

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US troops using white phosphorus in Iraq

The Washington Post

U.S. forces are using white phosphorus munitions in their fight against the Islamic State group based on pictures and videos posted online by the Pentagon, but it is unclear exactly how the controversial armament is being employed.

White phosphorus shells are intended to make smokescreens or signals for advancing troops. When launched against soldiers and civilians, however, the munition can cause severe burn wounds that can be dangerous for medical personnel treating the injured.

International humanitarian law stipulates that white phosphorus munitions should only be used in areas devoid of civilians. Even using it against enemy combatants has raised concerns, given that the munitions can cause horrific injuries.

Photos posted on a Pentagon-managed public affairs website show a U.S. Army artillery unit in Iraq using white phosphorous munitions, specifically M825A1 155-mm rounds. The M825A1 shell can create a smokescreen that lasts about 10 minutes.

Col. Joseph Scrocca, the public affairs director for the U.S.-led coalition, said Wednesday that the rounds are used for "screening and signaling."

"Coalition forces use these rounds with caution and always in accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict. When M825A1 rounds are employed, they are done so in areas free of civilians and never against enemy forces," Scrocca said in an email.

Syrian official: Truce 'not dead'

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said in a TV interview broadcast Monday that an internationally brokered cease-fire for Syria is still viable, as rescue workers in Aleppo cleaned up from what they said were the worst airstrikes on rebel-held areas of the northern city in five years.

Al-Moallem, in the interview on Mayadeen TV from New York, also said President Bashar Assad's administration is prepared to take part in a unity government, incorporating elements from the opposition, an offer that has been rejected in the past by his opponents.

The interview comes amid spiraling violence in Syria, particularly around the contested city of Aleppo. According to opposition activists, more than 200 civilians have been killed in the past week under a sustained aerial campaign that U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura called one of the worst of the 5½-year-old war. The United Nations Security Council convened an emergency meeting but failed to take any action because of deep divisions between Russia and the Western powers.

"What Russia is sponsoring and doing is not counterterrorism, it's barbarism," said U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power. "It's apocalyptic what is being done in eastern Aleppo."

Al-Moallem accused the U.S., Britain and France of convening the Security Council meeting a day earlier in order to support "terrorists"

inside Syria. But he said ongoing communications between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov meant a truce agreement brokered two weeks ago is "not dead."

Syria's military declared the cease-fire ended one week ago.

The spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin said the cease-fire in Syria is ineffective, but that Moscow is not losing hope for a political solution to the country's crisis.

However, Dmitry Peskov told reporters Monday that the Kremlin is concerned that "terrorists are using the cease-fire regime to regroup, to replenish their arsenals and for obvious preparations to carry out attacks."

Peskov also took issue with harsh criticism by the United States and Great Britain over Russia's actions in Syria.

He said Russia considers the tone of the criticism unacceptable and "such rhetoric is capable of causing serious harm to the resolution process" in Syria.

Al-Moallem's comments came as a second group of rebel gunmen and their families began evacuating from an opposition neighborhood in central Syria this month.

Some 120 gunmen and their families are expected to leave the al-Waer neighborhood in the central city of Homs as part of an agreement to restore the government's authority over the neighborhood, Homs Governor Talal Barazi said.

Afghan commandos raid Taliban prison

BY CHAD GARLAND
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

Afghan security forces on Sunday liberated 101 people held in a Taliban prison in southern Helmand province, officials said.

The provincial governor's office said commandos killed five Taliban fighters during the operation. The prison, run by Taliban commander Qari Feda Mohammad, held civilians, Afghan soldiers and police officers, the governor's office said.

Also on Sunday, security

forces foiled a would-be suicide car bombing on the outskirts of the Afghan capital.

The Kabul police shot and killed the driver of a car packed with explosives in the Hussain Khel village of Bagrami district Sunday night, before he could reach an unknown target, police said in a statement Monday.

Officials had been tipped off to a possible bombing. They identified the potential attacker and told him to stop his car, but he was killed when he tried to flee.

The Taliban have not pub-

licly commented on either the prison rescue or the foiled car bombing, which come weeks after a series of complex attacks shook Kabul.

On Sept. 5, at least two dozen people were killed during a twin bombing attack on the Defense Ministry; an attack later that day on the offices of an aid organization claimed the lives of one civilian and three insurgents.

At the end of August, insurgents seized the campus of the American University of Afghanistan, killing 13.

US leader: Maritime drills with S. Korea a message to North

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korean navies conducted precision strike drills with guided-missile destroyers, submarines and anti-submarine helicopters in a display of military might against a growing threat from the North.

Monday's exercise in the Sea of Japan marked the first time the allies have operated together in waters to the east of the peninsula near the North Korean border, said a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

An unusually strong statement stressed that the operation was meant as a clear warning to Pyongyang. Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea and Task Force 78, said the exercise showcased the allies' "unwavering strength and resolve."

"We work side by side with our (South Korean) partners every day; we are by their side today at sea, and we will remain by their side to defend against North Korea's unprovoked acts of aggression," he said.

The vessels showcased the ability to defend against surface, subsurface and ballistic missile threats, the statement said. Participants included the USS Spruance, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer; South Korean Aegis destroyers; submarines; anti-submarine helicopters; and U.S. and South Korean patrol aircraft.

Washington and Seoul regularly conduct joint war games but insist they are defensive in nature despite North Korea's claims the drills are a rehearsal for an invasion.

The drills took place about two weeks after North Korea carried out another nuclear test — its fifth since 2006 and the second this year. The underground blast highlighted a year of rising tensions as Pyongyang test-fired several ballistic missiles in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions and economic sanctions.

North Korea also has carried out several missile tests with increasing success and has shown progress in efforts to develop submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

"Our (South Korea-U.S.) alliance will counter the North Korean nuclear development and SLBM threats with determination," Vice Adm. Lee, Kisik, commander of the Republic of Korea Fleet, said in the joint statement.

The U.S. military also conducted an aerial show of force after the Sept. 9 nuclear test, sending Guam-based B-1B Lancers in two South Korea flyovers and landing one at Osan Air Base, south of Seoul, for the first time in two decades.

That supersonic bomber was put on public display Saturday and flew off the peninsula Sunday, military officials said.

Marines ground Harriers on Okinawa after crash

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marines have grounded all AV-8B Harriers on Okinawa after one of the jets crashed last week east of the southern Japanese island.

The decision to observe a "temporary operational pause" was made by Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, III Marine Expeditionary Force commander, and announced Friday evening, a Marine Corps statement said.

Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga had demanded the jets be grounded pending the completion of an investigation.

"It is common practice for units to execute operational pauses following a significant mishap," the Marines' statement said.

"During this period, every AV-8B will be inspected to ensure they meet operational readiness standards."

The cause of the crash remains under investigation. It occurred Thursday while the Harrier, which was assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, was on a routine training mission after taking off from Kadena Air Base.

The pilot ejected prior to impact and was rescued by the Air Force's 33rd Rescue Squadron, aided by the Japan Coast Guard. The pilot has since been released from the hospital.

Speaking on Okinawa over the weekend, Japanese Defense Minister Tomomi Inada said she had asked U.S. forces to inform her before Harrier flights resume.

Okinawans sue Japan to stop helipads from being completed

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Citing noise concerns, residents from two Okinawan villages have filed a lawsuit against the Japanese government to end construction of U.S. military helipads in a remote training area.

The landing zones are being built to relocate and consolidate the U.S. military presence in the northern Okinawa jungles so that 4,000 of the Northern Training Area's 7,542 hectares can be handed back to Japanese control in the largest land return since 1972.

Protesters have descended on the project in an effort to force Tokyo to work harder to reduce U.S. troop numbers on the island.

In the suit filed last week, plaintiffs also applied for a provisional injunction to suspend construction.

Of the 33 plaintiffs, 31 come from the Takae community of Higashi, while the others come from the Aha communities of Kunigami village. Both villages are near two helipads completed in 2014 and handed over to the U.S. military in January 2015, according to

Japan's Ministry of Defense.

Plaintiffs expect a verdict on the injunction within months but expect the lawsuit to take years.

"If and when all of [the helicopter landing zones] are completed, this entire community of 150 residents will become unlivable," said Yukine Ashimine, 45, a Takae resident who added that her house shakes from the sound of the helicopters, frightening her family.

"Ospreys fly so low over our home every day until almost 11 p.m. at night," she said. "We, those who raise our voice by joining in the litigation, may be small in number, but I am certain that it is the unanimous wish of all of the residents that the construction of the helipads is stopped."

The return of the acreage was agreed upon during bilateral negotiations in 1996 and included in the Final Report of the Special Action Committee on Okinawa to reduce the U.S. military footprint on the island prefecture.

Progress has been slow, and only two of six helipads have been built. Now, with protests and what could be a protracted legal battle, the land's return is uncertain.

9 wounded in Houston; shooter killed

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A quiet Monday morning in a Houston neighborhood turned violent, as authorities said a lawyer who had issues with his law firm shot randomly at drivers, hitting six people, one critically, before he was shot and killed by police. Another three people had injuries from glass or debris.

The first report of the shootings came in at about 6:30 a.m., police Chief Martha Montalvo said at a news conference, and when officers arrived, the suspect began firing at them. Montalvo did not identify the man.

Numerous weapons were found at the scene, a bomb squad robot examined a Porsche that's believed to be the shooter's and bomb squad officers also were scouring the suspect's residence, Montalvo said.

The street in front of the condo complex, which is near the affluent enclave of West University Place, was still blocked off with police tape late Monday morning. Several cars with bullet holes and shattered windows were at a strip mall parking lot near the condo complex.

Jennifer Molleda's husband was among those hurt by glass. They live in the same condo complex as the shooter, who Molleda said brandished an assault-style weapon a few weeks go at roofers in the complex. She said she didn't know the suspect very well but described him as quiet.

"He's a normal, average Joe," she said.

One witness, Antwon Wilson, 30, inadvertently drove into the shooting scene after dropping off his girlfriend at work and

could "literally hear the gunfire flying." He managed to flee and escape injury.

Of the nine people hurt, Houston Fire Department spokesman Ruy Lozano said, six were shot and three had minor injuries related to glass. Montalvo said one person was hospitalized in critical condition and another in serious condition.

Mayor Sylvester Turner, who is in Cuba for a trade mission, told KTRK-TV that the lawyer was "disgruntled" and "either fired or had a bad relationship with this law firm," Turner said.

"The investigation is active. It's very, very early. We want to make sure there is no other gunman. We are checking every angle, I can assure you," Turner told the TV station.

MP-to-civilian police fast track eyed in Nebraska

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Crime Commission is considering a rule change that would make it easier for military police officers to become civilian enforcers of the law.

The proposal would let the state's four law enforcement academies fast-track certification for former military police officers whose training is consistent with Nebraska requirements, the Lincoln Journal Star reported.

The proposal would give the state's police departments and sheriff's offices another recruiting tool at a sensitive time for law enforcement agencies amid protests over treatment of minorities.

Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner's department is trying to find replacements for three deputies who will retire in six months, and he said he favors "anything that helps the process to be a little bit more streamlined."

Hiring and training new recruits can take up to a year, but the proposed rule change would allow MPs and officers from other states or federal agencies to bypass much of the 16-week training course at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island.

A public hearing on the proposal is set for Oct. 14. If the commission were to rule favorably on the proposal, it would require approval by the governor and attorney general to become part of the state's regulations.

Trump, Clinton deadlocked in pre-debate poll

Bloomberg

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are locked in a tied two-way race for the presidency as they head to Hofstra University in New York on Monday night for one of the most highly anticipated debates in modern politics.

The Republican and Democratic nominees each get 46 percent of likely voters in a head-to-head contest in the latest Bloomberg Politics national poll, while Trump gets 43 percent to Clinton's 41 percent when third-party candidates are included.

Clinton faces higher expectations as tens of millions of people tune in for a television spectacle that could reach Super Bowl viewership levels. About half, 49 percent, say they anticipate the former secretary of state will perform better, while 39 percent say that for Trump, a real-estate developer and former TV personality.

Ann Selzer, the Iowa-based pollster who oversaw the survey, said there are signs that Clinton's margins with women and young voters have eroded during the past three months, helping to explain Trump's gains.

Clinton had a 6-point advantage on Trump in the two-way race in August and a 4-point advantage when third-party candidates Gary Johnson and Jill Stein were included. She had a 12-point edge on Trump in June, when Johnson also was included.

The Democrat had a 26-point lead among female likely voters in June, when she was tested against both Trump and Johnson. She has a 13-point advantage in this poll when measured against only Trump, getting 52 percent to his 39 percent — similar to her 15-point advantage in August.

Among likely voters younger than 35, Clinton gets 50 percent to Trump's 40 per-

cent, down from her 29-point margin in August in the two-way race and from her 26-point margin in June in the three-way race.

The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 points for top-line numbers, with 1,002 likely voters interviewed, and is higher among subgroups. It was taken Wednesday through Saturday, after Clinton took political heat for calling half of Trump's supporters "deplorables" and for disclosing she had pneumonia after a video caught her falling ill at a Sept. 11 ceremony.

Both major nominees face skepticism from a majority of likely voters about their trustworthiness and their willingness to tell the public everything it wants to know to decide if they're fit to serve. More than seven in 10 rate Clinton's truthfulness as "just fair" or "poor," while more than six in 10 say that of Trump.

"It will be hard for either candidate to criticize the other too harshly on this form of integrity," Selzer said ahead of the debate. "They are the pot and the kettle."

About two-thirds of likely voters, 69 percent, say Trump should maintain 40 years of tradition for presidential nominees and release his tax returns.

Trump is rated better than Clinton on physical health, with 61 percent calling his "excellent" or "good" compared with 36 percent who give Clinton good marks. Just 8 percent call Trump's health "poor," compared with 31 percent for Clinton. Still, half of likely voters say they aren't bothered at all that Clinton didn't immediately tell the public about her pneumonia.

After Trump recently acknowledged President Barack Obama's U.S. birth for the first time, three-fourths of likely voters say Obama was born in the U.S.

Japan warns China against more military activity in East China Sea

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's top government spokesman warned China on Monday against expanding its military activity to the skies over disputed East China Sea islands after eight Chinese warplanes flew near the area over the weekend.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Japan scrambled at least one fighter jet after

the planes passed over the Miyako Strait on Sunday.

The aircraft, believed to be two fighter jets, four bombers and two reconnaissance aircraft, did not violate Japanese airspace during the flight, Suga said.

Chinese media reports said the flights were part of an exercise involving about 40 aircraft.

Suga acknowledged that the

flights might be part of an exercise but said Japan would respond firmly to any violation of Japanese airspace. "The government of Japan continues to watch the Chinese military's activity, which has become expansive and more active, while carrying out our surveillance activity," Suga said. "We are determined to defend our land, territorial waters and the skies."

Toll rises after boat capsizes off Egypt

Associated Press

CAIRO — President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said on Monday that Egyptians must join hands with his government to prevent a repeat of the tragedy that struck last week when a Europe-bound boat carrying hundreds of migrants sank in the Mediterranean off the Egyptian coast, killing at least 170 people.

In his first public comments on the incident, el-Sissi said the government could not alone safeguard the country's porous land and sea borders.

"As a state, along with its institutions, we are concerned and committed to safeguarding our borders and prevent this, but society must contribute to the effort so this is never repeated."

Many of the Egyptians on board the boat were unescorted minors or single men in their early 20s looking for work in western Europe.

The fact that they were willing to risk their lives to reach Europe has brought into focus Egypt's harsh economic realities, with many of the country's 91 million people struggling to cope with double-digit unemployment and rising inflation, among other economic woes.

El-Sissi spoke shortly after a Health Ministry official said a total of 170 bodies had been pulled from the waters five days after the boat sank, an increase of eight bodies from the last official count. The death toll was expected to rise as many bodies are believed to be trapped inside the boat's refrigerator, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The boat is believed to be lying at a depth of 49 feet about 11 miles from Egyptian shores.

Mohammed Sultan, governor of the coastal Beheira province, told The Associated Press that a vessel was being sent by British Petroleum with specialized equipment to help lift the 80-ton fishing boat.

Report: China probes N. Korean bank

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese authorities are investigating a North Korean bank suspected of financing its government's imports of goods that might be used by the North's nuclear weapons program, a South Korean newspaper reported Monday.

Kwangson Banking Corp. was ordered closed under United Nations sanctions imposed in March in response to the North's nuclear tests but kept operating in secret in the border city of Dandong, Joongang Daily reported.

Beijing has long been North Korea's main source of aid and diplomatic support but is showing frustration with Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear weapons in defiance of foreign pressure.

China signed on in March to the U.N. trade sanctions and has tightened controls on cross-border flows of goods.

This month, Chinese authorities disclosed they were investigating the Hongxiang Group in Dandong, which U.S. and South Korean researchers

said sold the North materials with possible military uses.

The government of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un conducted its fifth nuclear test on Sept. 9. That raised concern abroad that it was moving closer to its goal of a nuclear-armed missile that could one day strike the U.S. mainland.

Kwangson Bank is an affiliate of North Korea's state-run Foreign Trade Bank, which was cited by the U.S. Treasury Department in 2009 for financing entities supplying equipment with possible military uses to Pyongyang, according to Joongang Daily.

Hongxiang is suspected of unspecified "serious economic crimes," according to earlier announcements by police in Liaoning and China's Foreign Ministry.

The Center for Advanced Defense Studies in Washington and the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul said in a report in August that the company supplied aluminum oxide and other materials used in processing nuclear bomb fuel.

Hollande vows to close Calais migrant camp

Associated Press

CALAIS, France — The migrant camp in Calais must be dismantled by the end of the year, French President Francois Hollande said Monday in an attempt to highlight his government's efforts to tackle the issue ahead of next year's presidential election.

Hollande said the camp is a "humanitarian emergency."

Authorities say about 7,000 people live in squalid conditions near the port of Calais hoping to

get to Britain; aid groups say the number is closer to 10,000.

Hollande, who is running for re-election, is facing harsh criticism from conservative and far-right rivals who see the camp as a symbol of his failure to deal with Europe's migrant crisis.

Former President Nicolas Sarkozy, who is competing to win the conservative primary, promised last week in Calais he would re-establish strict border controls all around the country.

In a speech to police forces se-

curing the area, Hollande vowed to shut down the camp "with method and determination" so new camps don't appear.

"We must guarantee a durable and effective sealing of the French-British border," he said, insisting that British authorities must also do "their part."

Hollande reaffirmed the government's plan to disperse Calais migrants into centers across France when he visited one of France's migrant reception centers in Tours.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man cuts off someone's pinky, gets prison time

MA FALL RIVER — A Massachusetts man has been sentenced to prison for cutting off another man's finger.

Bristol County District Attorney Thomas Quinn said John Soares, 43, of Fall River, was sentenced Friday to 10 to 15 years behind bars. Soares was convicted by a jury earlier this month of mayhem and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Prosecutors said it happened March 28, 2012, after an employee at Columbia Towing in Fall River was accused by his employer of stealing money from the business. He was ordered to write a confession, but he refused.

Soares arrived soon after and spoke with the management before bringing the man into a garage, where Soares used a pair of pipe cutters to remove the man's right pinky finger. Soares then left, taking the finger. It was never recovered.

Police: Pot brownies sicken 3 kids at school

UT SALT LAKE CITY — Police said they're investigating after a sixth-grade student brought to school marijuana-laced brownies that sent three kids to the hospital.

Police and school officials said Friday the girl gave or sold the brownies to seven students on the playground before classes.

Authorities said the kids knew the brownies contained the drug. At least two sixth-graders and a third, older girl remained hospitalized after ingesting them on Thursday, though their conditions weren't

considered life-threatening.

Police are investigating how the girl got the brownies she brought from home to Lincoln Elementary in Salt Lake City.

District spokesman Jason Olsen said officials sent a letter to parents after learning of the incident, and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Town won't OK \$369K settlement with ex-cop

NJ CAPE MAY — Officials in a Jersey shore town won't sign off yet on a proposed \$369,000 settlement with a gay former police officer who filed a discrimination lawsuit.

The Press of Atlantic City reported that Cape May City Manager Bruce MacLeod issued a statement saying city officials would review the case, but they haven't decided if the settlement is in the "best interest of the taxpayers."

The announcement came after the city council tabled a vote on whether to approve the payment to Steven Pascal.

Pascal claimed in his 2013 suit that the police department created a hostile, anti-gay work environment and unjustly fired him.

Officials have said the decision was taking longer than expected because the city's insurer wouldn't pick up the full payment. The city would have to pay \$50,000 under the proposed settlement.

New law allows rescue of pets from hot cars

CA SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown has signed into law a bill that allows Californians to rescue animals trapped in hot cars without fear of prosecution.

The bill, signed on Saturday,

lets citizens smash car windows to set the pets free as long as there is no other way to rescue them.

That means rescuers can break into the car if the animal appears to be in peril, the car is locked and law enforcement is not arriving quickly enough.

The rescuer must stay at the scene until law enforcement responds to the situation.

The bill was introduced after a series of incidents in which dogs died after being left in closed cars on hot days.

Man sentenced for peeping Tom incidents

ME BRUNSWICK — A Maine man who pleaded guilty to several peeping Tom incidents around Bowdoin College has been sentenced to 16 months in jail.

Stephen McIntire, 55, of Bath, pleaded guilty to two counts of violation of privacy. He's already in jail for 33 months after violating probation following his conviction for similar allegations at the Hyde School in Bath.

Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Liberman said Thursday in a statement that the combined sentences add up to four years in prison.

McIntire was arrested in Bath last November after a woman found him sitting on her couch, exposing himself. Those charges ultimately were dropped, but investigators uncovered evidence that McIntire had been recording women through windows on and off the Bowdoin campus.

Deputy who saved man from truck fire honored

OH MORaine — An Ohio sheriff's deputy

is being recognized for pulling a man from a burning truck after a crash.

Jody Green has been named the Butler County deputy of the year. He and several other co-workers were honored at the sheriff's office last month with an awards ceremony.

The school resource officer was on his way to Montgomery County in June to pick up a prisoner when he saw a tractor-trailer swerve, causing a crash involving two cars and a pole.

Green said the truck came to a stop and then caught fire. He ran to the truck and, with the help of bystanders, dragged the man away from the blaze.

The 17-year veteran and school resource officer said he was in the right place at the right time.

Man who threw urine at McDonald's sought

CA VICTORVILLE — Police are looking for help finding a man they say threw urine onto a Southern California McDonald's employee after an argument about his order.

Police Det. Mike Mason told KNBC-TV that on the night of July 26, three people ordered bundt cakes at the drive-thru of a McDonald's in Victorville.

Mason said a man in the back seat began arguing with the employee at the window when the order cost a dollar more than expected. The customers still bought the cakes.

About 10 minutes later, one of the men returned to the window, screamed at the worker and threw a large cup of liquid at her. It later was determined to be urine.

The man left in a small, compact, four-door vehicle.

From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Palmer leaves behind unrivaled legacy

Associated Press

Arnold Palmer charged across the golf course and into America's living rooms with a go-for-broke style that made a country club sport popular for the everyman. At ease with presidents and the public, he was on a first-name basis with both.

Through his remarkable life, he never lost that personal touch. That's what made him the King.

Palmer died Sunday in Pittsburgh. He was 87.

"Arnold transcended the game of golf," Jack Nicklaus said. "He was more than a golfer or even great golfer. He was an icon. He was a legend. Arnold was someone who was a pioneer in his sport. He took the game from one level to a higher level, virtually by himself. Along the way, he had millions of adoring fans."

"He was the king of our sport and always will be."

Alastair Johnston, the CEO of Arnold Palmer Enterprises, said Palmer was admitted to the UPMC Hospital on Thursday for some cardiovascular work and weakened over the last few days.

The memories of Palmer went beyond his golf and to the people who couldn't take their eyes off him.

"He was an iconic American who treated people with respect and warmth, and built a unique legacy through his ability to engage with fans," Johnston said.

President Barack Obama tweeted about Palmer's death, saying: "Here's to The King who was as extraordinary on the links as he was generous to others. Thanks for the memories, Arnold."

Palmer ranked among the most important figures in golf history, and it went well beyond his seven major championships and 62 PGA Tour wins. His good looks, devilish grin and hard-charging style of play made the elite sport appealing to one and all. And it helped that he arrived about the same time as television moved into most households, a perfect fit

that sent golf to unprecedented popularity.

"If it wasn't for Arnold, golf wouldn't be as popular as it is now," Tiger Woods said in 2004 when Palmer played in his last Masters. "He's the one who basically brought it to the forefront on TV. If it wasn't for him and his excitement, his flair, the way he played, golf probably would not have had that type of excitement."

"And that's why he's the king."

Beyond his golf, Palmer was a pioneer in sports marketing, paving the way for scores of other athletes to reap in millions from endorsements. Some four decades after his last PGA Tour win, he ranked among the highest-earners in golf.

"It is not an exaggeration to say there would be no modern-day PGA Tour without Arnold Palmer. There would be no PGA Tour Champions without Arnold Palmer. There would be no Golf Channel without Arnold Palmer," PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem said in a statement. On the golf course, Palmer was an icon not for how often he won, but the way he did it.

He would hitch up his pants, drop a cigarette and attack the flags. With powerful hands wrapped around the golf club, Palmer would slash at the ball with all of his might, twist that muscular neck and squint to see where it went.

"When he hits the ball, the earth shakes," Gene Littler once said.

Palmer rallied from seven shots behind to win a U.S. Open. He blew a seven-shot lead on the back nine to lose a U.S. Open.

He was never dull.

"I'm pleased that I was able to do what I did from a golfing standpoint," Palmer said in 2008, two years after he played in his last official tournament. "I would like to think that I left them more than just that."

He left behind a gallery known as "Arnie's Army," which began at Augusta National with a small group of soldiers from nearby Fort Gor-

don, and grew to include a legion of fans from every corner of the globe.

Palmer stopped playing the Masters in 2004 and hit the ceremonial tee shot every year until 2016, when age began to take a toll and he struggled with his balance.

Palmer played at least one PGA Tour event every season for 52 consecutive years, ending with the 2004 Masters. He spearheaded the growth of the 50-and-older Champions Tour, winning 10 times and drawing some of the biggest crowds.

He was equally successful off with golf course design, a wine collection, and apparel that included his famous logo of an umbrella. He bought the Bay Hill Club & Lodge upon making his winter home in Orlando, Florida, and in 2007 the PGA Tour changed the name of the tournament to the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

The combination of iced tea and lemonade is known as an "Arnold Palmer." Padraig Harrington recalls eating in an Italian restaurant in Miami when he heard a customer order one.

"Think about it," Harrington said. "You don't go up there and order a 'Tiger Woods' at the bar. You can go up there and order an 'Arnold Palmer' in this country and the barman — he was a young man — knew what the drink was. That's in a league of your own."

Palmer was born Sept. 10, 1929, in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, the oldest of four children. His father, Deacon, became the greenskeeper at Latrobe Country Club in 1921 and the club pro in 1933.

He had two loves as a boy — strapping on his holster with toy guns to play "Cowboys and Indians," and playing golf. It was on the golf course that Palmer grew to become so strong, with barrel arms and hands of iron.

"When I was 6 years old, my father put me on a steel-wheeled tractor," he recalled in a 2011 interview with the AP. "I had to stand up to turn the wheel. That's one thing made me strong. The other thing

was I pushed mowers. In those days, there were no motors on anything except the tractor. The mowers to cut greens with, you pushed.

"And it was this," he said, patting his arms, "that made it go."

Palmer joined the PGA Tour in 1955 and won the Canadian Open for the first of his 62 titles. He went on to win four green jackets at Augusta National, along with the British Open in 1961 and 1962 and the U.S. Open in 1960, perhaps the most memorable of his seven majors because it defined his style. You could never count him out.

Palmer went head to head with Nicklaus two years later in a U.S. Open, the start of one of golf's most famous rivalries. It was one-sided. Nicklaus went on to win 18 majors and was regarded as golf's greatest champion. Palmer won two more majors after that loss, and his last PGA Tour win came in 1973 at the Bob Hope Classic.

Golf writer Tom Callahan once described the difference between Nicklaus and Palmer this way: It's as though God said to Nicklaus, "You will have skills like no other," then whispered to Palmer, "But they will love you more."

"I think he brought a lot more to the game than his game," Nicklaus said in 2009. "What I mean by that is, there's no question about his record and his ability to play the game. He was very, very good at that. But he obviously brought a lot more. He brought the hitch of his pants, the flair that he brought to the game, the fans that he brought into the game."

Only four other players won more PGA Tour events than Palmer — Sam Snead, Nicklaus, Woods and Hogan.

Palmer's first wife, Winnie, died in 1999. They had two daughters, and grandson Sam Saunders plays on the PGA Tour. Palmer married Kathleen (Kit) Gawthrop in 2005.

Details on a memorial service and burial will be announced later.

Broncos rough up Bengals

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Trevor Siemian threw a career-high four touchdown passes in his first road start and was nearly perfect under fourth-quarter pressure, rallying Denver over Cincinnati 29-17.

The defending Super Bowl champions are 3-0 under Siemian, who took over after Peyton Manning retired and Brock Osweiler went to Houston. He completed 11 of 12 passes while rallying the Broncos to a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns.

The previous Bronco to throw for four touchdowns was Manning in 2014 against the Dolphins. Siemian went 23 of 35 for 312 yards and a passer rating of 132.1.

Siemian had a 41-yard touchdown pass to Emmanuel Sanders to get it started, and stood in under a heavy rush and connected with Demaryius Thomas on a 55-yard score with 4:23 left to clinch it. Sanders finished with nine catches for 117 yards.

Eagles 34, Steelers 3: Carson Wentz threw for 301 yards and two touchdowns, a fierce defense shut down Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown and host Philadelphia beat Pittsburgh to remain unbeaten.

Packers 34, Lions 27: Aaron Rodgers threw for 205 yards and four touchdowns, including two in the first half to Jordy Nelson, and host Green Bay snapped out of its offensive funk before holding off Detroit.

Cowboys 31, Bears 17: Dak Prescott led scoring drives on all four Dallas possessions in the first half before throwing his first career touchdown pass, and the Cowboys beat Chicago to snap an eight-game home losing streak.

Vikings 22, Panthers 10: Sam Bradford threw a touchdown pass to Kyle Rudolph, Marcus Sherels returned a punt for a score and Minnesota snapped Carolina's 14-game home winning streak.

Seahawks 37, 49ers 18: Russell Wilson threw for 243 yards and a touchdown before suffering a left knee injury and host Seattle rolled to a rout of San Francisco.

Colts 26, Chargers 22: Andrew Luck shook off a sore throwing shoulder, then watched T.Y. Hilton break a tackle on a 63-yard touchdown pass with 1:17 to play, giving host Indianapolis a victory over San Diego.

Redskins 29, Giants 27: Dustin Hopkins kicked a 37-yard field goal late in the fourth quarter for his fifth of the game

and visiting Washington avoided a near-disastrous 0-3 start with a win over penalty- and error-prone New York.

Rams 37, Buccaneers 32: Case Keenum threw for the Rams' first touchdown since relocating back to Los Angeles, and Todd Gurley rushed for two more scores in a victory over host Tampa Bay.

Chiefs 24, Jets 3: Kansas City returned two turnovers for touchdowns, intercepted three passes in the end zone and forced eight turnovers total in a victory over visiting New York.

Ravens 19, Jaguars 17: Justin Tucker kicked a 54-yard field goal with 1:02 remaining, lifting Baltimore over host Jacksonville.

Bills 33, Cardinals 18: LeSean McCoy scored twice and safety Aaron Williams returned a botched field-goal snap 53 yards for a touchdown in leading host Buffalo over Arizona.

Raiders 17, Titans 10: Derek Carr threw for 249 yards and a touchdown, and Oakland beat host Tennessee with its defense finally coming up with some big plays.

Dolphins 30, Browns 24 (OT): Jay Ajayi scored on an 11-yard run with 8:26 left in overtime, and host Miami escaped with a win over Cleveland.

Harvick surges to NH win, 2nd round

Associated Press

LOUDON, N.H. — Kevin Harvick has thrived as NASCAR's version of a Game 7 master, steeling his nerves and flourishing in those win-or-else races that kept a championship push alive.

Harvick won Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway to earn a spot in the second round of the NASCAR Sprint Cup playoffs, pulling away off a restart a year after a late loss at the track.

His lap times in the No. 4 Chevrolet only got faster deeper into the race and he was soon nipping at Martin Truex Jr. and Matt Kenseth at the front of the field. Kenseth dominated the second half of the race and seemed poised to win the New Hampshire race for the third straight time.

Harvick had enough juice in the Chevy to zip past Kenseth with five laps left and join Truex as the drivers locked in the next round. Truex won the Chase opener at Chicagoland and he led a race-high 141 laps at New Hampshire.

Chase drivers took the top eight spots. The 16-driver Chase for the Sprint Cup championship field will be cut to 12 after Dover.

Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Kenseth and Kyle Busch were second and third, respectively. They were followed by Chase drivers Brad Keselowski, Kurt Busch, Carl Edwards, Truex and Jimmie Johnson.

Other Chase results: Kyle Larson was 10th, Joey Logano 11th, Chase Elliott 13th, Denny Hamlin 15th, Austin Dillon 16th, Jamie McMurray 19th, Tony Stewart 23rd, and Chris Buescher 30th.

McMurray, Dillon, Stewart and Buescher are the bottom four drivers in the standings.

Miles, Cameron ousted by LSU

Associated Press

Les Miles has finally been done in by one of the frantic finishes that came to define the Mad Hatter's tenure at LSU.

LSU fired Miles and offensive coordinator Cam Cameron on Sunday, and promoted defensive line coach Ed Orgeron to interim head coach.

The moves came less than 24 hours after Miles briefly watched his players wildly celebrate what they thought was a game-winning touchdown pass at Auburn, only to walk off the field with a stunning, 18-13 upset loss after officials determined on video replay that time had expired before the ball was snapped.

It wasn't the first time chaos reigned in the closing seconds of an LSU game with Miles at the helm, leading to intense scrutiny of the

quirky coach's clock management. But it will go down as the last after 11-plus seasons that were highlighted by a 2007 national title.

Miles' firing came hours after LSU (2-2, 1-1 Southeastern Conference), which was ranked 18th last week, dropped out of the Top 25 in the latest AP Poll released Sunday.

Miles, 62, who replaced Nick Saban in 2005, went 114-34 at LSU, the second-most victories in school history behind Charles McClendon's 137 victories from 1962 to 1979.

Orgeron is a Louisiana native and renowned recruiter. He was a head coach once before in the SEC with Mississippi, but never had a winning record there and was fired after three seasons. He fared better as interim head coach at Southern California in 2013, going 6-2 in place of Lane Kiffin, who'd been fired that season.

Dodgers clinch in Scully's home finale

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sprayed champagne and beer flooded the blue carpet in the Dodgers clubhouse. The stench of alcohol hung in the damp air. Wives, kids and a puppy were in on the party with music blaring.

The Los Angeles Dodgers celebrated clinching their fourth straight NL West title with the kind of storybook ending this city was built on: winning the crown in Vin Scully's final home game when Charlie Culberson homered with two outs in the 10th inning to beat the Colorado Rockies 4-3 Sunday.

"It hasn't really sunk in," said Culberson, who made the Opening Day roster only to flip-flop between the majors and minors during the season.

Scully eluded the clubhouse chaos and throng of fans waiting outside the press box named for him, having quietly exited after broadcasting his last game at Dodger Stadium.

The 88-year-old Hall of Famer, who has just three games at San Francisco next weekend before ending his 67-year career, bid a public farewell to the team and its

51,962 fans at game's end.

"I was hoping the team would win the game 10-0 and there would be no tension, and it would be a nice easy day," Scully said, looking out at the sea of faces turned toward his booth. "Believe me when I tell you, I've needed you far more than you've needed me."

At that, he asked the crowd to indulge what he called "a loving gesture" and listen to him singing "Wind Beneath My Wings" that he recorded for his wife, Sandi. As the song played, the couple stood with their arms around each other.

"A lot of history this weekend," ace Clayton Kershaw said.

Under Dave Roberts, the Dodgers became the first NL West team to win four straight division titles, also a first in franchise history. Roberts joined Tom Lasorda (1977) as the only rookie managers to lead the club to a division title.

"It was a work in progress all year," said Roberts, his eyes burning from champagne. "We're going to enjoy it."

Culberson's first homer of the season and just sixth of his career landed in the lower left-field seats, touching off wild cheers and a raucous celebration at home plate.

The Dodgers took off their caps, turned toward the broadcast booth and held them in a salute to Scully, nattily attired in his usual long-sleeved shirt and tie despite the 95-degree heat. He began with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1950 and is the longest tenured broadcaster with a single team in professional sports.

"What a special day," third baseman Justin Turner said. "It's an incredible feeling."

Catcher Yasmani Grandal partied with his puppy, Taz, after the players jogged the warning track exchanging high-fives with fans.

The Dodgers provided plenty of drama for Scully to describe.

"Yeah, Vin has a lot of pull," Colorado manager Walt Weiss said.

Culberson contributed three hits, tying his career high, and is 7-for-14 in seven games this month.

"It's the way it's been all year, different guys doing different things to win games," said Kershaw, his hair soaked and wife Ellen and young daughter Cali nearby.

Several Dodgers tipped their helmets or saluted toward Scully in his booth before stepping into the box for their first at-bats.

Harper hurt after fake tag; benches clear

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The tag was clearly fake. What happened next was all too real for the NL East champion Washington Nationals: Bryce Harper got hurt and needs X-rays.

Harper injured his left thumb making an awkward slide to avoid a pretend tag by Pittsburgh third baseman Jung Ho Kang, and the teams later cleared the benches Sunday in Washington's 10-7 win.

Nationals manager Dusty Baker said Harper was "sore" and would have X-rays on Monday. The reigning NL MVP had surgery to repair a torn ligament in the same thumb in 2014.

Harper led off the third inning with a triple. As he neared third, Kang acted as if a throw was coming and feigned a tag.

Harper went down, was checked by a trainer and stayed in. He scored on Anthony Rendon's double and was replaced in the field in the bottom half by Chris Heisey.

Kang insisted he merely intended to keep Harper from scoring when right fielder Josh Bell's throw was way off line.

"First of all, I meant no harm," Kang said through a translator. "During the relay play, I tried to hold the runner on third base. That's all I tried to do."

The next time Kang came up, Nationals starter A.J. Cole threw a fastball behind him and was immediately ejected by plate umpire Jordan Baker as the benches emptied.

Padres 4, Giants 3: Rookie Manuel Margot tripled in the seventh inning and scored the go-ahead run on Wil Myers' single as host San Diego dropped San Francisco a game behind the Mets in the NL wild-card race.

Cubs 3, Cardinals 1: David Ross homered and teamed with Jon Lester for another scoreless performance, and host Chicago hurt St. Louis' wild-card chances.

White Sox 3, Indians 0: Car-

los Rodon struck out a career-high 11 over eight dominant innings and visiting Chicago denied Cleveland any chance of winning the AL Central title.

Blue Jays 4, Yankees 3: Ezequiel Carrera drove in the tying run with a squeeze bunt in the ninth inning, Edwin Encarnacion hit a winning single and host Toronto held its AL wild-card lead.

Orioles 2, Diamondbacks 1: Hyun Soo Kim hit his fifth home run, a two-run shot in the second inning, and host Baltimore finished a three-game sweep.

Royals 12, Tigers 9: Salvador Perez homered to cap a cycle by Kansas City's first four batters of the game, and the Royals went deep three more times to beat host Detroit and drop the Tigers in the AL wild-card race.

Red Sox 3, Rays 2 (10): At Tampa Bay, Dustin Pedroia used nifty baserunning to score from first base on David Ortiz's double in the 10th inning and AL East-leading Boston won its

11th straight.

Mets 17, Phillies 0: Asdrubal Cabrera hit a grand slam, Jose Reyes drove in four runs and the host Mets got the largest shutout victory in team history to maintain the NL wild-card lead.

Reds 4, Brewers 2: Brandon Finnegan pitched five scoreless innings in his final start of the season, lifting Cincinnati past host Milwaukee.

Astros 4, Angels 1: Joe Musgrove pitched seven strong innings, Evan Gattis, Tony Kemp and Tyler White homered, and host Houston snapped a three-game slide to preserve its play-off hopes.

Mariners 4, Twins 3: Nelson Cruz homered twice before leaving with left wrist soreness, Jesus Sucre homered for the first time in 14 months and visiting Seattle beat Minnesota.

Athletics 7, Rangers 1: Jharel Cotton pitched seven crisp innings and host Oakland avoided a series sweep.