

Triple Canopy’s lawyers say that the company and Barrett were under the Army’s “operational control,” which grants them protection under federal laws, including one that shields the military from state civil suits arising out of wartime activities. However, Woods wants to sue at the state level, where courts wouldn’t consider Triple Canopy’s arguments under fed-

eral law.

In August, Woods’ case went to federal court to decide whether he can sue at the state level. Woods’ lawyers have argued Triple Canopy’s interpretation of federal law shielding the company and Barrett is too broad and doesn’t protect against claims of simple negligence. Triple Canopy is part of Constellis, formerly Blackwater, which is also named in Woods’ lawsuit. A status hearing will be held next month.

An Army investigation obtained by Stars and Stripes provides more details of the incident, minus names. Court documents Woods filed about the same time included an unredacted section identifying him and Barrett.

The shooting, which officials believe was a negligent discharge, occurred Dec. 19, 2016, on Bagram’s Camp Alpha, an area of the base largely reserved for special operations personnel. Woods, Barrett and two others — an enlisted soldier and a contractor — were on shift inside the camp’s Base Defense Operations Center, or BDOC, a hub for monitoring security systems, camera feeds and radio traffic.

Investigators found no evidence of foul play, and Woods and Barrett were said to get along like brothers. But witness accounts suggest the shooting was the result of carelessness following high jinks by those charged with overseeing the base’s security.

Lejeune housing deemed dangerous

The Washington Post

Families living on one of the Marine Corps’ largest bases are ramping up criticism of the private company that manages their homes, saying it is ignoring long-standing problems with mold and structural defects that were exacerbated after Hurricane Florence slammed North Carolina last month.

Even before the hurricane unleashed devastation across the Carolinas, several spouses were working to draw attention to what they called a lackadaisical attitude by Atlantic Marine Corps Communities about the conditions inside Camp Lejeune’s private housing — from leaky and crumbling ceilings to 70-foot-tall rotting trees in danger of collapsing.

Many of those trees did fall, they said, as the storm struck parts of North Carolina with fast-moving floods and powerful winds. Camp Lejeune is on the coast, close to where the hurricane rushed ashore.

The storm exacerbated other housing problems, said Tori Sproat, who has lived on the base with her husband — a Marine major — and two young children since 2013. She said her bedroom’s rain-soaked, bubbling ceiling was made far worse by Hurricane Florence.

Sproat and other spouses have

taken to Facebook in frustration to draw attention to moldy walls and the trees they say have been infested with carpenter ants for years, posting letters, photos and videos they have sent to the company.

“It’s been a long time coming. We deserve better, and we know the Marine Corps wants us to have better, too,” Sproat said.

In an emailed statement sent to The Washington Post, AMCC wrote: “Based on initial assessments, more than 1,238 of the homes at Camp Lejeune had some level of interior damage to include water intrusion. There were an additional 139 severely damaged homes from fallen trees and debris.”

The statement added that “AMCC North Carolina residents who wish to relocate from their home are able to do so without penalty for the duration of storm recovery operations. AMCC has partnered and coordinated recovery efforts with certified contractors, in addition to our maintenance team, to assess homes for damages.”

In a statement provided through Marine Corps public affairs specialist Victoria Long, the company said, “Residents have multiple options to raise concerns to AMCC management and military leadership if they have persistent issues that are not addressed.”

WWII vet, 99, on mission to visit 50 states, talk to people

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — When Sidney

Walton, 99, was just a lad, he had the chance to meet some of the few remaining veterans still alive from the Civil War of the 1860s.

He skipped the opportunity — to his lasting regret.

With that long-ago lesson in mind, the World War II Army veteran is embarked on a 50-state excursion he has dubbed the No Regrets Tour. This time around, it is he who is making himself available to meet with anyone wishing for a last-chance encounter with one of the dwindling number of World War II veterans still among us.

This week, Walton and his

son, Paul, 62, flew from Alaska to Hawaii, the 14th state on the tour. Walton met with Hawaii Gov. David Ige, just as he had met with the governors of the previous 13 states.

Walton enlisted in the Army in early 1941.

“I wanted to fight Hitler,” he said.

He trained with a unit slated to fight in Europe, but he broke

his ankle during a drill and didn’t go. After mending, he was assigned to India, where he served as a medic for the rest of the war.

The No Regrets Tour thus far has taken the father-son pair to Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Nebraska, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Florida and Alaska.

Taliban rip Afghan elections

Special to *The Washington Post*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban militants on Monday broke their months of silence on the upcoming parliamentary elections in Afghanistan, warning they would seek to disrupt the Oct. 20 vote.

The announcement casts new doubt on the troubled elections, which already have been delayed for three years and are plagued by fears of fraud and security concerns.

The warning coincides with an increase in the number of attacks by both the Taliban and affiliates of Islamic State in recent months that have killed hundreds of people, including six nominees for the parliamentary vote and scores working on the elections.

It also comes in the midst of a widening political rift between members of the government, dissatisfaction among factional

leaders over the electoral process, and allegations that President Ashraf Ghani is seeking to manipulate the results to boost his own re-election in six months.

The palace vehemently denies the charge.

In their statement, the Taliban described the elections as a “bogus” U.S. move to consolidate its invasion of Afghanistan and urged Afghans to avoid participation.

“The Islamic Emirate (Taliban), while representing the people and as an emancipative force of the nation, considers this process a fake one as a conspiracy of deceiving the people for achieving the malicious interests of foreigners,” read the statement, which comes as the group controls the most territory in the country since its 2001 overthrow.

“The Islamic Emirate instructs all its Mujahideen to

halt this American-led process throughout the country by creating severe obstacles for it, while taking extensive and intensive care of civilian Afghan lives and their properties,” it added.

The Taliban warning further raises the alarm about election security. More than 2,000 polling sites already have been shut because of violence. Advised and backed by U.S.-led troops, tens of thousands of Afghan forces are set to be deployed on Election Day.

The Taliban warning comes after apparent direct talks between the militants and U.S. delegates failed to produce any result in recent months.

An Interior Ministry official said security preparations are on the right track for the vote and will prevent the Taliban from disrupting the process.

Confirmed deaths near 2,000 in Indonesia

Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia — The death toll from the devastating earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia’s Sulawesi island neared 2,000 on Monday, but thousands more are believed unaccounted for, and officials said search teams plan to stop looking for victims later this week.

The official toll hit 1,948, mostly in the hard-hit city of Palu, said Jamaluddin, an official from the disaster task force who uses one name. He corrected the number during a news conference in Jakarta after initially saying it was 1,944. He said a navy ship had docked in the area and opened a field hospital.

Willem Rampangilei, head of the National Board for Disaster Management, said there could be as many as 5,000 victims still buried in deep mud in Balaroo and Petobo, two of Palu’s hardest-hit neighborhoods. But he added that number must be verified by his teams because it is an unofficial figure which came from village heads in the area. The Sept. 28 quake caused loose, wet soil to liquefy there. It is too soft to use heavy equipment for recovery, and decomposition of bodies is already advanced.

“It is impossible to rebuild in areas with high liquefaction risk such as Petobo and Balaroo,” he said, adding that villages there will be relocated.

Talks were underway with religious authorities and surviving family members to decide whether some areas could be turned into mass graves for victims entombed there, with monuments built to remember them.

Officials reiterated that the search is expected to end Thursday. However, the deadline could be extended if needed.

China urges US to repair relationship

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese officials appealed to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday to repair relations they said have been damaged by U.S. tariff increases and support for Taiwan as their governments press North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

Pompeo said at the start of his talks with Foreign Minister Wang Yi that Washington has a “fundamental disagreement” and “great concerns” about Chinese actions and looked forward to discussing them. Reporters were then ushered from the room.

The polite but edgy tone underscored the plunge in U.S.-Chinese relations as the administration of President Donald Trump confronts Beijing over its technology policies and territorial claims in the South China Sea. Trump also approved a weapons sale to Taiwan, the self-ruled island the Communist mainland claims as its own territory, and sanctioned a Chinese company and its leader over an arms purchase from Russia.

Those developments came as the countries have raised tariffs on tens of billions of dollars of each other’s goods in a dispute over U.S. complaints that Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

At the same time, the United States and China are cooperating on efforts to pressure North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to give up his country’s nuclear weapons and long-range missile programs.

Pompeo met Wang and Yang Jiechi, a senior Cabinet official and former foreign minister, after talks Sunday with Kim in North Korea’s capital, Pyongyang. Pompeo also visited Japan and South Korea, where he said Monday in Seoul that there had been “significant progress” toward an agreement for the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

Wang appealed to Pompeo to cease actions that Beijing sees as threatening its interests in order to avoid disrupting cooperation over North Korea and other issues.

“While the U.S. side has constantly escalated trade frictions with China, it has also taken actions regarding Taiwan that harm China’s core interests,” Wang said.

In their later meeting, Yang expressed Chinese frustration with Washington while avoiding specifics, telling Pompeo relations are “facing challenges.” Washington and Beijing “should and must make the correct choices,” Yang said. “We hope the United States and China can meet each other halfway and conscientiously fulfill the important consensus reached by the leaders of both countries.”

In Seoul, Pompeo said he and Kim had agreed to soon begin working-level talks on details of denuclearization and placement of international inspectors at one of North Korea’s main nuclear facilities.

Pompeo said they came close to finalizing a date and venue for the next Kim-Trump meeting.

Locals say site of NY accident a menace

Associated Press

SCHOHARIE, N.Y. — The site of a devastating accident that killed two pedestrians and 18 occupants of a limousine headed to a birthday party, including four sisters, is a known danger spot that has long worried locals, according to a manager of the store that sits at the intersection where the accident happened.

The intersection had been redone in 2008 because of a fatal accident there, said Jessica Kirby, managing director of the Apple Barrel Country Store and Cafe, which is an institution in Schoharie and among the legions of leaf-peepers who take to the roads of upstate New York each autumn.

Since the reconstruction, three tractor-trailers have run

through the same stop sign authorities said the limo blew and into a field behind her business, she said. Officials worked with the state to outlaw heavy trucks, she said, but there are still accidents.

And now this.

“More accidents than I can count,” she said in an email. “We have been asking for something to be done for years.”

Gov. Andrew Cuomo released a statement Sunday saying he has “directed state agencies to provide every resource necessary to aid in this investigation and determine what led to this tragedy.”

Autopsies were being performed, including on the driver to see if drugs or alcohol were a factor. Authorities didn’t say whether the limo occupants

were wearing seat belts, give the speed of the limo or speculate what caused the limo to run the stop sign and slam into a parked SUV.

Relatives said the limousine was carrying four sisters and their friends to a 30th birthday celebration for the youngest.

“They did the responsible thing getting a limo so they wouldn’t have to drive anywhere,” their aunt, Barbara Douglas, said Sunday. She did not want to name them publicly but added: “They were wonderful girls. They’d do anything for you and they were very close to each other and they loved their family.”

The 2001 Ford Excursion limousine was traveling southwest on Route 30 in Schoharie, about 170 miles north of New

York City when it failed to stop at a T-junction with state Route 30A, state police said. It went across the road and hit an unoccupied SUV parked at the Apple Barrel Country Store and two pedestrians.

The crash appeared to be the deadliest land-vehicle accident in the U.S. since a bus ferrying nursing home patients away from Hurricane Rita caught fire in Texas in 2005, killing 23. It is the deadliest transportation accident overall since February 2009, when a plane crash near Buffalo, N.Y., killed 50 people, said Robert Sumwalt, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. The Board is investigating the crash, including whether the limo had any mechanical problems.

Hurricane Michael has Florida in preparation mode

Associated Press

MIAMI — A tropical weather system that rapidly strengthened into Hurricane Michael on Monday is likely to intensify ahead of an expected strike on Florida’s Panhandle by midweek, forecasters said.

Michael could strengthen into a major hurricane with winds topping 111 mph by Tuesday night before an expected strike on the Panhandle or Big Bend, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Since the storm will spend

two to three days over the Gulf, which has very warm water temperatures and favorable atmospheric conditions, “there is a real possibility that Michael will strengthen to a major hurricane before landfall,” Robbie Berg, a hurricane specialist at the Miami-based storm forecasting hub, wrote in an advisory.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott issued an order for a state of emergency for 26 counties to rush preparations, freeing up resources and activating 500 members of the Florida National Guard.

By midmorning Monday, a

large mound of sand in Tallahassee had been already been whittled down to a small pile as residents tried to prepare for potential flooding. A city of Tallahassee worker promised that another mound was ordered and on its way.

“All indications are that it’s going to be severe,” said City Commissioner Gil Ziffer, adding that if the storm hits Florida’s capital, there would be significant tree damage and power outages.

Two years ago, Hurricane Hermine knocked out power for

days in Tallahassee and caused widespread flooding as it came up through the Gulf Coast.

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who is the Democratic nominee for governor, had planned to campaign in South Florida on Monday and Tuesday, but he said he would return to the city to help with storm preparations.

Farther west along Florida’s Panhandle, the city of Pensacola tweeted to residents, “Be sure you have your emergency plan in place.”

Global warming report carries life-or-death warning

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Preventing an extra single degree of heat could make a life-or-death difference in the next few decades for multitudes of people and ecosystems on this fast-warming planet, an international panel of scientists reported Sunday. But they provide little hope the world will rise to the challenge.

The Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its gloomy report in Incheon, South Korea.

In the 728-page document, the U.N. organization detailed how Earth’s weather, health and ecosystems would be in better shape if the world’s leaders could somehow limit future human-caused warming to just

0.9 degrees Fahrenheit from now, instead of the globally agreed-upon goal of 1.8 degrees F. Among other things:

- Half as many people would suffer from lack of water.

- There would be fewer deaths and illnesses from heat, smog and infectious diseases.

- Seas would rise nearly 4 inches less.

- Half as many animals

with back bones and plants would lose the majority of their habitats.

- There would be substantially fewer heat waves, downpours and droughts.

- The West Antarctic ice sheet might not kick into irreversible melting.

- And it just may be enough to save most of the world’s coral reefs from dying.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Non-native venomous spider found in state

OR OREGON CITY — The types of venomous spiders residing in Oregon have doubled.

State officials confirm that a brown widow spider, usually found in South Africa, Florida and Southern California, has recently been found living in Oregon City in northwestern Oregon. It's not clear how it arrived or if there are more.

Tom Valente, of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, told *The Oregonian/OregonLive* that there's no reason to panic but residents should be cautious. He said brown widows are subtropical, and that Oregon's cold weather will likely kill them.

Zoo: Baby rhino bites tip of man's finger

OH CINCINNATI — Officials at an Ohio zoo said a 1-year-old baby rhinoceros bit the tip of a man's finger during a behind-the-scenes tour at the facility.

Cincinnati Zoo spokeswoman Michelle Curley said the eastern black Rhino named Kendi nipped the man's right index finger during a visit to the zoo.

Curley said the man was treated for the minor injury and is expected to recover.

Boy dies after wind tosses bounce pillow

NE LINCOLN — A 2-year-old Nebraska boy was killed and his sister was injured when wind tore a giant inflatable from its moorings and tossed it 30 feet into the air before depositing it, with the toddler wrapped up inside, more than 100 feet away, authorities said Friday.

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office said Caleb Acuna

suffered severe head trauma in his ordeal Wednesday evening at JK's Pumpkin Patch, just north of Lincoln. Caleb was taken off life support Thursday afternoon.

His 5-year-old sister, Arra, suffered a broken arm.

The siblings were playing on the bounce pillow — similar to a bounce house, but without any walls — when an estimated 59 mph wind gust tore it from its moorings.

Alpacas hit, 1 killed by fleeing vehicle

FL JACKSONVILLE — The journey of 21 alpacas from New York to Florida was disturbed when a car fleeing Georgia authorities crossed the state line into Florida and hit the animals' trailer.

News outlets cited a Florida Highway Patrol report that said a police officer from Kingsland, Ga., tried to stop a car for speeding early Oct. 1. Troopers said the driver refused to pull over and entered an agriculture station in Florida, where it crashed into the back of the parked livestock trailer.

Police found the driver in nearby woods.

A search of the car revealed stolen checks and several garbage bags with stolen mail.

One alpaca was killed in the crash. The others were loaded onto another trailer to continue to their destination.

Floating trash bin sucks up river refuse

VA NORFOLK — A floating trash bin is now sucking up refuse in a Virginia river.

The *Virginian-Pilot* reported Oct. 1 that the new piece of technology is said to be the first of its kind along the East Coast.

It's called the Seabin, and it has been installed along the

Elizabeth River in downtown Norfolk near where the Battleship Wisconsin is docked.

A company based in Chesapeake, Wartsila Defense Inc., donated the bin and plans to donate more by January.

The bin works similar to a swimming pool skimmer. Water and trash are pulled into a filtered bag.

Rare calico lobster caught off coast

ME SCARBOROUGH — A Maine lobsterman caught a rare calico lobster off the coast of Scarborough last week.

Anthony Belanger said he and his bosses have never seen a lobster like it in their decades in the business. The *Kennebec Journal* reported the lobster currently resides at Belanger's workplace, Scarborough Fish & Lobster.

Belanger said the owners aren't sure if they will sell the lobster or donate it to the University of New England.

According to the University of Maine's Lobster Institute, calico lobsters occur about once in every 30 million lobsters.

Zoo gets African black mamba snake

IN INDIANAPOLIS — An African snake that's considered one of the world's deadliest will be slithering into the Indianapolis Zoo next year.

The zoo will add a black mamba and other exotic snakes to a new snake exhibit set to open at its Deserts Dome on Memorial Day weekend 2019.

The highly venomous snake can grow up to 14 feet, and is considered one of the world's fastest and most venomous snakes.

The new snake exhibit will also feature two of Asia's largest

snake species, reticulated and Burmese pythons, and several of Indiana's venomous snakes.

Officials disentangle bucks' antlers; 1 dies

MT KALISPELL — State wildlife officials in northwestern Montana disentangled the antlers of two bucks locked in a breeding season battle between Kalispell and Whitefish.

One of the bucks had died and wardens briefly tranquilized the other while they sawed an antler off the dead buck to free its foe.

Warden Bob Obst told the *Daily Inter Lake* he's seen bucks get their antlers locked up only twice in his 22 years on the job.

Obst said once the exhausted buck was freed it got up, jumped a fence and headed for the Flathead River.

Washington's hair among exhibit items

NY TICONDEROGA — A display of Benedict Arnold's hair at Fort Ticonderoga earlier this year proved so popular that curators dug into the museum's vast collection to see what other 18th-century curiosities they could find.

Among the items they turned up were locks of George Washington's hair and a rib bone from a woman killed by British-allied American Indians during the Revolutionary War's 1777 Saratoga campaign.

Those artifacts, Arnold's hair and five other items comprise "Pieces of Eight: Curiosities from the Collection," a new exhibit running through April at the tourist attraction.

From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
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Brewers rout Rockies, advance to NLCS

Associated Press

DENVER — The 38-year-old journeyman catcher looked to his left and spotted his Milwaukee Brewers teammates spilling out of the dugout. Erik Kratz then looked straight ahead and saw his reliever standing alone.

So he took off for Josh Hader to give him, “the biggest hug. ... Celebrate all your celebrations, because you never know if you’re going to get another one,” Kratz said.

Wade Miley pitched masterfully into the fifth inning before turning it over to a lights-out Milwaukee bullpen, Kratz kept up his torrid hitting and the Brewers beat the Colorado Rockies 6-0 in Game 3 on a cool, misty Sunday to sweep their NL Division Series.

The Brewers have won 11 straight dating to the regular season and advance to their first NL Championship Series since 2011. They will play the winner of the Dodgers-Braves series, starting Friday at Miller Park — by the time that game starts, it will have been nearly three weeks since Milwaukee lost.

“One at a time, man. That’s what we’ve been saying, one at a time,” MVP candidate Christian Yelich said. “Focus on the now.”

In between sprays of sparkling wine inside the clubhouse, a chant rose up for Yelich: “M-V-P! M-V-P!”

No surprise, after the season he had.

But then the team started chanting the same thing for Kratz.

“That might be the champagne talking,”

Kratz cracked.

With manager Craig Counsell making all the right moves, Milwaukee’s pitching staff held Nolan Arenado, Trevor Story and the bruising Rockies to a combined two runs and 14 hits in the series. Of the 28 innings in the matchup, Colorado scored in only one of them.

“The story of the series for us was certainly our pitching,” Counsell said.

It’s been that way for a couple weeks now, including Milwaukee’s 3-1 win over the Cubs at Wrigley Field last Monday in the NL Central tiebreaker. The next day, the Rockies outlasted the Cubs 2-1 in 13 innings to win the wild-card game.

Making his postseason debut, Miley toughed the elements — he wore short sleeves when the temperature was 46 degrees — and was even tougher on Rockies hitters. The wily left-hander allowed three hits over 4²/₃ innings.

A procession of five Brewers relievers allowed one hit the rest of the way. With two on, Hader got Ian Desmond to fly out to end the ninth and start an on-field celebration.

The first one to greet Hader was Kratz, who made his second postseason start and finished 3-for-4 with a double. Acquired from the New York Yankees in May for a player to be named, Kratz is making quite a name for himself in the playoffs. He went 5-for-8 in the series.

“I really feel like I’ve played my last game for the last 12 years because the game doesn’t owe anybody anything,”

Kratz said. “When you understand that you appreciate these times more than anything else.”

Orlando Arcia and Keon Broxton hit back-to-back homers in the ninth off Wade Davis to make it 6-0 and end any sort of drama. Jesus Aguilar had a solo shot in the fourth off German Marquez that Counsell sort of predicted.

The Brewers manager said Saturday, “Aggie is going to hit a home run in the playoffs, a big homer with men on base, I promise.”

Granted, it wasn’t with men on base. But it was still big and gave the Brewers a 2-0 lead.

That was more than enough against a Colorado offense that was shut out twice in the series and hit .146 against Milwaukee’s stingy pitching. Colorado’s three All-Stars — Story, Arenado and Charlie Blackmon — finished the series with a combined five hits.

“We got into the dance. We fought, but we might not have played our best,” Rockies manager Bud Black said. “Part of that is the opposition, how they played.”

Cool bats: The Rockies finished 1-for-17 with runners in scoring position.

“You saw a lot of guys chasing bad pitches, including myself,” outfielder Carlos Gonzalez said. “We were anxious. But at the same time, they have a great staff there. Their bullpen did a tremendous job.”

Braves hold off Dodgers to avoid sweep

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Freddie Freeman put the Atlanta Braves ahead, then watched from first base as they almost give away the lead — and possibly their whole season.

“My heart’s still pounding,” he said, moments after the last out. “That’s how we’ve been all year.”

Reliever Arodys Vizcaino escaped his own jam in a nervy ninth inning and the Braves stopped the Los Angeles Dodgers 6-5 Sunday night, avoiding a sweep and cutting their deficit in the NL Division Series to 2-1.

“I like our chances. We’ve got a uniform on, so we know we’ve got a chance,” Freeman said.

Rookie Ronald Acuna Jr. hit a grand slam that helped the Braves build an early 5-0 lead. After the Dodgers rallied to tie it,

Freeman homered in the sixth.

In the ninth, the Dodgers got runners on first and second with no outs after a single and a walk. Vizcaino came back from a 3-0 count to strike out slugger Max Muncy, and followed up by fanning Manny Machado on a wild pitch that moved the runners to second and third.

Because the Braves had already used their allotment of six mound visits, no one could go out to talk with the Atlanta closer, to give him a moment to settle down.

Not that he needed a break, apparently.

With the entire crowd at SunTrust Park standing, chanting and chopping, Vizcaino fanned a swinging Brian Dozier to end it.

“Credit to our guys for fighting back,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “... We had our chances. And those guys made some pitches and got out of some traffic, but our guys stressed them, got on base,

and gave ourselves an opportunity. But yeah, to take us over the top and take the lead again, we couldn’t get that one extra hit.”

Game 4 is Monday afternoon at Atlanta. **Mickey who?:** At 20, Acuna became the youngest player to hit a postseason grand slam — Mickey Mantle was 21 when he did it for the New York Yankees in the 1953 World Series.

Mantle? That’s a new name for Acuna. “No, I don’t recognize him,” he said through a translator. “I wasn’t even born.”

No sweep for you: Los Angeles was denied its second straight NLDS sweep after winning three straight over Arizona in 2017.

Record attendance: The attendance was 42,385, setting a SunTrust Park record in the second-year stadium’s first postseason game.

NFL roundup

Gano's 63-yard FG lifts Panthers to win

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Graham Gano connected on a career-long 63-yard field goal with 1 second remaining to lift the Carolina Panthers to a wild 33-31 victory over the New York Giants on Sunday.

Gano's winning kick, tied for second longest in league history, came after the Giants erased a 14-point deficit. Eli Manning hooked up with Saquon Barkley on a 15-yard touchdown pass down the right sideline — the rookie made a long dive into the end zone — to put the Giants in front 31-30 with 1:08 remaining.

Gano's previous career long was 59 yards. He was 4 for 4 on field goal attempts and has made 35 in a row at home dating back to 2016.

It's the second year in a row the Giants (1-4) have been beaten by a monster field goal at the end. In the third game last season, Jake Elliott of the Eagles kicked a 61-yarder for a 27-24 win.

Cam Newton threw for 237 yards and had two touchdowns and two interceptions. Christian McCaffrey had 93 yards from scrimmage and an 18-yard touchdown catch for the Panthers (3-1).

Texans 19, Cowboys 16 (OT): DeAndre Hopkins had 151 yards receiving, including a key reception in overtime, and Ka'imi Fairbairn's 36-yard field goal lifted host Houston.

The Cowboys got the ball first in OT but had to punt when Zach Cunningham stopped Ezekiel Elliott for no gain on third-and-1.

Browns 12, Ravens 9 (OT): Rookie Greg Joseph's 37-yard field goal — a knuckleball that barely cleared the crossbar — with 2 seconds left in overtime was the difference for host Cleveland.

After rookie quarterback Baker Mayfield drove the Browns (2-2-1) into position, Joseph, signed after Week 2

following Zane Gonzalez's release, lined his kick through the uprights to give Cleveland its first AFC North win in 19 tries.

Vikings 23, Eagles 21: Kirk Cousins threw for 301 yards and one touchdown, Linval Joseph returned a fumble 64 yards for a score and the visiting Vikings won a rematch of last season's NFC championship game.

Carson Wentz and the rest of Philadelphia's offense again struggled as the defending Super Bowl champions fell to 2-3.

Rams 33, Seahawks 31: Todd Gurley rushed for three touchdowns, Jared Goff passed for 321 yards and a score and the visiting Rams remained unbeaten.

Playing without their top two receivers due to concussions suffered late in the first half, the Rams leaned heavily on Goff, Gurley and wide receiver Robert Woods to escape Seattle and improve to 5-0.

Chargers 26, Raiders 10: Philip Rivers threw for 339 yards and two touchdowns, the 59th 300-yard passing game of Rivers' 15-year career and his eighth against the visiting Raiders. He completed 22 of 27 passes and had a passer rating of 143.4.

Melvin Gordon had 120 yards from scrimmage (58 rushing, 62 receiving). His 1-yard run during the second quarter gave Los Angeles (3-2) a 17-3 lead at halftime.

Cardinals 28, 49ers 18: Josh Rosen threw a 75-yard touchdown pass to fellow rookie Christian Kirk on Arizona's first play from scrimmage and the visiting Cardinals used five takeaways to get their first win.

The Cardinals (1-4) were unable to do much more on offense the rest of the way, with their only other scores coming on Josh Bynes' fumble return for a TD and David Johnson TD runs on two short drives after

turnovers by the 49ers (1-4).

Chiefs 30, Jaguars 14: The Chiefs' beleaguered defense forced Jacksonville quarterback Blake Bortles into five turnovers, including a pick-6 by defensive tackle Chris Jones, and host Kansas City merely had to supplement with the NFL's highest-scoring offense.

Patrick Mahomes threw for 313 yards and ran for a touchdown, though he also threw his first two picks of the season. Kareem Hunt added 87 yards and a touchdown on the ground as the Chiefs (5-0) marched all over the league's top-ranked defense at soggy Arrowhead Stadium.

Tyreek Hill, frequently matched up with the Jaguars' Jalen Ramsey in an entertaining one-on-one affair, had four catches for 61 yards in a game that grew testy on both sides.

Lions 31, Packers 23: Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes and LeGarrette Blount ran for two scores. Host Detroit (2-3) earned a win it desperately needed under first-year coach Matt Patricia, going into its bye week.

Green Bay (2-2-1) could not overcome uncharacteristic mistakes by veteran kicker Mason Crosby and two-time NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers, who lost two fumbles for just the third time in his 14-year career.

Crosby missed a career-high four field goals in one game and botched an extra point to boot.

Jets 34, Broncos 16: Isaiah Crowell ran for a franchise-record 219 yards, including a 77-yard touchdown, and Sam Darnold threw two TD passes to Robby Anderson, including a 76-yarder for host New York.

Darnold also had a TD toss to Terrelle Pryor that sealed the game late in the fourth quarter for the Jets (2-3). The rookie quarterback finished 10-for-22 for 198 yards and the three scores with an interception to help New York to its first win since the season opener.

Bengals 27, Dolphins 17: Michael Johnson returned an interception for the tying score, and Sam Hubbard went 19 yards with a fumble for the clinching touchdown, rallying the host Bengals from a 17-point deficit.

With Joe Mixon back from knee surgery, the defense making more game-turning plays in the fourth quarter, Cincinnati (4-1) pulled off its biggest comeback of the season and extended its best start since its 2015 playoff season.

Steelers 41, Falcons 17: Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown connected on two second-half touchdowns and the host Steelers pulled away from the Falcons (1-4).

Roethlisberger finished 19-for-29 for 250 yards and three scores, including a 9-yard strike to Brown in the third quarter and a 47-yard dart to the All-Pro wide receiver early in the fourth as Pittsburgh (2-2-1) put together its most complete performance of the season.

Brown caught six passes for 101 yards. His two touchdowns gave him 64 in his career, moving him past Hall of Famer John Stallworth and into second place on the franchise's all-time TD reception list.

Bills 13, Titans 12: Stephen Hauschka hit a 46-yard field goal as time expired. Buffalo's defense forced three turnovers, and LeSean McCoy broke from a September slump with a season-best 85 yards rushing. McCoy sparked the decisive drive with a 13-yard catch on third-and-3. And backup running back Chris Ivory had a 9-yard run in getting the host Bills across midfield.

Rookie quarterback Josh Allen scored on a 14-yard touchdown run but was held in check as a passer. He finished 10-for-19 for 82 yards and an interception.

Buffalo (2-3) bounced back from a 22-0 loss at Green Bay last weekend.

Elliott thinking Cup after win at Dover

Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Chase Elliott had been burdened by lofty expectations that come as the son of a Hall of Fame driver and the replacement of a four-time NASCAR champion.

As the close calls and frustrating finishes mounted, and wins eluded him, the 22-year-old Elliott could feel the pressure tighten each time he slipped into the No. 9 Chevrolet.

But once Elliott raced to his first Cup win, the second victory wasn't far behind, and now the Hendrick Motorsports star pegged as NASCAR's next most popular driver is thinking championship.

"There isn't any reason why we can't make a run at this deal," Elliott said.

Elliott stayed off pit road during a late caution and avoided similar disasters that struck the Stewart-Haas Racing drivers to pull away and win in overtime Sunday at Dover International Speedway. Elliott earned an automatic berth into the next round of the NASCAR Cup playoffs.

Eight races after his first win at Watkins Glen, Elliott was back in Victory Lane — another needed dose of good news for NASCAR following the rousing success of the roval race last week at Charlotte.

Elliott bounded over the wall and high-fived Jeff Gordon, the driver he replaced in 2016, and shared a big hug with team owner Rick Hendrick. A year ago at Dover, Elliott coughed up the lead with two laps left to Kyle Busch, in what he called the most crushing defeat of his career.

He left that race 0-for-70 in Cup.

Elliott rubbed his head and leaned

against his car, crestfallen as he replayed the final laps in his mind. Jimmie Johnson walked over to offer some encouragement and let Elliott vent.

It was one big celebration on Sunday.

"When he won the race at Watkins Glen, it was like the world was lifted off his shoulders," Hendrick said.

Bill Elliott did not attend the race, but with more races like this one, it's not hard to imagine son eventually eclipsing dad's mark of one Cup championship.

"I think this only elevates his game," Gordon said.

Elliott's win means he can breathe a bit easier as the series shifts to treacherous Talladega, where anything can happen on the superspeedway. The top eight drivers after the next two races move on to the next round and Aric Almirola, Clint Bowyer, Kyle Larson and Alex Bowman are stuck below the cutoff with two races left in the round of 12.

"We've had so many opportunities and been so close and had the car to win and been in position and I don't know, it just seems to not come through," Almirola said.

Denny Hamlin was second, followed by playoff driver Joey Logano. NASCAR playoff drivers took 10 of the top 15 spots.

SHR was in control with Kevin Harvick early and Almirola late.

Harvick led 286 laps and was on pace to sweep the Dover races until tire issues derailed his run and he finished sixth. Almirola, who led 64 laps late and had his second career Cup win in sight, was running sixth off a restart when he got loose and connected with Brad Keselowski. That

triggered a multi-car wreck that collected championship contenders and brought out the red flag to force overtime.

Jimmie's ride: Hendrick said there could be an announcement in the next month for Johnson's new 2019 sponsor.

Lowe's, which had been on the hood for all seven championships, said this year it was leaving the sport and Hendrick had yet to find another sponsor.

"It's really hard when you have someone that's so successful but they've been tied to one brand for a long time," Hendrick said.

Johnson's bid for a record eighth NASCAR Cup title ended last week when he was eliminated from the playoffs. His No. 48 Chevrolet was forced to the garage at Dover during the pace laps because of mechanical woes and he finished 36th.

Johnson, who holds the Dover record with 11 wins, was an early hit when he dropped off 12 kids' bikes at Martin Truex Jr's hauler as an apology of sorts for triggering a wreck last week at Charlotte that denied both drivers a shot at a win.

Big bet: Elliott had 12-1 odds in the first-ever race where legalized sports betting happened at the track.

Dover International Speedway opened its on-site betting kiosk this weekend and became the only track that allowed sports gambling on its property. NASCAR does not prohibit its drivers or team members from betting on the race.

NASCAR President Steve Phelps said the series is set to implement guidelines in the rulebook on sports betting in 2019.

NHL roundup

Rielly's OT goal, Tavares hat trick lift Leafs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — After John Tavares went off and Auston Matthews and Patrick Kane staged a memorable duel, Morgan Rielly got the last word on a wild Sunday night.

Rielly scored 19 seconds into overtime, Tavares had three goals and the Toronto Maple Leafs spoiled Chicago's home opener with a 7-6 victory over the Blackhawks.

"Top to bottom we had contribution everywhere," Tavares

said.

Matthews had two goals and two assists for Toronto in the opener of a four-game trip. Rielly also had two assists and Kasper Kapanen finished with a goal and an assist, helping the Maple Leafs bounce back from Saturday night's 5-3 loss to Ottawa.

Garret Sparks, who is from the Chicago suburb of Elmhurst, made 25 saves to get the win in his first NHL game since 2016.

"I went up against my child-

hood heroes tonight and there's nothing cooler than that," the 25-year-old Sparks said.

It was Tavares' first hat trick since he agreed to a \$77 million, seven-year contract with Toronto in July, choosing his hometown team over several other suitors in free agency. The contract ramped up expectations for the Leafs, and the talented center is already having an effect on his new franchise.

Hurricanes 8, Rangers 5:

Warren Foegele had two goals and an assist, Andrei Svechnikov got his first career goal to snap a tie midway through the third period, and host Carolina rallied to beat New York.

Kings 4, Red Wings 2: Alex Iafallo scored two goals and Ilya Kovalchuk had his first two NHL assists in nearly 5½ years, leading Los Angeles to its first victory of the season.

Captain Anze Kopitar and Paul LaDue also scored for the Kings.