

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Saturday, September 30, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Animal remains found in Pendleton water system

The Orange County (Calif.) Register

CAMPPENDLETON—Base officials say that despite water safety inspectors finding a host of chronic problems, including the remains of a frog and rat in two of the base's systems, water is safe for consumption.

On Thursday, Marine Corps officials and the Environmental Protection Agency entered into a federal consent order that requires base officials to adopt strict water quality standards or face significant fines.

As part of the agreement, base officials will inspect all 34 reservoirs over the next 180 days and will continue to monitor all water quality in their entire system. They must provide documentation within five days of inspection. The base will be required to submit a progress report, the first due Oct. 15.

"Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is committed to providing safe and compliant drinking water," Carl Redding, a base spokesman, said in a statement Friday. "This is a duty and responsibility that we take very seriously. The EPA and state regulators agree the water was and is safe to drink."

The agreement follows a June inspection in which the animal remains were discovered in three reservoirs attached to two water systems that serve more than 55,000 Marines and their families on the base's north and south ends. They also found hatch doors without sanitary seals, rust holes, loose nuts and bolts, reservoir mesh that let in spiders and overflow valves that leaked water.

Inspectors also reported a lack of supervision at the reservoirs and a shortage of qualified operators for treatment and distribution at both of its systems. They also found that the advanced water treatment

plant had been periodically shut down and that operators were not completing required equipment testing.

Finally, inspectors found that operators did not regularly inspect, maintain, and document monitoring efforts, which resulted in foundational cracks and inadequate seals.

"Public water systems must meet all state and federal requirements to provide safe drinking water to their customers," said Alexis Strauss, the EPA's acting regional administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "Our priority is to ensure the base achieves compliance promptly, to serve those who live and work at Camp Pendleton."

According to documents from the EPA that outlined the chronic failures, officials at the Marine base removed the animal remains and cleaned, refilled, and tested the reservoirs for bacteria and chlorine levels.

Base officials have agreed to conduct ongoing testing to make sure the water is safe to drink.

Under Thursday's agreement, base officials also must inform the public about their ongoing compliance. This includes shutting down and inspecting all other base reservoirs over the next 180 days.

Should any of the samples test positive, the Marine Corps must issue a public notice and provide affected customers an alternative source of drinking water. Any reservoir found to be out of compliance will not be returned to service until after water safety inspectors have approved it.

Base officials have tested the three impacted reservoirs every two weeks for the past three months and they have come back safe and compliant, Redding said.

Air Force Academy chief's anti-racism statement lauded

From wire reports

Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria delivered a stern warning on race relations Thursday.

"If you can't treat someone with dignity and respect, get out," the superintendent of the Air Force Academy told cadets and staff in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Silveria's speech — prompted by racial slurs left on message boards outside the dorm rooms of five black students at the academy's preparatory school — drew praise as the video went viral.

Silveria warned students that he would not tolerate racism at the academy and invoked some of the racial tensions that have been gripping the country. And he wanted to ensure that his message was clearly heard.

"I want you to videotape this so you have it, so you can use it — so that we all have the moral courage together," he said, surrounded by 1,500 of the academy's faculty, administrators and athletic coaches.

Air Force security personnel are investigating the incident after the slurs were discovered Tuesday. Racial slurs are illegal in the military and can bring charges of violating orders and conduct unbecoming an officer.

Officials have said they cannot provide any more information about what happened because of the ongoing investigation. No additional details were released Friday.

The preparatory school has

a 10-month program for potential cadets who applied for the academy's four-year program but were not accepted. The goal is to help them meet academy requirements. The prep school usually accepts about 240 students. The academy, itself, has about 4,000 students.

In his speech, Silveria referred to recent events, such as the racial violence in Charlottesville, Va., and the debate about NFL players kneeling for the national anthem.

"We would also be tone deaf not to think about the backdrop of what is going on in our country. Things like Charlottesville, Ferguson (Mo.), the protests in the NFL," he said.

Silveria's forceful denunciation has been heard far beyond the walls of the academy in Colorado, introducing the veteran officer to a national audience. Former Vice President Joe Biden tweeted: "There is only one way to confront hatred and prejudice: head on. Well said, Lt. Gen Silveria."

Also, Sen. John McCain tweeted: "Important statement by Lt. Gen. Silveria @ AF_Academy. I agree, there's no place for racism or bigotry in our military or this great nation."

"I wanted to have a direct conversation with them about the power of diversity," Silveria told CNN's Brooke Baldwin on Friday, referring to the cadets. "Ultimately, these men and women are going to be lieutenants in the United States Air Force."

USS Wasp now headed to Puerto Rico

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two Navy ships are now cruising toward Puerto Rico to bolster the U.S. response to the island left devastated by a direct hit from Hurricane Maria, officials said Friday.

The Defense Department on Friday tasked the USS Wasp, an amphibious assault ship carrying two helicopters, to move from its location near the eastern Caribbean island of Dominica toward Puerto Rico to expand rescue and relief operations there in the wake of the Category 4 storm that struck Sept. 20, defense officials said. Meanwhile, the USNS Comfort, a 1,000-bed hospital ship, left port from Norfolk, Va., on Friday and was expected to reach Puerto Rico by the middle of next week, according to the Navy.

Army Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, who deployed Thursday to take command of military efforts on the island, said the movements were part of the Defense Department's

commitment to supply as much support as possible at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's request. He expected the military force that was nearing 5,000 troops Friday to continue to increase in the coming days.

"Capability is building every single day," Buchanan told reporters from San Juan on Friday afternoon "We're going to keep building until we have met the needs for all the people in Puerto Rico."

The Wasp initially left Norfolk on Aug. 30 en route to its new duty station at the Sasebo Naval Base in Japan, but it was halted in the Caribbean as Hurricane Irma churned through the region as a Category 5 storm and was followed days later by Maria.

This week, the Wasp has leading military aid efforts in Dominica, a tiny island nation that was ravaged by Maria, which struck as a Category 5 hurricane.

With the addition of the Wasp's MH-60S Seahawk helicopters, the U.S. military will have 52 choppers responding

to the disaster in Puerto Rico, according to U.S. Northern Command. The helicopters are conducting a variety of missions, including search and rescue, supply delivery and medical evacuation.

Buchanan said the helicopters especially are needed to reach areas in central Puerto Rico where torrential rainfall has left roads impassable.

The Wasp will join the USS Kearsarge, another amphibious assault ship, and the USS Oak Hill, an amphibious dock landing ship, off Puerto Rico's coast. The Comfort also will bring medical evacuation helicopters to Puerto Rico, according to the Navy.

On Friday, more than a week after Maria plowed through Puerto Rico, conditions on the island of 3.5 million people remained grim. Widespread debris limited emergency responders' ability to reach remote sections of the island, power remained unavailable to the vast majority of the population and drinking water was scarce, according to FEMA officials.

John Rabin, the acting administrator for FEMA Region II, which includes Puerto Rico, said it was difficult to quantify how many hurricane victims remained without power or access to drinking water and food, as the situation on the ground was changing rapidly. But supplies were reaching inhabitants in each of Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities, he said.

The supplies, including bottled water, prepackaged meals and fuel, were being disseminated from 11 distribution points set up across the island, officials said. Puerto Rico National Guard members were delivering the supplies by truck and helicopter across the island, in many cases going door-to-door to find victims in need, according to defense and FEMA officials.

"This has been a catastrophic event," Buchanan said. "It's going to take a long amount of time to help the people recover, but I want them to know that we are in it for the long haul to help the people of Puerto Rico recover."

Trump lashes out at San Juan mayor who asked for help

Associated Press

BRANCHBURG, N.J. — President Donald Trump on Saturday lashed out at the mayor of San Juan and other officials in storm-ravaged Puerto Rico, contemptuous of their claims of a laggard U.S. response to the natural disaster that has imperiled the island's future.

"Such poor leadership ability by the Mayor of San Juan, and others in Puerto Rico, who are not able to get their workers to help," Trump said in a series of tweets a day after the capital city's mayor appealed for help "to save us from dying."

"They want everything to be done for them when it should be a community effort," Trump wrote from his New Jersey golf club.

The tweets amounted to a biting response to San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz, who had accused the Trump administration of "killing us with the inefficiency" after Hurricane Maria. Desperate, and with her voice breaking with rage, she implored the president, who is set to visit the U.S. territory on Tuesday, to "make sure somebody is in charge that is up to the task of saving lives."

"We are dying, and you are killing us with the inefficiency," Cruz said at a news conference. "I am begging, begging anyone that can hear us, to save us from dying."

Trump has pledged to spare no effort to help Puerto Rico recover from Maria's ruinous aftermath, and tweeted that

military personnel and first responders had done "an amazing job," despite having "no electric, roads, phones etc."

Puerto Rico, he said, "was totally destroyed," and "10,000 Federal workers now on the island are doing a fantastic job."

Natural disasters often bring the country together. But Trump used Twitter to accuse Cruz of partisan politics.

"The Mayor of San Juan, who was very complimentary only a few days ago, has now been told by the Democrats that you must be nasty to Trump," the president charged, without substantiation.

Trump was scheduled to spend an hour Saturday checking in by phone with FEMA Administrator Brock Long,

Puerto Rico's governor, Ricardo Rossello and other local officials. He'll also speak with the governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, which have received less attention, but also were ravaged by the storms.

Trump's Saturday tweets are an example of his insistence on "punching back," even against those with far less power. After a deadly terrorism attack in London in June, Trump singled out London Mayor Sadiq Khan, suggesting he wasn't taking the attacks seriously enough in a tweet that misconstrued Khan's words.

During his campaign, Trump also picked fights with a Gold Star family and a former beauty queen who publicly supported his Democratic rival.

US Navy review of collisions to include input from civilians

Associated Press

BATH, Maine — The review of deadly collisions involving two U.S. destroyers will include analysis of best practices outside the Navy, looking to private organizations as varied as British Petroleum and the Mayo Clinic, Navy Secretary Richard Spencer said.

Spencer said Friday his review will seek expertise from the civilian maritime community and look at lessons learned from the private sector, not just the Navy. He cited British Petroleum's comprehensive review after the Deepwater Horizon disaster and the Mayo Clinic's efforts to optimize teamwork in high-pressure environments.

Spencer's review is one of two that the Navy is conducting after collisions involving the USS Fitzgerald and John S. McCain that killed a total of 17 sailors. The other is being led by

the chief of naval operations.

"We're addressing it on multiple fronts," Spencer told reporters at Navy shipbuilder Bath Iron Works.

The Navy secretary's first visit to the shipbuilder that employs 6,000 workers came a day after the Navy and shipyard completed negotiations on a contract for two more Arleigh Burke-class destroyers.

Sen. Angus King quipped, "Anytime you want to visit Bath, you're welcome. Now that you've established the precedent, bring a couple of destroyers with you."

Also joining the entourage were U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, who helped obtain funding for the ships, and U.S. Reps. Chellie Pingree and Bruce Poliquin.

Spencer said the Navy needs additional destroyers as it seeks to add more than 50 ships to the fleet in coming years. An addi-

tional \$5 billion to \$5.5 billion in annual spending is needed over 30 years to reach the 355-ship goal, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The Navy is looking at its options, and Spencer acknowledged those include bringing back into service retired frigates and cruisers, if that's deemed to be a cost-effective means of helping to reach the goal.

He said the Navy is also looking to overhaul its relationship with shipbuilders by working together to both contain costs and to ensure that there's adequate shipbuilding infrastructure.

Maine's congressional delegation praised Spencer for the fast pace of contract negotiations on the two destroyers that ensures there will be no disruptions in workflow at the shipyard.

US citizen convicted of playing part in suicide attack

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A U.S. citizen who joined al-Qaida was convicted on Friday of participating in a failed suicide bombing in 2009 at an American military base in Afghanistan.

A federal jury in New York reached the verdict in the case against Muhanad Mahmoud Al Farekh, who's originally from Houston.

Farekh's case drew extra attention because of reports American officials had initially debated whether to try to kill him in a drone strike, a step almost never taken against U.S. citizens. President Barack Obama's administration decided to try for a capture and civilian prosecution instead.

Farekh was captured in Pakistan and brought to the U.S. in 2015.

U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York Bridget Rohde said Farekh faces the possibility of life in prison for "his efforts to murder Americans and his commitment to one of the world's most infamous terrorist organizations."

There was no immediate response from Farekh's lawyer, Sean Maher. He had argued the forensic evidence was too weak to convict Farekh, calling fingerprint experts' testimony "junk science" in a closing argument.

Most of the charges against Farekh stem from an attack at Forward Operating Base Chapman in Khost city, Afghanistan, on Jan. 19, 2009.

The attackers drove two vehicles rigged with explosives. An initial blast injured several Afghans, including a pregnant woman, but a much larger bomb failed to go off, sparing the lives of American soldiers.

Farekh was convicted of conspiring to murder U.S. nationals, conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, conspiracy to bomb a government facility and conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists.

Militant drone attacks may increase

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — U.S. airstrikes and local militias in eastern Syria have hobbled Islamic State's drone program, U.S. officials say, but counterterrorism experts warn that the terrorist group's innovative use of the inexpensive technology may spur other aerial attacks around the globe.

A specially trained unit of ISIS pilots flew small quadcopters and model-plane-sized drones, sometimes a dozen or more at a time, to stream live video of U.S.-backed ground forces and to drop crude munitions on them in both Iraq and Syria.

By evading ground defenses with remote-controlled devices purchased on the internet, the militants pioneered an asymmetric but successful tactic on the battlefield, much as the growing U.S. fleet of missile-firing Predator and Reaper drones has dramatically changed modern warfare.

During the battle for the Iraqi city of Mosul, which government forces recaptured in July, dozens of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded by 40 mm grenades and light explosives dropped from buzzing overhead devices so numerous that one U.S. commander likened them to killer bees.

It was, U.S. officials later acknowledged, perhaps the first time since the Vietnam War that the American military was largely powerless against enemy aircraft.

Until now, small drones mostly sparked security alerts in America by flying near the White House, near airports and in other restricted zones. But the growing availability and sophistication of commercial drones now are seen as a threat to the United States, some experts argue.

ISIS affiliates in the Philippines, Libya and Yemen already have used drones for surveillance. So have the al-Qaida affiliate in Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress on Tuesday that the Pentagon had made slow progress in countering ISIS drones.

Drones, he added, are "at the top of our list for current emerging threats."

The threat spurred the Army to issue a handbook in April to urge commanders to assign dedicated observers to track small drones and to train soldiers in what it called "Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System Techniques."

Gen. Raymond Thomas, head of Special Operations Command, said small drones were the "most daunting" threat his commandos faced in Iraq and Syria last year.

The Pentagon has rushed electronic jammers and other specialized equipment to help Iraqi security forces shoot down or neutralize drones.

HHS head resigns after flap over travel

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's health secretary resigned Friday, after his costly travel triggered investigations that overshadowed the administration's agenda and angered his boss. Tom Price's regrets and partial repayment couldn't save his job.

The Health and Human Services secretary became the first member of the president's Cabinet to be pushed out in a turbulent administration that has seen several high-ranking White House aides ousted. A former GOP congressman from the Atlanta suburbs, Price served less than eight months.

Publicly, Trump had said he was "not happy" with Price for repeatedly using private charter aircraft for official trips on the taxpayer's dime, when cheaper commercial flights would have done in many cases.

Privately, Trump has been telling associates in recent days that his health chief had become a distraction. Trump felt Price was overshadowing his tax overhaul agenda and undermining his campaign promise to "drain the swamp" of corruption, according

to three people familiar with the discussions who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The flap prompted scrutiny of other Cabinet members' travel, as the House Oversight and Government Reform committee launched a governmentwide investigation of top political appointees. Other department heads have been scrambling to explain their own travel.

Price's repayment of \$51,887.31 for his own travel costs did not placate the White House. The total travel cost, including the secretary's entourage, was unclear. It could amount to hundreds of thousands dollars.

Following Price's resignation, White House budget director Mick Mulvaney informed Cabinet secretaries and agency heads in a memo that approval from chief of staff John Kelly will be required for any travel on government-owned, rented, leased or chartered aircraft.

Price rose to Budget Committee chairman in the House, where he was known as a fiscal conservative. When Price joined the administration, Trump touted him as a conservative policy expert who could write a new health care bill to replace the Obama-era Affordable Care Act.

But Price became more of a supporting player in the GOP's futile health care campaign, while Vice President Mike Pence took the lead, particularly with the Senate. The perception of Price jetting around while GOP lawmakers labored to repeal "Obamacare" — including a three-nation trip in May to Africa and Europe — raised eyebrows on Capitol Hill. Price flew on military aircraft overseas.

Although much of Trump's ire over the health care failure has been aimed at the Republican-controlled Congress, associates of the president said he also assigns some blame to Price, who he believes did not do a good job of selling the GOP plan.

A Pence protege, Seema Verma, has been mentioned as a possible successor to Price. Verma leads the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which runs health insurance programs that cover more than 130 million Americans.

Another possible HHS candidate: FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb.

Trump named Don J. Wright, a deputy assistant secretary of health, to serve as acting secretary.

Note in church shooter's car references massacre in SC

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A note found in the car of a man charged with spraying deadly gunfire at a Tennessee church made reference to revenge for a white supremacist's massacre at a black church in Charleston, S.C., two years earlier, law enforcement officials told The Associated Press.

The note could offer a glimpse into Emanuel Kidega Samson's mindset at the time of the Sept. 24 shooting and a possible motive for the rampage, which left a woman dead and six other people wounded. The Associated Press has not viewed the note, but it was summarized in an investigative report circulating among law enforcement. Two officials read parts of the note to the AP.

The report said that "in sum and in no way verbatim," the note referenced revenge or retaliation for Dylann Roof, the white supremacist who killed nine black worshippers at the

South Carolina church in 2015 and has since been sentenced to death.

The law enforcement officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to publicly discuss an ongoing investigation.

Samson has been charged with murder, and the FBI and U.S. attorney's office in Nashville quickly opened a civil rights investigation into the shooting.

Police have said Samson, masked and wearing a tactical vest, fatally shot a woman who was walking to her vehicle and then entered the rear of Burnette Chapel Church of Christ and shot six other people, walking silently down the aisles with a .40-caliber handgun. The case immediately called to mind the killings at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. But unlike that church, which is mostly black, Burnette Chapel in the Nashville neighborhood of Antioch has a diverse congregation with people of various ethnicities, a detail noted in the report.

Girl reaches plea deal in Slender Man case

Associated Press

WAUKESHA, Wis. — The second of two Wisconsin girls charged with repeatedly stabbing a classmate to impress horror character Slender Man will plead guilty in a deal that will send her to a state mental hospital and bring an end to a case that shocked people in part because the attackers were only 12.

The deal, announced in court Friday, means both girls will avoid prison time for the attack on Payton Leutner, who also was 12. Morgan Geysler, now 15, will be treated indefinitely at a mental hospital. Her co-defendant, Anissa Weier, faces at least three years in a mental hospital.

"It's been a tragic experience for everyone," Geysler's attorney, Donna Kuchler, said after a brief court hearing Friday. "Our hearts go out to the victim and her family. And we're very grateful that the district attorney's office gave this case the

considering it deserves."

Weier and Geysler lured Leutner into the woods at a park in Waukesha, a Milwaukee suburb. Geysler stabbed Leutner 19 times while Weier urged her on, according to investigators. Leutner survived after she crawled out of the woods to a path where a passing bicyclist found her.

Both Weier and Geysler told detectives they felt they had to kill Leutner to become Slender Man's "proxies," or servants, and protect their families from him.

Geysler had been scheduled to go on trial Oct. 16. The plea deal comes after a jury last month determined that Weier was mentally ill at the time of the attack on Leutner.

Geysler was at Friday's hearing but didn't speak. Afterward, the judge allowed her to spend three hours with her family before returning her to the mental hospital where she has been receiving treatment.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mystery couple picks up tabs at restaurant

PA WASHINGTON — A mystery couple has been picking up the checks for other customers at a southwestern Pennsylvania restaurant.

KDKA-TV reported the couple has been doing that for years at the Applebee's in Washington, Pa., but only recently have their good deeds come to light.

Jolie Welling said she was celebrating her daughter's birthday only to find the couple recently paid the entire tab — for 16 people. Samantha Powell, the waitress for that party, said the gesture almost brought her to tears.

Bernie Lewis, the restaurant's assistant manager, said she has sworn to keep the couple's secret.

Driver flees police, crashes into 2 homes

NY KENMORE — Authorities said a driver is in custody after crashing into two homes in a Buffalo suburb while trying to elude police.

Officers in Amherst said they tried to stop the driver for speeding early Friday morning, but the motorist sped away.

The truck traveled into the town of Kenmore, where the driver lost control and hit a one-story house, then struck a two-story home next door before coming to a stop in front of a third home.

Police said the driver tried to flee on foot but was captured after being hit with a stun gun.

Ballet company offers Parkinson's dance class

LA NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Ballet Association has begun free dance classes for people

with Parkinson's disease and their families, caregivers and friends.

The chronic neurological disorder causes tremors and movement difficulties.

Organizers said Dance for Parkinson's instructors will deal with symptom-specific concerns related to balance, cognition, motor skills, depression and physical confidence, but the classes are designed as an enjoyable aesthetic experience rather than therapy.

A spokeswoman said 80 people registered for Wednesday's kickoff. There's no limit on the number who can sign up.

Mom flew to Germany, left 4 kids home alone

IA JOHNSTON — A mother is jailed after she left her four children home alone while she traveled to Germany for a 12-day vacation, police said Friday.

Johnston police charged Erin Macke, 30, with four counts of child endangerment and one of transferring a firearm to a person under 21. Police said the latter charge was filed because a firearm was left at home within the children's reach.

Police said Macke tried but failed to make child care arrangements for her children — two aged 12, one 7 and the other 6 — before leaving Sept. 20. The father of one of the children was called by his child the next day, and he tipped off police that the children had been left unsupervised, Johnston police spokeswoman Janet Wilwerding said Friday.

The Iowa Human Services Department took custody of the children and released them to the care of relatives, Wilwerding said. Police called Macke in Germany, demanding she return.

She was arrested on her return Thursday.

Couple rescued after driving into Atlantic

ME TREMONT — Maine firefighters said they had to rescue a New York couple who took a wrong turn and drove into the Atlantic Ocean.

WMTW-TV reported firefighters were called to the docks in Tremont around 8 p.m. Tuesday after there were reports of two people trapped in a car in the water. Officials said the couple's SUV was in 8 to 10 feet of water after they traveled down a boat ramp into the water.

A video shows extremely foggy conditions in the area.

Backlash for woman selling old gravestone

NY DELMAR — An upstate New York woman is creating consternation online by using Facebook to try to sell a tombstone dating back to 1850.

Nicola Crowe said she found the gravestone buried and broken into three pieces while she was renovating the entrance to her home in the Albany suburb of Delmar. Spectrum News reported she has contacted local historical societies, who say the person whose name is on the stone isn't buried on Crowe's property.

Crowe has put the tombstone up for sale on several Facebook groups. She said she has received a number of complaints, telling her that she's disrespectful, or that she's "going to be haunted."

Police say woman smuggled drugs to jail

WV MARTINSBURG — Authorities said a West Virginia grandmother joined her grandson in jail after being accused of smuggling

drugs to him.

The Mountain State Fugitive Task Force said Carolyn Lou Gay, 64, was arrested Wednesday on 15 charges related to drug possession and delivery.

A criminal complaint said Gay visited her grandson Sept. 2 at Eastern Regional Jail near Martinsburg. According to a complaint, a guard heard inmate Shawn Douglas Weister tell Gay to "go ahead." It says Weister was directed to a strip search room, but instead ran away. When guards caught up, he yelled: "Run granny, they caught me."

The complaint said investigators found 22 sealed drinking straws containing various drugs including heroin in Weister's possession, and Gay is the only person who visited him.

Civil War soldier buried with full military honors

WA PORT ORCHARD — A Civil War soldier was buried with full military honors at a cemetery on the Kitsap Peninsula more than a century after he died.

The Kitsap Sun reported that Zachariah M. Stucker was laid to rest in a ceremony Thursday at the Washington Veterans Home outside Port Orchard.

Stucker was a private who served in the Union's 48th Illinois Infantry Regiment from 1861 to 1865.

His remains were sent to Seattle for cremation after he died in 1914 at the veterans' home. For unknown reasons his remains sat unclaimed in storage for decades.

A volunteer with the Missing in America Project discovered Stucker's name on a list of unclaimed remains at the Lake View Cemetery in Seattle and helped set in motion Thursday's burial services.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Washington State knocks off No. 5 USC

Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — Mike Leach and his team were engulfed in a sea of crimson on the turf of Martin Stadium, reveling in a rare occurrence for Washington State football.

An upset victory 25 years in the making was worth celebrating in grand fashion. And, it proved that these Cougars are true contenders for a Pac-12 title.

“It’s exciting. I’ll enjoy it tonight. I’ll probably enjoy it a little in the offseason,” Leach said.

Luke Falk threw for 340 yards and two touchdowns, Erik Powell kicked a 32-yard field goal with 1:40 left and No. 16 Washington State beat No. 5 Southern California 30-27 on a wild Friday night.

With the national stage to themselves, the Cougars showed they were legitimate, stopping USC star quarterback Sam Darnold and pulling off their first regular-season win over a top-five opponent in a quarter-century. The last time a top five team was handed a loss by Washington State was 1992 when the Drew Bledsoe-

led Cougars rolled rival Washington in a driving snowstorm.

Washington State (5-0, 2-0) had lost 15 consecutive home games against ranked opponents. This was its first win over the Trojans since 2002 — that game also finished in a 30-27 Cougars victory.

“We just showed that we were the better team tonight,” Washington State defensive lineman Hercules Mata’afa said.

Falk was excellent against the pressure from Southern California (4-1, 2-1) most of the time, but it was a key 35-yard run from Jamal Morrow that set up Powell’s winning field goal.

Falk finished 34-for-51 passing, while Morrow added 91 yards rushing on six carries. The duo combined to give the Cougars the lead early in the fourth quarter, with Falk finding Morrow for a 23-yard TD on a shovel pass and run. The drive included a key third-and-6 conversion early in the possession and a fourth-and-3 on Falk’s pass to Kyle Sweet for 12 yards.

“I think it’s just a stepping stone. We expect to win games

like this,” Falk said. “Hopefully from here on out going forward guys will continue the tradition of competing in games like these. Right now it’s a stepping stone.”

Darnold struggled through a miserable night. He was 15-for-29 passing for 164 yards and an interception. He has thrown eight interceptions in five games after throwing nine interceptions all of last season.

Darnold ran for a pair of touchdowns, including a 2-yarder with 5:01 remaining that tied it at 27. But he couldn’t pull off a final rally, fumbling when he was sacked deep in Washington State territory with 1:27 left. Falk took two kneel downs and the party erupted.

“We knew what they were going to run, it was just a matter of executing it,” Darnold said. “They made more plays than we did.”

Darnold had one drive in the fourth quarter that showed why he’s coveted by the NFL. He stayed in a collapsing pocket on fourth-and-13 and Tyler Vaughns made a leaping catch across the middle in traffic for 15 yards to the Washington

State 27. Darnold hit Vaughns for 26 yards on the next snap and two plays later Darnold ran for a score.

Playing without three of his starting offensive linemen, Darnold was flustered and at times appeared rattled by the pressure from Washington State’s defensive line. He was sacked only twice but was forced to move in the pocket regularly, disrupting the timing of the passing game.

USC was already without starting left tackle Toa Lobendahn before starting right tackle Chuma Edoga limped off late in the first quarter after a wayward flea flicker that ended up being an intentional grounding penalty and a 14-yard loss.

It got worse for the Trojans when Viane Talamaivao was shaken up early in the second quarter and also did not return.

“Got a bunch of hurt kids right now in that locker room,” USC coach Clay Helton said.

Southern California’s Ronald Jones had 128 yards rushing and an 86-yard touchdown, but was mostly a non-factor outside of the long run.

14th-ranked Miami has easy time putting away Duke

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Malik Rosier got off to a fast start to help Miami take an early lead. The 14th-ranked Hurricanes’ defense took care of just about everything else.

Rosier threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score and Miami shut down Duke 31-6 on Friday night.

Rosier completed 15 of 26 passes for 270 yards, including a 49-yard catch-and-run score by Ahmmon Richards early in the fourth quarter to break the game open for the Hurricanes (3-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference). And Miami’s defense kept Duke out of the end zone, repeatedly getting the better of the Blue Devils on seemingly every key-moment snap.

“Our defense gave up some yards and grass between the 20s,” Miami coach Mark Richt said. “But when it got in the red zone, we found ways to force field goals. ... I thought our defense finished extremely well.”

It started well, too. Duke’s first drive marched to within reach of the end zone and had a fourth-and-1 from the Miami 13, but linebacker Michael Pinckney sprinted untouched up the middle on a blitz and took down Daniel Jones for a possession-ending sack.

“We wanted to come here and make this our house, so we had to set a tone,” linebacker Shaquille Quarterman said. “That fourth down was monumental to the whole game.”

Rosier completed his first

nine passes and led Miami to touchdowns on its first two drives. He then shook off a rough stretch through the second and third quarters by connecting with Richards for the 24-6 lead with 11:02 left.

Duke’s offense, meanwhile, repeatedly stalled across mid-field after halftime. The Blue Devils (4-1, 1-1) finished with 349 yards but converted just 5 of 19 third downs.

The takeaway

Miami: Two years ago, the Hurricanes escaped Durham with a win on an eight-lateral kickoff return for a final-play touchdown. The Hurricanes needed no such theatrics this time, getting off to a fast start behind Rosier and then leaning

on that defense in a matchup of unbeaten Coastal Division teams.

Duke: The Blue Devils simply have to get better in the red zone. They twice settled for field goals of 36 yards or closer after drives stalled and also took Pinckney’s sack on a fourth-and-1 from the Miami 13 to open the game. Duke came into the game ranked in the bottom third nationally in red-zone efficiency, and now has scored nine touchdowns and nine field goals in 23 trips.

“I think it just came down to third downs,” said Jones, who completed just 21 of 41 passes for 166 yards. “We weren’t executing, we weren’t able to stay on the field on some of those.”

US takes huge lead in Presidents Cup

Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Phil Mickelson and Kevin Kisner rehearsed the dance from “Three Amigos.” The only question was whether to use it at the Presidents Cup, and as the veteran of 23 team events, Mickelson concluded it would need to be a big moment.

Their match was all square on the 18th hole Friday. Mickelson was 12 feet away for birdie. A victory would give the Americans a record lead.

“If this putt goes in,” Mickelson said he told his rookie partner, “we’re going to dance.”

This turned out to be one big dance party for an American team that has gone nearly two decades without losing. They hammered the International teams on the back nine to go unbeaten in fourballs and build an 8-2 lead, the largest margin after two sessions since the Presidents Cup began in 1994.

Mickelson had his 24th match victory to tie the Presidents Cup record held by Tiger Woods, and he set a record with his 10th victory in fourballs.

As for that dance?

It looked a little awkward, though Mickelson did slightly better than when he crooked most of his face out of a selfie he took during the opening cer-

emony with the last three U.S. presidents.

“I’m clearly the worst selfie taker. I’m the worst ‘Three Amigos’ dancer,” Mickelson said. “But I can putt.”

So can his teammates, who have followed the script set out by U.S. captain Steve Stricker to win every session. They won handily in the other three matches. The other match was a halve, but even in that one, Hideki Matsuyama and Adam Hadwin had a 2-up lead with four holes to play until Jordan Spieth and Patrick Reed rallied. The Americans nearly won that one, too, except that Spieth narrowly missed birdie putts on the last two holes.

“Our guys stepped up again,” Stricker said. “They have a knack for doing that. To finish like that is huge for us going into tomorrow.”

Mathematically, the International team could be done Saturday, the first day of a double session — four matches of foursomes in the morning, following by four matches of fourballs in the afternoon. The Americans are 7 1/2 points away from clinching the cup.

“I think we saw the strength of the U.S. team come out today,” Price said.

He also saw his team play its

worst golf on the back nine at Liberty National. The Americans won 13 holes on the back nine. The Internationals won three.

Price was not about to give up, hopeful of gaining some momentum in the morning and riding it into the afternoon ahead of the 12 singles matches on the final day.

“We’re only 10 points through 30. There’s 20 points left,” Price said. “We are not laying down. These guys are going to come out fighting over the next two days, and especially tomorrow.”

Justin Thomas, already with a big year behind him as a major champion and the FedEx Cup champion, teamed with Rickie Fowler for another easy victory. They have trailed only one hole in their two matches, and they became the first partnership to beat Louis Oosthuizen and Branden Grace.

They took the lead for good when Fowler made a 15-foot birdie putt on the third hole, and then Thomas produced the loudest cheer of the afternoon at a pivotal moment on the 14th hole. Oosthuizen hit his approach to 6 feet, while both Americans missed the green. From the left bunker, Thomas blasted out perfectly and

watched it drop in for a birdie that kept the International team from cutting the deficit to 1 down.

Thomas birdied the next hole, and his bunker shot on the 16th hit the pin and somehow stayed out.

The shortest match of the day belonged to a pair of American rookies, Kevin Chappell and Charley Hoffman, who sat out the foursomes matches in the opening session. They were 3 up after four holes against Charl Schwartzel and Anirban Lahiri and never let up in a 6-and-5 victory.

Dustin Johnson and Brooks Koepka, close friends and the last two U.S. Open champions, took their first lead on the par-3 10th with Koepka’s birdie, and Johnson showed rare emotion on his final two birdies in a 3-and-2 victory over Adam Scott and Jhonattan Vegas.

Scott set a record of his own — it was his 19th loss in the Presidents Cup, breaking the record held by Ernie Els.

The Americans have a 9-1-1 lead in the series, their only loss coming in 1998 at Royal Melbourne. But it has at least been close after the opening two sessions, with neither side leading by more than two points since 1998.

Thunder sign Westbrook to extension for 5 years, \$205M

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Russell Westbrook is staying with the Thunder.

The superstar point guard and reigning NBA MVP has signed a contract extension to remain in Oklahoma City, the team announced Friday. ESPN first reported the agreement and said it would be for five years and worth \$205 million.

Westbrook made an Instagram post Friday afternoon, a photo of him yelling at Chesapeake Energy Arena with his arms raised in the air. His words of choice to go with the photo are the words he lives by

and the name of his charitable foundation: “WHY NOT??”

Westbrook said this week that Oklahoma City is where he wanted to be. He said he was thrilled with the offseason additions of four-time All-Star Paul George and 10-time All-Star Carmelo Anthony. Both have player options on their deals after this season.

“I love being here,” he said. “I’m excited about the season. Obviously, with a lot of new changes, and I’m excited.”

Thunder owner Clay Bennett values Westbrook’s importance to Oklahoma City on and off the court.

“We recognize and deeply appreciate Russell’s rare and unique abilities as he leads the Oklahoma City Thunder, but also understand his presence and impact on our community will be felt for decades to come,” Bennett said. “On behalf of the entire Thunder organization, our ownership group and all of Oklahoma, I want to express my deepest appreciation to Russell, and I know that the very best days for the Thunder are yet to come.”

Westbrook averaged a triple-double last season and was the league scoring champion. He averaged 31.6 points, 10.7

rebounds and 10.4 assists and broke Oscar Robertson’s single-season record for triple-doubles with 42.

His success increased anxiety for Thunder fans who feared he might leave, as Kevin Durant did during the summer of 2016 when he chose to join the Golden State Warriors. Westbrook signed the extension on Durant’s 29th birthday.

Westbrook said he hadn’t signed because of other obligations.

“I’ve been at home,” he said. “I’ve been traveling. Just trying to get my family together, honestly.”

Red Sox lose, fail to clinch division crown

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox are running out of chances to wrap up the AL East title.

Boston once again failed to clinch the division crown, losing to the Houston Astros 3-2 Friday night as Alex Bregman homered and drove in three runs.

The Red Sox's magic number remained at one to close out the New York Yankees, who beat Toronto 4-0. Boston leads the Yankees by two games — both teams have two games left and they're each assured playoff spots.

After going 8-1 in their final road trip of the season, the Red Sox have slumped at home, losing two in a row and falling to 1-4 on their home-stand. But Mookie Betts said no one is panicking inside the

clubhouse.

"It's just go win one game," the star outfielder said. "Nobody said it's going to be easy. If it was easy, it wouldn't be fun ... We just got to go win one game."

If Boston and New York wind up even, they will play a one-game tiebreaker Monday at Yankee Stadium for the division crown. The loser would go to the wild-card game.

Hanley Ramirez doubled with two outs in the Boston ninth. But with the Fenway Park crowd rooting for a rally, Rafael Devers grounded out to end it, with Ken Giles getting his 34th save.

The AL West champion Astros won their fifth straight game and posted their 100th victory of the season. They are one game behind AL Central champion Cleveland for the

best record in the league and home-field advantage in the AL playoffs.

"It's a big number and it takes six months to get there. I'm proud of our guys, obviously. We've got a couple games left. We'd like 102, plus 11 in October," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said.

Charlie Morton (14-7) retired the first 13 Red Sox batters before Mitch Moreland doubled with one out in the fifth inning.

Morton allowed four hits in 5¹/₃ innings. Four relievers combined to blank Boston on one hit.

A day after the Astros routed Boston 12-2, they took a 1-0 lead in the third on Bregman's RBI single off Doug Fister (5-9). Bregman, who had three hits, had a two-run homer in the fifth.

"The obvious thing is to go out and put together a solid game and win," Boston manager John Farrell said. "Our destiny is controlled by us, particularly as it relates to the final two days in the division. We've got to go out and win a game."

Close calls: Boston pulled within 3-2 and had the bases loaded in the sixth, but Ramirez grounded out. Dustin Pedroia got aboard with a walk in the eighth, but pinch-runner Brock Holt was caught trying to advance on a curveball in the dirt by Chris Devenski. The play was challenged by Boston and held up after review.

Holt said he got exactly the scenario he hoped he would.

"I was looking for him to bounce one, and he bounced one. The catcher made a perfect play."

MLB roundup

Arenado leads hit parade as Rockies batter Dodgers

Associated Press

DENVER — Nolan Arenado hit the first of Colorado's four homers, Chad Bettis picked up his second win since his return from testicular cancer and the Rockies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 9-1 on Friday night to remain on the verge of clinching their first postseason spot since 2009.

The Rockies have two games remaining and hold a two-game lead over Milwaukee for the second NL wild-card spot. The Brewers beat St. Louis 5-3 to stay in the picture.

A capacity crowd turned out hoping to see a clinch. Instead, fans got fireworks — during the game and after.

Arenado hit a solo homer, while Mark Reynolds, Charlie Blackmon and Trevor Story added two-run shots. All four came with the count full.

Bettis (2-4) allowed one run over seven innings, retiring the final 14 batters he faced.

This was the latest chapter of Bettis' feel-good story back to the majors. He underwent surgery last November, went through treatments during the spring and into the season before returning to the rotation in August.

Blackmon set a major league record for most RBIs in a season by a leadoff man with his homer in the second.

Brewers 5, Cardinals 3: Stephen Vogt homered and drove in three runs, Chase Anderson pitched seven solid innings, and visiting Milwaukee kept its playoff hopes alive.

The Brewers entered two games behind the Rockies for the second NL wild card. Milwaukee has won four of its last six games.

Twins 6, Tigers 3: Brian Dozier hit a three-run homer in the second inning, leading host Minnesota to the victory.

Yankees 4, Blue Jays 0: Masahiro Tanaka struck out 15

over seven innings, his highest total since coming to the major leagues, and host New York won for the fourth time in five games.

Marlins 6, Braves 5: At Miami, slugger Giancarlo Stanton had two hits, but remained at 59 home runs.

Cubs 5, Reds 4: Ian Happ hit a three-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning, and host Chicago won for the 14th time in 17 games.

Nationals 6, Pirates 1: Stephen Strasburg pitched 7²/₃ shutout innings for host Washington, and Ryan Zimmerman homered twice.

Indians 10, White Sox 1: Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run double for AL Central champion and hot Cleveland, and Jay Bruce and Jose Ramirez drove in two runs apiece.

The Indians' 101 victories are the second-most in franchise history and set a record for wins by an AL Central team.

Royals 2, Diamondbacks 1: Kansas City's Ian Kennedy picked up his first home victory in more than a year.

Rangers 5, Athletics 3: Shin-Soo Choo tied a career high with his 22nd home run, helping host Texas end a seven-game skid.

Rays 7, Orioles 0: Evan Longoria and Logan Morrison homered, and host Tampa Bay clinched third place in the AL East.

Phillies 6, Mets 2: Maikel Franco, Jorge Alfaro and Cesar Hernandez homered, powering host Philadelphia to the victory.

Giants 8, Padres 0: Buster Posey hit three RBI doubles, Brandon Crawford drove in three runs and had three hits, and host San Francisco ensured it won't finish with a 100-loss season.

Angels 6, Mariners 5: Mike Trout hit two homers and Los Angeles rallied past visiting Seattle.