

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Ariz., Texas send 400 troops to border

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Arizona and Texas announced Friday that they would send 400 National Guard members to the U.S.-Mexico border by next week in response to President Donald Trump's call for troops to fight drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said about 150 Guard members would deploy next week. And the Texas National Guard said it was already sending Guardsmen to the border, with plans to place 250 troops there in the next 72 hours as an "initial surge," according to a Guard spokesman. Two helicopters lifted off Friday night from Austin, the state capital, to head south.

The total so far remains well short of the 2,000 to 4,000 National Guard members that Trump told reporters he wants to send. New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez's office said Friday that it had not yet deployed any Guard members. The office of California Gov. Jerry Brown did not respond to questions about whether it would deploy troops.

Trump's proclamation Wednesday directing the use of National Guard troops refers to Title 32, a federal law under

which Guard members remain under the command and control of their state's governor. This leaves open the possibility that California's Brown could turn him down.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Friday night approved paying for up to 4,000 National Guard personnel from the Pentagon budget through the end of September. A Defense Department memo says the National Guard personnel will not perform law enforcement functions or "interact with migrants or other persons detained" without Mattis's approval. It said "arming will be limited to circumstances that might require self-defense."

Trump's proclamation blamed "the lawlessness that continues at our southern border." Trump has suggested he wants to use the military on the border until progress is made on his proposed border wall, which has mostly stalled in Congress.

After plunging at the start of Trump's presidency, the numbers of migrants apprehended at the southwest border have started to rise in line with historical trends. The Border Patrol said it caught around 50,000 people in March, more than three times the number in March 2017. That's erased a decline for which Trump repeatedly took

credit. Border apprehensions still remain well below the numbers when former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama deployed the Guard to the border.

Department of Homeland Security officials have said Guard members could support Border Patrol agents and other law enforcement agencies. DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said this week that guard members could "help look at the technology, the surveillance," and that the department might ask for fleet mechanics. Federal law restricts the military from carrying out law enforcement duties.

From 2006 to 2008, the Guard fixed vehicles, maintained roads, repaired fences and performed ground surveillance. Its second mission in 2010 and 2011 involved more aerial surveillance and intelligence work.

Leaders in both Arizona and Texas said Friday that they were working with federal planners to define the Guard members' mission.

About 100 Guardsmen remain deployed as part of the existing state mission in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, the busiest corridor for unauthorized crossings on the southwest border.

Lockheed told to cut \$1.1T cost of F-35s

Bloomberg

Lockheed Martin must find ways to reduce the Pentagon's current \$1.1 trillion estimate to own and operate the F-35 jet, the world's costliest weapons program, according to the Defense Department's latest annual program overview.

According to the document, Lockheed "must embrace much-needed supply chain management affordability initiatives" to cut costs on the next-generation stealth fighter.

The \$1.1 trillion estimate to sustain the U.S. F-35 fleet through 2077 was compiled in 2015 by the Pentagon's independent cost assessment office but

has not been updated, according to the Selected Acquisition Report, or SAR, obtained by Bloomberg News. The Pentagon said this week that the estimate will be updated next year before acquisition officials meet to decide whether the program should enter full-production.

Although the estimate is unchanged, the acquisition report focused at length on the importance of reducing the \$1.1 trillion figure as well comments from the F-35 program office pointing out what it said are shortcomings of the independent estimate.

The report acknowledges that under current forecasts, "the projected F-35 sustainment out-

lays are too costly" and "given planned fleet growth, future U.S. service operations and support budgets will be strained." Bloomberg reported last week that the U.S. Air Force may have to cut its F-35 purchases by one-third, or about 590 jets, if it can't find ways to reduce operations and support costs by as much as 38 percent over a decade.

According to the acquisition report, Lockheed should also "optimize priorities across the supply chain for spare and new production parts, and enable the exchange of necessary data rights" to the U.S. military of software currently owned by the company.

Although the F-35 program office has complained about the \$1.1 trillion cost estimate, its own current estimate is only slightly less, according to figures contained in the report.

As of January, 268 F-35s were fielded and another 670 aircraft are expected to be delivered and fielded by 2023.

The Pentagon testing office's annual report to Congress on major weapons systems in January said the availability of the F-35 for missions when needed — a key metric — remains "around 50 percent, a condition that has existed with no significant improvement since October 2014, despite the increasing number of aircraft."

File: Officer asked friends for photos of genitals

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A U.S. Air Force officer who served on the presidential security detail faces a possible court-martial in Texas for encouraging servicemembers to send him photos of their genitals from locations around the world and rewarding contributions with commemorative T-shirts, patches and coins.

Second Lt. Travis Burch was charged earlier this month at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas, with conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman.

Burch created a fraternal club of sorts that grew to 84 people, including 58 active military and 10 former members among the civilians, according to an investigation file obtained by The Associated Press. Most members were enlisted men in the Air Force, though the group also included a U.S. Marine and one current and one former U.S. Navy sailor.

Burch used the military alphabet to create the code name “Whiskey Delta Tango” for the group known to users by a more vulgar term, according to a summary of the investigation.

It started in 2012 and “was comprised of members who when going someplace deemed ‘cool’ or coming up with a ‘funny’ idea would take a picture of their penis with something related to the location or object in the picture,” the investigation said.

Defense lawyer Jeremiah J. Sullivan III said no crime was committed and the case was built around what was done privately in a “jovial, joking spirit” among consenting adults.

“The Air Force has spent well over a year investigating this case all over the globe,” Sullivan said. “This was a completely private group that is now embarrassed by Air Force investigators. They’re now being publicly shamed for lawfully and voluntarily sharing their penis pictures. It’s a private matter.”

The partly censored investigation document said Burch told someone not identified that he took his final suggestive selfie at the vice president’s residence while assigned to the security detail.

Sullivan confirmed Burch was part of the presidential security detail while stationed at Joint Base Andrews from 2014

to 2016, but said no such photo was shot at the house then occupied by Vice President Joe Biden.

Burch was enlisted during most of the time he collected and shared images so voluminous they had to be stored on an external hard drive.

In a conversation with a friend, Burch said there was nothing illegal about the club among enlisted personnel, but he had to either go into “hibernation” or pass the torch to someone once he entered officer training school, according to the investigation report.

The investigation, however, said he didn’t stop after being commissioned as an officer in March 2016 at the end of his assignment to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland.

Two months after his commissioning, he texted an airman in Belgium and said he was going through “withdrawal” and asked the man to send a racy video.

One of the charges alleges Burch threatened to share a photo of one member touching Burch’s penis if the man didn’t send more images.

Sullivan rejected that charge and said all the photos were

taken consensually and no one was threatened.

Investigators found the hard drive hidden in a hollowed-out book in Burch’s quarters. They also found coins and other prizes featuring the symbol of a rooster that were awarded for completing a series of different poses and other acts.

The Air Force acknowledged the misconduct charges after being contacted, but declined to comment further. Burch faces a hearing to determine if he should be tried by court-martial for any of three counts, including an allegation that he solicited servicemembers to commit indecent conduct that brought discredit to the armed forces.

It was not immediately clear what penalty he could face.

Military commanders have broad disciplinary discretion and evaluate whether misconduct behind closed doors interferes with control of a unit and could lead to breakdown in obedience, said attorney Dwight Stirling, former chief prosecutor of the California National Guard.

2 killed in Apache helo crash at Fort Campbell

Stars and Stripes

FORT CAMPBELL — Two soldiers were killed Friday when an AH-64E Apache helicopter crashed at Fort Campbell.

The soldiers were flying a routine training mission in a training area on the base, when the Apache crashed at about 9:50 p.m., according to a base statement.

“This is a day of sadness for Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne,” Brig. Gen. Todd Royar, the acting senior commander of the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell, said in the statement. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the families during this difficult time.”

The names of the soldiers who died were not immediately released. The cause of the accident remained under investigation Saturday morning.

These two soldiers are now among seven U.S. military aviators to die in a rash of training crashes in recent days.

On Tuesday, Capt. Samuel A. Schultz, 1st Lt. Samuel D. Phillips, Gunnery Sgt. Derik Holley and Lance Cpl. Taylor J. Conrad were killed when their CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter wrecked as the crew practiced landing the heavy lift chopper on ungroomed grounds about 15 miles west of El Centro, California along the Mexican border, the Marines said in a statement.

Maj. Stephen Del Bagno, a member of the Air Force’s elite demonstration squad the Thunderbirds, was killed Wednesday when his F-16 crashed near Nellis Air Force Base outside Las Vegas during preparations for an airshow this weekend.

In Africa, a Marine pilot suffered minor injuries after ejecting from his AV-8B Har-

rier attack jet upon takeoff from an airport in Djibouti on Tuesday. Another CH-53E was damaged in yet another incident Tuesday in Djibouti.

U.S. and Djiboutian officials have since agreed to temporarily ground all American military flights from the tiny nation on the Horn of Africa, Marine Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, the director of the Joint Staff, told Stars and Stripes Thursday. He said military officials were investigating each of the recent crashes, but the Pentagon had not determined whether there were correlations between the recent incidents.

Other recent incidents included the fatal crash March 14 of a Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet off the coast of Key West, Fla., that left two pilots dead. An Air Force HH-60 Pave Hawk crash in western Iraq, also last month, killed seven airmen.

EPA chief spent millions on security and travel

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt's concern with his safety came at a steep cost to taxpayers as his swollen security detail blew through overtime budgets and at times diverted officers away from investigating environmental crimes.

Altogether, the agency spent millions of dollars for a 20-member full-time detail that is more than three times the size of his predecessor's part-time security contingent.

New details in Pruitt's expansive spending for security and travel emerged from agency sources and documents reviewed by The Associated Press. They come as the embattled EPA leader fends off allegations of profligate spending and ethical missteps that have imperiled his job.

Shortly after arriving in Washington, Pruitt demoted the career staff member heading his security detail and replaced him with EPA Senior Special Agent Pasquale "Nino" Perrotta, a former Secret Service agent who operates a private security company.

An EPA official with direct knowledge of Pruitt's security spending says Perrotta oversaw a rapid expansion of the EPA chief's security detail to accommodate guarding him day and night, even on family vacations and when Pruitt was home in Oklahoma. The EPA official spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Perrotta also signed off on new procedures that let Pruitt fly first-class on commercial airliners, with the security chief typically sitting next to him with other security staff

farther back in the plane.

Pruitt's ambitious domestic and international travel led to escalating costs, with the security detail racking up so much overtime that many hit annual salary caps of about \$160,000. The demands of providing 24-hour coverage even meant taking some investigators away from field work.

The EPA official said total security costs approached \$3 million when pay is added to travel expenses.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said late Friday that Pruitt has faced an "unprecedented" amount of death threats against him and his family.

A nationwide search of state and federal court records by AP found no case where anyone has been arrested or charged with threatening Pruitt.

Lawmaker quits amid harassment allegations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Texas Republican Rep. Blake Farenthold abruptly resigned Friday, four months after announcing he wouldn't seek re-election amid sexual harassment allegations.

In December, Farenthold had posted another video denying a former aide's 2014 accusations, including that he'd subjected her to sexually suggestive comments and behavior and then fired her after she complained. Still, the congressman apologized in that video for an office atmosphere he said included "destructive gossip, offhand comments, off-color jokes and behavior that, in general, was less than professional."

Since October, eight lawmakers have either resigned or abandoned re-election bids amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

Man begs forgiveness for seagull incident at hotel

The Washington Post

"This may seem like an unusual request, but I write to you today seeking a 'pardon.'"

So began an 1,100-word letter from Nick Burchill, of Nova Scotia to the Fairmont Empress hotel in downtown Victoria, Canada.

Burchill was coming "hat-in-hand," as he wrote in his missive, to apologize and ask forgiveness for an incident that got him banned for life from the upscale establishment 17 years ago. The following may sound incredible, but hotel staff say it's true.

In 2001, Burchill, a former member of the Canadian Naval Reserve, traveled to Victoria for a work conference, according to his letter, which he published in a widely shared Facebook post last week. Knowing he'd

see some Navy buddies during the trip, he brought with him a suitcase full of pepperoni from their favorite deli in Halifax.

After checking into the Fairmont Empress on a chilly April day, he noticed there wasn't a refrigerator in his room. So he laid the bundles of meat by an open window to keep them cool. Then he stepped out for a stroll.

He returned hours later to a scene out of an Alfred Hitchcock film. A flock of seagulls, dozens of them, had descended on the pepperoni and invaded the room, he said. When Burchill tried to clear them out, chaos ensued.

"They immediately started flying around and crashing into things as they desperately tried to leave the room through the small opening by which

they had entered," Burchill wrote. "The result was a tornado of seagull excrement, feathers and pepperoni chunks and fairly large birds whipping around the room. The lamps were falling. The curtains were trashed. The coffee tray was just disgusting."

Hotel employees were aghast. The mess was so bad that the management sent a letter to Burchill's employers saying he could never stay there again.

But on Sunday, the Fairmont Empress decided to open its doors to him once again. Hotel staff said in a statement that they had reviewed his request for a pardon and lifted the ban.

Burchill dropped by the front desk over the weekend and gave the managers a pound of Brothers TNT Pepperoni as a "peace offering," he told CBC News.

Tracey Drake, the hotel's public relations director, told the Canadian Press that some staff members thought Burchill's letter was an April Fools' Day prank. But they checked the records and, sure enough, the seagull story was no joke. Nor was Burchill's permanent ban.

"It is absolutely a true story," Drake said.

In his letter, Burchill recalled his shock when he opened the door to his room that afternoon in 2001 and saw "an entire flock of seagulls" laying waste to the place. There must have been 40 of them, he said.

"In case you were wondering, Brothers TNT Pepperoni does NASTY things to a seagull's digestive system," he wrote. "As you would expect, the room was covered in seagull crap."

ICE arrests 97 in raid at Tennessee plant

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A federal immigration raid that took 97 people into custody at a Tennessee meat processing plant may be the biggest employment crackdown under President Donald Trump, civil rights activists said Friday.

Eleven people were arrested on criminal charges, and 86 were detained for being in the country illegally, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Tammy Spicer said in a statement Friday.

The Thursday raid on Southeastern Provision, a meat processing plant in Bean Station, Tenn., is the largest single work-site immigration enforcement action since President George W. Bush's administration, said Jessie Hahn, labor and employment policy attorney at the National Immigration Law Center.

A Tennessee activist said the processing plant raid is another example of the emphasis on enforcement.

"What we saw here, while it is the largest and certainly credibly egregious raid, it does fit in the larger practice and patterns

of the Trump administration of targeting workers, indiscriminately arresting immigrants and really terrorizing communities across the country," said Stephanie Teatro, co-executive director of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition.

Officials with ICE, the Homeland Security Department, the IRS Criminal Investigation Division and the Tennessee Highway Patrol executed a federal search warrant on the meat processing plant Thursday morning, Spicer said. During the search, Homeland Security officials encountered 97 people who are subject to removal from the U.S., she said. Ten workers were arrested on federal criminal charges, and another was arrested on a state charge. Of the 86 people arrested and placed in deportation proceedings, ICE kept 54 in detention and released 32 from custody, Spicer said.

An undercover police officer was hired at the company using a false name, and he was paid in cash, the affidavit filed by IRS Special Agent Nicholas Worsham said.

Northern Calif. rain raises flood concerns

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Tourists streamed out of Yosemite National Park, San Francisco baseball fans had a game canceled by rain for the first time in a dozen years, and authorities kept a close eye on swelling rivers and rising water at a damaged dam as a "Pineapple Express" storm drenched Northern California.

San Francisco had record rainfall on Friday as an "atmospheric river" of subtropical moisture streaming from Hawaii pounded the north.

No major problems were reported, but flood warnings and watches remained in effect Saturday for the Sierra Nevada, the Santa Cruz Mountains south of San Francisco and other areas while authorities warned that flash floods, mudflows and rockslides were possible in heavy rain, especially in the wine country north of San Francisco where wildfires in October stripped the ground bare of soil-gripping plant life.

Runoff from melting snow could add to the chance of rap-

idly rising mountain streams and rivers in the Sierra, the National Weather Service warned.

Yosemite National Park closed campgrounds and lodging in its busy Yosemite Valley because of flooding concerns, with the Merced River there expected to peak 5 feet above flood stage Saturday.

Downtown San Francisco saw nearly 2 inches of rain Friday, making it the fourth-wettest April day since records began.

San Francisco International Airport reported about 150 canceled flights because of the weather, and others were delayed an hour or more.

The opener of the San Francisco Giants-Los Angeles Dodgers weekend series was rained out, the first at the Giants ballpark in 12 years.

To the north, state officials warned that they may have to use the partially rebuilt spillway at Oroville Dam for the first time since repairs began on the badly damaged structure last summer.

FEMA: Puerto Rico isn't ready for hurricane season

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The administrator of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency said Friday it will take up to \$50 billion to help rebuild Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria and warned that the U.S. territory is not ready for another disaster.

Brock Long said his agency aims to make the island's roads, homes, bridges and electrical grid as strong as possible but noted that the next hurricane season starts June 1.

"We're running out of time," he said during a visit to Puerto Rico, adding that much of the island's infrastructure collapsed. "We have a long way to go."

Long said his agency also is coordinating a June 14 planning and training exercise with Puerto Rico's government in which life-saving supplies will be delivered to the island's 78 municipalities to ensure better response times for any upcoming storms.

Cities and towns will be allowed to store those supplies for future disasters.

FEMA and local government officials already have stockpiled more than 15.6 million liters of water and more than 2.8 million meals in five warehouses across the island in the event of another disaster. Gov. Ricardo Rossello said late Friday that FEMA also approved more than \$53 million in community disaster loans for 12 of the island's 78 municipalities.

Long stressed that Puerto Rico's public and private sectors have to build a strong emergency response network and establish unified plans.

"FEMA cannot be directly responsible for all of the response and recovery," he said.

He also said the private sector should ensure that communication systems become more resistant. Maria left nearly all of Puerto Rico without phone service after the Category 4 storm hit on Sept. 20.

Long defended his agency from ongoing

criticism that it did not respond quickly enough to the hurricane or dedicate the same amount of resources compared with other natural disasters in the U.S. mainland.

"(That's) completely false," he said, adding that in the first six months since Maria hit, FEMA invested \$10 billion in Puerto Rico, in contrast to the \$6 billion invested in the six months after Hurricane Katrina.

He said his agency is working to reduce bureaucracy but needs to ensure that federal funds will be spent appropriately.

"Recovery never moves as fast as people want it to be," he said. "And in this case, moving faster can be detrimental from the standpoint of putting this money to work in a manner that truly makes Puerto Rico stronger and more resilient."

Mike Byrne, FEMA's federal coordinating officer in Puerto Rico, said he is working with the U.S. territory's government to determine how federal funds will be used to identify priorities and rebuild damaged infrastructure.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen arrested over car stolen with baby inside

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — Police arrested a Florida teen on suspicion of stealing a car with a baby inside, then abandoning it, along with the child, on another road.

Fort Lauderdale police said Thursday in a news release the baby's father had left the car running with a 1-year-old girl inside when the suspect, 16, got in and drove away. Shortly afterward, the vehicle was found less than a mile away with the baby unharmed.

The father told the media he had forgotten the girl's juice. Because she had fallen asleep, he left her unattended in the car and went back into his home to pick it up.

The suspect has been charged with grand theft of a motor vehicle and desertion of a child.

Sheriff's secretary held in theft of bond money

NM SANTA ROSA — Authorities said a secretary for the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office was arrested and accused of embezzling \$2,715 of bond money submitted to the office.

The State Police said Sarah Moncayo, 35, of Santa Rosa, was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of embezzlement, tampering with evidence and fraud.

According to the State Police, the investigation began when the Guadalupe Magistrate Court reported missing bond money never submitted to the court by the Sheriff's Office.

The State Police said Moncayo is accused of receiving bond money from two separate victims, voiding the receipts and stealing the money.

Police: Man at airport sprays lotion at trooper

MS BOSTON — Prosecutors said a Rhode Island man looking for his lost luggage at Boston's Logan International Airport punched, spat on, and sprayed hand lotion in a state trooper's face.

Kevin Luczak, 28, was granted \$500 bail after pleading not guilty Wednesday to charges including assault and battery on a police officer.

Authorities said the Narragansett, R.I., man walked into a baggage office to make a claim about his bag about 11 p.m. Tuesday.

The trooper had been notified by the flight crew about an on-board incident involving Luczak.

Police said Luczak sprayed hand lotion onto the trooper's face, which prompted a scuffle that spilled onto a moving baggage carousel.

Inmate fails in escape bid from hospital

NC JACKSONVILLE — Authorities said a North Carolina jail inmate being treated at a hospital tried to escape custody by throwing a sheet over a deputy and trying to run away.

The Onslow County Sheriff's Office told local news outlets that Jack Joseph Pekkala, 28, of Hubert, was arrested after he attempted the escape Wednesday at Onslow Memorial Hospital.

According to arrest warrants, the deputy used a Taser on Pekkala.

Pekkala was in jail for a variety of charges after deputies said he robbed a convenience store, used a shotgun to steal \$200, drove off in a stolen car and then stole gasoline from another store.

Newspaper carrier finds dead, nude man in road

ME SCARBOROUGH — Police said a newspaper carrier in Maine stumbled upon a man's dead, nude body in the middle of the street.

The Portland Press Herald reported the body was found in Scarborough early Monday. Scarborough Police Chief Robby Moulton said the man was in his 60s and he was only wearing his socks and slippers.

Though he was undressed, Moulton said the man's death does not appear to be suspicious.

Police: 2 women took turns driving drunk

NJ HOBOKEN — Authorities said two women were driving drunk when they separately caused numerous crashes involving parked vehicles last weekend.

Responding officers found Janelle Green, 23, of Newark, driving the vehicle, while Jamiela Banks, 24, of Alexandria, Va., was in the front passenger seat. After interviewing the women, authorities determined Banks had been driving and struck at least two parked vehicles before the pair switched places and Green hit at least two more vehicles.

No injuries were reported in any of the crashes.

Firefighters rescue cat from burning apartment

DC WASHINGTON — Officials said firefighters rescued a cat from a burning apartment building in Washington.

News outlets reported no person was injured, as everyone inside had escaped safely from the fire that was on the second

and third floors of the four-story building last weekend.

D.C. Fire and EMS Department spokesman Vito Maggiolo said the feline was found in an apartment hanging on to something for "dear life."

Firefighters administered oxygen to the cat and Maggiolo said late Sunday night that it had improved vastly.

Pizza delivery driver saves 2 from house fire

KY SOMERSET — A pizza deliveryman's customer service was on fire. Literally.

Donatos Pizza driver Ralph Letner told WDRB-TV that he was delivering a pizza to a mobile home park in Somerset when he saw a home on fire. Letner said he jumped out of his car and raced into the home to shut off the breaker. He found the homeowner and one other person inside.

Homeowner Jesse Decker said Letner is a hero who saved his home and his life.

Firefighters said an electrical problem caused the fire.

Police: Man passed out in car, foot on brake

WI MADISON — Madison authorities said a 36-year-old man was arrested for intoxicated driving after police found him passed out in the driver's seat of a car with his foot on the running vehicle's brake.

Madison Police Chief Mike Koval said officers were dispatched early Sunday morning after a neighbor called about a car parked in the middle of the road.

Koval said the driver released the brakes when awakened, and the car moved slowly for about 40 feet before hitting a parked vehicle.

From wire reports

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Reed leads at halfway point of Masters

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Patrick Reed is halfway home to his first major championship.

He got there by mostly staying out of trouble at daunting Augusta National and mastering the four par 5s.

Reed shot a 6-under 66 in the second round Friday and moved to 9-under 135 for the tournament. He takes a two-shot lead over Marc Leishman into Saturday's third round, which could be affected by rain.

Forecasts call for steady showers all day, the kind of weather that should soften up what had become a hard and fast test.

The way Reed has played, it's doubtful even Mother Nature can slow him down.

"I believe if I play the golf I know how to play, I can win majors," said Reed, a 27-year-old Texan who ended his college career 3 miles down the road at Augusta State. "I need to stick to my game plan."

Reed and Leishman will be the final pairing Saturday, scheduled to tee off at 2:30 p.m.

Reed grabbed the lead thanks mostly to being the only player

in the field to birdie all eight par 5s in the first two rounds. He also needed just 51 putts through 36 holes.

"I kept myself out of trouble and allowed my putter to do the work," Reed said.

Leishman kept it close. He boldly took on a high risk when he hooked a hooded 5-iron around the trees and barely over the water on the par-5 15th to about 6 feet for an eagle that got him to 7 under.

Right behind them? Five major champions, for starters.

Henrik Stenson (70) was four shots behind. Rory McIlroy (71) is off to his best 36-hole start in seven years and is looking as poised as ever to capture the fourth leg of the career Grand Slam. Jordan Spieth lost his two-shot lead on the first hole and was on the verge of getting left behind until he made a key par putt to close out the front nine with a 40, and then salvaged a 74 to join McIlroy just five shots behind.

Some other things to know heading into Saturday's third round:

Tiger effect

Tiger Woods made the cut at his first Masters in three years. He has some mixed feelings

about where he's at.

He shot a three-over 75 in the second round and is 4 over heading into the weekend. The 75 matched his second-worst score at the Masters and left him 13 shots off the lead.

Woods struggled with distance control Friday in difficult conditions and lamented a number of close misses on greens.

He said he didn't hit his irons very good at all, adding that he "didn't control distances, shapes or anything."

Still, Woods was mostly pleased with how he's played in his first major since the 2015 PGA Championship.

"Six months ago, I didn't know if I was going to play again. It's incredible. Just so thankful have this opportunity to be able to play golf again."

Woods knows he needs a "special weekend" and some help to get back in contention.

Old guys

Fred Couples, 58, Bernard Langer, 60, and Vijay Singh, 55 — three guys who play the PGA Tour Champions — proved it pays off to know your way around Augusta National.

All three of them shot 2 over in the second round and made

the cut at golf's first major.

Couples is 11 shots off Reed's pace heading into the weekend. Langer is 13 back, and Singh is 10 behind.

Couples made the cut at the Masters for the 30th time, tying Gary Player for the second most in tournament history. Only six-time Masters champion Jack Nicklaus (37) made more cuts at Augusta National.

Headed home

The last two Masters champions won't be playing on the weekend.

Defending champion Sergio Garcia and 2016 winner Danny Willett missed the cut.

Willett finished the second round with consecutive bogeys, missing out by two strokes.

Garcia's reign was essentially over when he wrote a double-digit number on his scorecard in the opening round Thursday. The Spaniard and new father hit five consecutive balls into the water at the par-5 15th.

Garcia seemed to spend much of Friday going through the motions. He struggled to a 78 that included dumping another ball in the water at No. 11 and ended up at 15-over 159.

McGregor's future in doubt in wake of felony charges

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cocksure and uncouth, Conor McGregor was never afraid to defy authority.

He dressed in fur coats and swung chairs at news conferences, reaped the riches of his dalliance with boxing, and demanded his boss cut him an ownership stake in the MMA promotion that made him one of the sport's most notorious names.

What McGregor wanted, McGregor got — in cash, championships, and living his best luxe life.

After one more decisive victory in New York, McGregor scaled the UFC octagon and draped two championship belts

over his shoulder while a sold-out crowd roared in approval.

In the underbelly of a New York arena 17 months later, McGregor went wild, using a dolly, chairs and guard rails as weapons, not his fists. Fueled by revenge and running with a pack of his "hoodlums," McGregor's antics landed him in jail — and injured two fighters on Saturday's UFC 223 card.

Quiet and humbled, McGregor couldn't talk his way out of trouble in a New York courtroom.

McGregor was arraigned Friday on charges of felony criminal mischief charges and misdemeanor assault, menacing and reckless endangerment

charges following a backstage melee he sparked at a UFC event in New York City.

He spoke only to acknowledge that he understood the conditions of his release, saying, "Yes, your honor."

McGregor was released on \$50,000 bond — pocket change for a fighter who was guaranteed \$30 million last year in his ballyhooed boxing match against Floyd Mayweather Jr. .

Video footage appeared to show the promotion's most bankable star throwing a hand truck at a bus full of fighters on Thursday after a news conference for UFC 223 at Brooklyn's Barclays Center.

McGregor was trying to get

at UFC 223 main event fighter Khabib Nurmagomedov because the Russian had been involved in a hotel altercation with fellow fighter Artem Lobov. McGregor tried to stick up for Lobov, a close friend, and apparently loaded a private jet with his best buds and flew to New York to rumble.

Video showed McGregor with a group of people causing chaos Thursday as they took an elevator to the loading dock at Barclays Center.

He can be seen tossing trash cans and being prevented from throwing a barricade at a bus during his unannounced appearance in New York.

Ohtani homers again in Angels' victory

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Rookie sensation Shohei Ohtani is making himself at home in the Big A.

Ohtani hit a home run for the third straight game and the Los Angeles Angels rallied from an early six-run deficit to beat the Oakland Athletics 13-9 on Friday night.

The two-way star from Japan connected for a long, solo drive in the second inning against Daniel Gossett. The ball landed in the rocks beyond the center-field wall after traveling 449 feet and was measured with a 112.3 mph exit velocity according to Statcast, the hardest-hit and longest of Ohtani's three homers.

"Smoked that ball, huh?" Angels shortstop Andrelton Simmons said. "The center fielder ran after it like he had a chance for a second, scared everybody. Wasn't even close."

Ohtani, who is batting .462 (6-for-13) at home, drew a walk

on four pitches with the bases loaded to pull the Angels within 8-7 in the fifth.

All seven of his RBIs through his first four games have come in home games.

"It's very impressive, yeah. You don't see too many guys do that on the mound and at the plate. Any," Athletics manager Bob Melvin said.

Ohtani is scheduled to pitch Sunday — the 23-year-old won his first big league start last weekend against the A's.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia does not plan to use Ohtani as the designated hitter on Saturday and have him get a chance to extend his homer streak. But Scioscia said he would be open to letting Ohtani hit before or after a start later this season.

"There has to be point where he becomes a pitcher, not to say sometime during the season he won't be available to do a little bit more the day before he pitches or a day after. But certainly right now we're going to

err on the side of caution," Scioscia said.

The Angels trailed 6-0 in the second. Boosted by five home runs, the A's still led 9-7 in the seventh before third baseman Matt Chapman's throwing error on a grounder by Zack Cozart allowed two runs. Justin Upton then broke the tie with a three-run homer.

"You got to really, really try to keep this lineup quiet," Simmons said. "You just give us any room, we can bounce back. We kept coming at them, kept putting good at-bats and kept threatening them and putting pressure. They made a mistake to tie the game, and then Upton got the big hit after that. The lineup really shows how deep it is."

Jim Johnson (1-0) got the win as the Angels took their third in a row and won for the sixth time in seven games. Simmons and Luis Valbuena each had two RBIs.

Matt Joyce and Marcus Semien hit back-to-back hom-

ers as part of a five-run second inning, and the Athletics sent Parker Bridwell to the dugout after 1 2/3 innings. Joyce's two-run shot to right was his first of the season, and Semien followed it up with a solo homer to center for his first to put the Athletics ahead 6-0.

The Athletics also hit consecutive home runs against the Angels in the season opener on March 29.

Chapman had a two-run homer in the fifth, and Matt Olson added a solo shot in the seventh. Jed Lowrie hit a solo home run in the first — he singled with two outs in the ninth, but was caught taking a wide turn around first for the final out.

"When they came back on us, we swung the bat well again and got a little more distance," Melvin said. "Just couldn't hold it."

Blake Treinen (0-1) took the loss.

MLB roundup

Brantley, Indians prevail in home opener over Royals

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Michael Brantley has perfected the comeback season. Now he has to master completing one.

Brantley singled home two runs on the first pitch of his first at-bat this season, and Carlos Carrasco worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the sixth inning, leading the Cleveland Indians to a 3-2 win in their chilly home opener over the Kansas City Royals on Friday.

Brantley missed Cleveland's first six games while on the disabled list recovering from off-season ankle surgery. But just hours after being activated, the two-time All-Star delivered in the first inning against Danny Duffy (0-2), who managed to hang around until the sixth.

It was an ideal start for the

30-year-old, who means as much to the Indians as any player on their roster.

Braves 8, Rockies 3: It was 27 degrees at gametime, and Brandon McCarthy used his arm and bat to help Atlanta win at Coors Field in Colorado's home opener.

The coldest recorded start in major league history was 23 degrees at Coors Field when these same teams met on April 23, 2013.

Brandon McCarthy (2-0) allowed three runs and five hits in six solid innings and delivered a two-run double that chased German Marquez (0-1).

Pirates 14, Reds 3: Rookie Colin Moran had four hits and three RBIs, Starling Marte hit a bases-loaded triple and host Pittsburgh won again.

The Pirates are off to a 6-1

start following an offseason in which they traded five-time All-Star center fielder Andrew McCutchen and ace pitcher Gerrit Cole.

Brewers 5, Cubs 4: Orlando Arcia hit a game-ending single with one out in the ninth inning, lifting host Milwaukee over Chicago.

Eric Thames and Travis Shaw had two-run homers for the Brewers.

Matt Albers (1-0) allowed one hit in two scoreless innings for his first win for the Brewers.

Padres 4, Astros 1: Jose Pirela had three hits, including a tiebreaking, two-run double as visiting San Diego stopped Houston's five-game winning streak.

The game was tied 1-all in the fifth when Austin Hedges doubled off Lance McCullers

Jr. (1-1), Manuel Margot singled and Pirela doubled.

The Astros had just four hits — all singles — after piling up 18 runs and 28 hits in a three-game sweep of Baltimore. San Diego's pitchers retired 16 straight batters before Marwin Gonzalez walked with one out in the ninth.

Blue Jays 8, Rangers 5: Russell Martin homered and hit a pair of RBI singles to back six solid innings from Marco Estrada for visiting Toronto.

Yangervis Solarte and Martin hit consecutive home runs in the sixth that made it 8-0.

Matt Moore (0-2) had his second straight rough start for the Rangers after leading the NL with 15 losses last season in San Francisco.

NBA roundup

Simmons helps Sixers win 13th straight

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — LeBron James pulled Ben Simmons in for a hug, and smiled and laughed in a brief chat with Joel Embiid.

Allen Iverson watched the scene with a big grin and high-fived a few fans.

The 76ers of the past and present sure loved LeBron — but is that appreciation enough to make him a Sixer in the future?

Simmons topped James in a triple-double battle to lead the 76ers to their 13th straight win in their biggest game in six years, 132-130 over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Friday night.

With a buzz in the city over the Sixers that hasn't been felt since the pre-Process days, they romped to a 30-point lead in the first half and scored 78 points at the break.

"You get down 30 in the post-season, that can lose you a series," James said.

It cost the Cavs in Philly.

Simmons had 27 points, 15 rebounds and 13 assists and James, one of his mentors, had

44 points (17-for-29 shooting), 11 assists and 11 rebounds, bringing the Cavaliers to the brink of an epic comeback.

"He's a student of the game. He wants to be great," James said.

The Sixers (49-30) moved into third place in the Eastern Conference over the Cavaliers (49-31).

Perhaps the Cavs were fatigued from rallying from 17-points down to win Thursday against Washington. Whatever the reason, they were in a funk from the start — James even missed a dunk.

James suddenly remembered in the second half he needed to audition his stuff for his potential summer suitor. He had a chance to tie the game when he was fouled on a three-point attempt with 1.9 seconds left. He made the first, missed the second and his intentional miss on the third failed to go in on a Cavs tip at the horn.

He scored 21 points in the third and hit successive three-pointers in the fourth that helped pull Cleveland to 111-109. James had a monster slam

that kept it a three-point game only for JJ Redick to come down and bury a three.

James started yapping at the refs, the crowd howled as he complained, and the arena felt like a Game 7.

Then it got earsplitting.

Simmons kicked out to Redick for a three from the corner that brought Iverson out of his seat and pumping his fist in celebration.

Raptors 92, Pacers 73: Serge Ibaka scored a season-high 25 points, DeMar DeRozan had 12 and Toronto beat visiting Indiana, clinching first place in the Eastern Conference for the first time in team history.

Celtics 111, Bulls 104: Greg Monroe came off the bench and had 19 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, and host Boston defeated Chicago.

Timberwolves 113, Lakers 96: Jimmy Butler scored 18 points in his return from right knee surgery, Jeff Teague had 25 points and eight assists, and visiting Minnesota beat Los Angeles.

Hawks 103 Wizards 97:

Taurean Prince scored 23 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter, and host Atlanta beat Washington.

Pelicans 122, Suns 103: Nikola Mirotic scored a season-high 31 points and tied a season best with 16 rebounds, Anthony Davis had 33 points and 11 boards, and visiting New Orleans beat Phoenix.

Pistons 113, Mavericks 106 (OT): Reggie Jackson scored 12 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and overtime and host Detroit beat Dallas.

Kings 94, Grizzlies 93: Bogdan Bogdanovic connected on a 16-footer with a second left to help visiting Sacramento escape with a victory over Memphis.

Knicks 122, Heat 98: Rookie Damyean Dotson had career-high 30 points and 11 rebounds, reserve Luke Kornet added a career-best 17 points and host New York blew out Miami.

Hornets 137, Magic 100: Reserve Malik Monk scored 26 points, Frank Kaminsky added 21 and visiting Charlotte routed outmanned Orlando.

NHL roundup

Penguins clinch home-ice advantage for first round

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Penguins will start their bid for a Stanley Cup threepeat at home.

Sidney Crosby and Jake Guentzel banked in goals off Craig Anderson minutes apart in the second period, Casey DeSmith stopped 34 shots and the Penguins beat the Ottawa Senators 4-0 to clinch second place in the Metropolitan Division and home-ice advantage in the opening round of the playoffs.

Phil Kessel got his 34th goal of the season and Patric Hornqvist pushed his career-high to

29 when he beat Anderson late in the third period for the Penguins, who will host Columbus, New Jersey or Philadelphia next week.

Anderson finished with 19 saves but was beaten twice from behind the goal line in the second period as the Senators lost for the ninth time in 11 games.

Ducks 5, Stars 3: Jakob Silfverberg had a goal and two assists to help host Anaheim keep up its surge toward the postseason with its ninth win in 11 games.

Josh Manson and Andrew Cogliano each had a goal and

an assist for the Ducks, who leapfrogged the Los Angeles Kings by one point for third place in the Pacific Division. The playoff-bound rivals have been trading the spot down the stretch, and the race will go down to the last day of the regular season.

Lightning 7, Sabres 5: Nikita Kucherov became the second player in the NHL to reach 100 points this season, and host Tampa Bay took a two-point lead for the Eastern Conference and Atlantic Division lead.

Kucherov scored in the first period and got his 100th point assisting on Dan Girardi's goal

1:04 into the second that put the Lightning up 4-2. Edmonton's Connor McDavid tops the league with 106 points. According to the NHL, this is the first season since 2009-10 with multiple 100-point players.

Blues 4, Blackhawks 1: Patrik Berglund scored three times, including a tiebreaking rebound goal in the third period, and visiting St. Louis moved into position for the last Western Conference wild card.

Carter Hutton made 19 saves as St. Louis stopped a three-game slide. Jaden Schwartz also scored in the third after an ugly turnover by the Blackhawks.