

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Trump: Syria decision to come within 48 hours

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday said that he will make a “major decision” on a response to a suspected chemical weapon attack in Syria that killed scores of people — “a barbaric act,” he called it — over the next 24 to 48 hours.

“It was an atrocious attack. It was horrible,” Trump said of the Saturday strike which killed at least 40 people, including children. He told reporters in the Oval Office that “this is about humanity, and it can’t be allowed to happen.”

A Navy destroyer, the USS Donald Cook, was underway in the eastern Mediterranean on Monday after completing a port call at Larnaca, Cyprus. The ship is armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, the weapon of choice in a U.S. attack one year ago on an airfield in Syria after a suspected sarin gas attack on civilians at Khan Sheikoun. The U.S. said the 2017 strike was intended to deter Syria from further use of chemical weapons.

Trump was to meet later Monday with senior national security aides. “Nothing’s off the table,” he said after condemning Saturday’s suspected use of toxic gas.

“If it’s the Russians, if it’s Syria, if it’s Iran, if it’s all of them together, we’ll figure it out,” Trump said.

Trump’s warning seemed to conflict with his frequent criticism of his predecessors, chiefly former President Barack Obama, for telegraphing potential military strikes

and thus losing the element of surprise. A punitive strike also would put the U.S. in conflict with the Russian-backed Syrian government, whereas Trump has insisted that the only U.S. role in Syria is to crush Islamic State — a mission he hopes to complete soon.

By his latest statements, Trump has raised the pressure to act militarily; after an earlier chemical attack a year ago, he ordered the limited airfield strike. As a candidate and president, he often condemned Obama for drawing a “red line” suggesting Syria’s use of chemical weapons would invite retaliation, and then failing to follow up.

Trump planned to meet with his senior military advisers Monday evening at the White House. The deliberations came as Russia and the Syrian military blamed Israel for a pre-dawn missile attack on a major air base in central Syria, saying Israeli fighter jets launched missiles from Lebanon’s airspace. A group that monitors Syria’s civil war said the airstrikes killed 14 people, including Iranians active in Syria.

Saturday’s suspected poison gas attack took place in a rebel-held town near Damascus amid a resumed offensive by Syrian government forces after the collapse of a truce.

Syrian activists, rescuers and medics said the attack in Douma killed at least 40 people, with families found suffocated in their houses and shelters. The reports could not immediately be independently

verified.

Officials in Washington worked Sunday to verify the claim by Syrian opposition activists and rescuers that the Assad government was responsible.

Just over a year ago, Trump ordered dozens of cruise missiles to be fired at the Syrian airfield after declaring there was no doubt Assad had “choked out the lives of helpless” civilians in an attack that used banned gases. White House advisers said at the time that images of hurt children helped spur the president to launch that airstrike, and television news shows on Sunday aired similar depictions of suffering young Syrians.

“Many dead, including women and children, in mindless CHEMICAL attack in Syria,” Trump tweeted. “Area of atrocity is in lockdown and encircled by Syrian Army, making it completely inaccessible to outside world. President Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for backing Animal Assad. Big price to pay. Open area immediately for medical help and verification. Another humanitarian disaster for no reason whatsoever. SICK!”

The developments come as Trump has moved to dramatically scale back U.S. goals in Syria, pushing for a quick military withdrawal despite resistance from many of his national security advisers. Trump has given no formal order to pull out the 2,000 U.S. troops in Syria nor offered a public timetable other than to say the U.S. will withdraw as soon as the remaining ISIS fighters can be vanquished.

Israel blamed for airstrike in Syria; 14 reported dead

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Russia and the Syrian military blamed Israel for a predawn missile attack Monday on a Syrian air base that reportedly killed 14 people, including three Iranians, while international condemnation grew over a suspected poison gas attack during the weekend that was said to be carried out by the Syrian government.

Opposition activists said 40 people died in the chemical attack, blaming President Bashar Assad’s forces. The U.N. Security Council planned to hold an emergency meeting Monday to discuss the chemical

attack.

The timing of the strike on the air base in the central Homs province, hours after President Donald Trump said there would be “a big price to pay” for the chemical weapons attack, raised questions about whether Israel was acting alone or as a proxy for the U.S. Israel typically does not comment on its airstrikes in Syria.

It was the second such attack this year on the air base, known as T4, where Iranian fighters are believed to be stationed.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said two Israeli aircraft targeted the T4 air base, firing eight missiles. It said Syria shot down

five of them while the other three landed in the western part of the base. Syrian state TV quoted an unnamed military official as saying that Israeli F-15 warplanes fired several missiles at T4. It gave no further details.

Israel’s Foreign Ministry had no comment when asked about reports of the airstrikes.

Since 2012, Israel has struck inside Syria more than 100 times, mostly targeting suspected weapons convoys destined for the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which has been fighting alongside Syrian government forces.

Wounded warfighters' resilience lauded on return to Afghanistan

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Justin Lane recalls being “blown up three separate times” while clearing U.S. military routes from improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan in 2010 and 2011.

The third blast penetrated the Army specialist's armored vehicle and took off both of his legs, severing the middle finger on his right hand and his spine from his pelvic bone.

It was the final event of a tour of Afghanistan that he and six other wounded American warfighters made over several days as part of operation Proper Exit.

The initiative, organized by Feherty's Troops First Foundation, brings post-9/11 combat veterans and families of fallen servicemembers to theater to get closure from their experiences and to exchange stories with troops currently deployed.

Retired Army Staff Sgt. John Hosea, whose platoon ve-

hicle struck a 500-pound IED near the border with Pakistan in 2012, was “dead for about 27 minutes” before medics brought him back to life.

“We've all overcome a bunch of things ... now we're giving it back and trying to help all those out there and all those people who helped us: the nurses, the doctors,” said Hosea, who now has a titanium rod for a femur.

Since 2009, more than 50 wounded servicemembers have returned to Afghanistan on operation Proper Exit trips.

Speaking to the crowd of coalition forces and contractors on Saturday, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Army Gen. John Nicholson, thanked the seven returnees, calling them heroes.

“Know that each of you are an inspiration to all of us and the way that you are connecting with individuals, with units, with people here is going to have a lasting impact on this mission and everyone here,” he said.

Nicholson went on to commend several Afghan soldiers who were wounded in action and who attended the ceremony.

Navy investigates after Bible included in POW/MIA display

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Navy has launched an investigation after a Bible was included in a POW/MIA “Missing Man” table display at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

Officials were first alerted to the issue Thursday when a complaint was received from the New York-based Law Office of Donald Rehkopf Jr. on behalf of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation and 26 families on Okinawa. It was addressed to Rear Adm. Paul Pearigen, Navy Medicine West commander.

The grievance demands the removal of the Bible from the display, the removal of accompanying written materials that describe the United States as being “founded as one nation under God,” and a Japanese translation of those materials.

It also demands an independent investigation into who put

up the display and disciplinary measures for those responsible.

A group of sailors, Marines and Defense Department civilian employees stationed on the island reached out to MRFF founder and president Mikey Weinstein asking his nonprofit for help in getting the Bible removed from the display.

After a Navy JAG refused to remove the objects without permission from the hospital commander, Capt. Cynthia Kuehner, who is away on temporary duty assignment, MRFF lawyers sent a complaint to Pearigen, and intend to file a third-party inspector general complaint and potentially a federal lawsuit.

The complaint cites the First Amendment's Establishment Clause, which “not only forbids the government from establishing an official religion, but also prohibits government actions that unduly favor one religion over another,” according to a Cornell Law School legal dictionary.

Army identifies pilots killed in helicopter crash

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army pilots killed Friday when their AH-64E Apache helicopter crashed in Kentucky were a 17-year veteran of the service and a Marine-turned-Army aviator, according to military officials.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ryan Connolly and Warrant Officer James Casadona were on a training flight at Fort Campbell when they crashed, the fifth in a series of military aviation wrecks last week that left seven servicemembers dead. Fort Campbell officials said the wreck Friday was under investigation but declined to provide details about how or why it occurred.

Both pilots were assigned to the 101st

Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Campbell.

Casadona, 28, had joined the unit in recent months after completing training in January at Fort Rucker in Alabama. He had joined the Army in 2012, according to a Fort Campbell spokesman. The pilot had served four years in the Marines after graduating from the New Hampton School in New Hampton, N.H., where he played soccer, according to the high school.

Casadona's three sisters — Kristen and Nicole Casadona and Lauren Dean — posted photos of their fallen brother in public tributes to him on their Facebook pages.

In a post that included a photograph of Kristen Casadona with her brother, who went by Jimmy, with an Apache in the background, she wrote he was her “best

friend, confident and adventure partner.”

Connolly, 37, of Manchester, Mo., was a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since joining the service in 2001, according to the Army. He was an instructor pilot who had been assigned to Fort Campbell since 2016.

A friend of Connolly's, Robert James Crandall, wrote in a public Facebook post on Sunday that Connolly was a “great man.”

Connolly left college early in 2001 at the University of Missouri to enlist in the Army because he was called to service, wrote Crandall, himself a Navy veteran who roomed with Connolly in college, where they were members of the fraternity Pi Kappa Alpha.

US: N. Korea's Kim ready to discuss nukes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — North Korea's government has communicated with the United States to say that leader Kim Jong Un is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program with President Donald Trump, officials said Sunday, increasing the likelihood that the unprecedented summit will actually occur.

The confirmation from Pyongyang directly, rather than from third countries like South Korea, has created more confidence within Trump's administration about the wisdom of holding such a meeting, as U.S. officials make secretive preparations. The Trump administration has long said that if the

North Koreans weren't ready to discuss giving up their nuclear program, there was no reason for the two countries to hold negotiations.

Trump took his own administration and other countries by surprise last month when he accepted an unusual offer from Kim to hold a meeting. The North had conveyed the invitation to a visiting delegation from South Korea, which in turn traveled to Washington and relayed the message to Trump.

The president said yes to the meeting on the spot, even though the U.S. had not heard directly from North Korea about Kim's intentions. The U.S. later heard from other countries including China, where Kim paid a rare

visit, that the North was serious about the offer.

Still, North Korea's government has not said anything publicly at all about a meeting with Trump, and the lack of known contact between Pyongyang and Washington about the meeting has fueled further speculation about the seriousness of Kim's offer.

A Trump administration official on Sunday said that the U.S. had "confirmed that Kim Jong Un is willing to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." A second official said that confirmation had come through direct contact between American and North Korean officials.

Neither official would say

when or how the contact took place or in what location. The officials weren't authorized to comment by name and demanded anonymity. Previously, former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had said there were at least two or three channels through which U.S. and North Korean officials communicate from time to time.

The Trump administration has not said where the meeting will take place or whether a location has been determined, nor has an exact date been set. Initially, the White House said it expected the meeting to take place by the end of May. It's unclear whether a date that early could be achieved or whether it might be delayed.

Radiation exposure halts plant demolition

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Seven decades after making key portions of the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, workers at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation are being exposed to radiation as they tear down buildings that helped create the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Dozens of workers demolishing a plutonium processing plant from the 1940s have inhaled or ingested radioactive particles in the past year, and even carried some of that radiation into their vehicles, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The incidents have prompted the federal government, along with state regulators, to halt the demolition of the sprawling Plutonium Finishing Plant until a safe plan can be developed.

The contamination has also shaken confidence in a massive cleanup of Hanford, the nation's most polluted nuclear weapons production site. The work costs the federal treasury around \$2 billion a year. Hanford is near the city of Richland, about 200 miles southeast of Seattle.

"This is a very disturbing set of incidents," said Tom Carpenter, head of the Seattle-based watchdog group Hanford

Challenge.

The Energy Department, which owns Hanford, has launched an independent investigation into the spread of radiation at the plant. The investigation will be conducted by an agency office that is not connected to work at Hanford.

Radioactive particles are known to have contaminated 42 workers, which led to the shutdown of demolition, the agency has said.

Carpenter said widespread worker contamination has been rare at Hanford in recent decades. Plutonium production ended in the 1980s, and the site in 1989 switched its focus to cleanup of nuclear wastes.

"It's one of the more serious events to happen in the age of cleanup at Hanford," Carpenter said. "There have been other incidents, but none rose to the level of plutonium contamination of this many people and private vehicles and being found miles and miles away."

A union representing some Hanford workers said it was closely monitoring the situation.

"We've got our eyes on [the Energy Department] and will do what we've got to do to keep workers safe," said Paul Ruggles, vice president of the

Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council.

Hanford officials issued a report in late March that said a total of 42 Hanford workers inhaled or ingested radioactive particles from demolition of the Plutonium Finishing Plant when they were exposed during contamination events in June and December of last year.

Radioactive contamination was also found outside plant offices and inside two dozen vehicles, the report said.

Seven workers' homes were checked for radioactive contamination, with none found, the report said.

The report concluded Hanford officials placed too much reliance on air-monitoring systems that failed to pick up the spread of radioactive particles.

Hanford was created during the Manhattan Project in World War II and made the plutonium for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki that effectively ended the war.

The Plutonium Finishing Plant was constructed a few years later, and helped process most of the plutonium for the nation's nuclear arsenal. The plant took liquid plutonium and shaped it into hockey puck-sized disks for use in nuclear warheads.

Israel strikes Hamas after bombs found

JERUSALEM — Israeli fighter jets struck a Hamas target in the Gaza Strip on Monday in response to two explosive devices found near Israel's border with the territory, the military said, amid a flare-up in deadly Israeli-Palestinian violence.

No injuries were reported in the strike, but it comes amid a wave of mass protests by Palestinians along Israel's border with Gaza that have drawn Israeli fire.

Also on Monday, the Health Ministry in Gaza said a 45-year-old Palestinian man has died of his wounds after being shot in the legs by Israeli troops during a protest late last month.

The man's death brings to 32 the number of people killed by Israeli fire since March 30. Out of that number, 26 were killed during the protests at the Gaza-Israel border.

Thousands of Palestinians have protested along the Gaza-Israel border as part of a series of demonstrations called by the Islamic militant Hamas group that rules Gaza. The protests are meant to last until May 15, the anniversary of Israel's founding, when Palestinians commemorate their mass uprooting during the 1948 war over Israel's creation.

From The Associated Press

Trump tires of staff advice more and more

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The speech was written. A cast of relatable Americans with emotional stories was standing by to reinforce the message. But President Donald Trump was in no mood to play along.

“The hell with it,” Trump said, recounting the scene with his aides to a West Virginia crowd last week. Trump tossed the staff-prepared remarks on tax cuts into the air and ducked as the paper fluttered to the floor. “I said, ‘This is boring, come on.’ Tell it like it is.”

This president has never been one to stick to a script, but that abandoned speech illustrates a new phase in Trump’s presidency. He is increasingly at odds with his staff — and growing wise to their tactics.

One favored staff strategy is to guide the president to the right decision by making the conventional choice seem like the only realistic option. Except now, 14 months into his administration, Trump is on to them, and he’s making clear he won’t be boxed in.

That was the message that an irritated Trump delivered to his national security team last week in a classified meeting about

U.S. involvement in Syria.

Trump’s advisers, among them Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford, were advocating for an ongoing U.S. military presence to provide stability. They aimed to rely on the same playbook they used last year in persuading Trump to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan indefinitely. They would paint a dire picture of a pullout, of regional chaos benefiting Russia and Iran, and the potential resurgence of Islamic State.

But even before they could begin their pitch in that meeting Tuesday, Trump headed them off, saying he wanted to remove U.S. troops immediately. The ensuing, heated argument put new distance between the president and his team and left the military with a mandate, if not a formal order, to remove U.S. troops from Syria within six months.

The episode stood in sharp contrast to the earlier meeting on Afghanistan, when Trump went along with his advisers despite his instincts to pull out completely.

More than 10 current and former White

House officials and outside advisers spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to describe such internal discussions.

The shift has as much to do with changes in personnel as changes in the president’s attitude. Former White House staff secretary Rob Porter, for one, was viewed as a person Trump could trust to be an honest broker and to make sure that all options were being faithfully presented to him.

During the Afghanistan meeting, aides went out of their way to make it appear that they were considering Trump’s perspective with an even hand. But with Syria, aides said, Trump felt he was being steamrolled and lashed out.

Some aides insist that Trump has long been aware of his staff’s management strategies, and was merely playing along with their schemes. But the recent changes in how Trump interacts with his staff have also been driven by a shake-up in White House personnel that includes the weakening of the chief of staff, John Kelly.

Protester rushes at Cosby as retrial starts

Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — A topless protester with “Women’s Lives Matter” written on her body jumped a barricade and got within a few feet of Bill Cosby on Monday as the comedian walked into a suburban Philadelphia courthouse for the start of his sexual assault retrial.

The woman ran in front of Cosby toward a bank of TV cameras but was intercepted by sheriff’s deputies and led away in handcuffs. The European feminist group Femen claimed the protester as one of its own.

Cosby seemed startled by the commotion as a half-dozen protesters chanted at him.

Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt praised deputies for their quick action but urged court officials to increase security.

The protester, Nicolle Rochelle, 39, of Little Falls, N.J., was charged with disorderly conduct, authorities said. Inna Shevchenko, a Paris-based leader of Femen, told The Associated Press that the activist was seeking to defend Cosby’s alleged victims, calling the protest “our contribution to the global revolt launched by #MeToo.”

The disruption came ahead of opening statements, which were delayed while the judge sorted through allegations raised late Friday that a juror told a woman during jury selection that he thought Cosby was guilty. Cosby’s lawyers want the juror removed

from the case.

Cosby’s first trial last spring ended with jurors unable to reach a unanimous verdict after five days of tense deliberations on charges that he drugged and molested Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

After limiting the focus of the first trial, Judge Steven O’Neill has been willing to let both sides push the retrial well beyond Constand’s allegations.

This time, O’Neill is letting prosecutors have five additional accusers testify as they attempt to show Cosby made a habit of drugging and violating women. The judge allowed just one other accuser to take the stand last time.

In another difference, the judge this time is letting Cosby’s legal team call as a witness a former co-worker of Constand’s at Temple University who said Constand spoke of setting up a “high-profile person” so she could sue and enjoy a big payday. Constand’s lawyer has said the co-worker is lying.

The judge also decided the jury can hear the answer to one of the biggest questions hanging over the case: How much did Cosby pay Constand to settle her lawsuit against him more than a decade ago? The two sides agreed at the first trial not to mention the lawsuit.

Report: Airlines getting better in many areas

Associated Press

U.S. airlines are getting better at many things except getting you to your destination on time.

They are losing fewer bags. Complaints are down.

And on the anniversary of a man getting dragged off a plane because a crewmember needed his seat, airlines are bumping fewer passengers.

That’s the upshot of a report issued by academics who analyze numbers compiled by the Transportation Department.

“The industry is improving, but there are still a lot of frustrated travelers out there,” said one of the researchers, Brent Bowen, dean of aviation at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He blamed a lack of transparency in the ticketing process and the increase in delayed flights.

The industrywide on-time performance — never great — declined a bit last year, when 80.2 percent of flights arrived within 14 minutes of schedule, which is the government’s definition of on time. That was down from 81.4 percent in 2016.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Urine found in library soap dispenser

MA BURLINGTON — Police are looking for a man connected to urine being found in a bathroom soap dispenser at Burlington Public library.

Urine was discovered by a patron in a cup inside a library bathroom on March 21, police officials said Friday.

Further inspection from library staff showed that urine had been poured into the soup dispenser and air freshener.

The library reported the incident to police the next day.

Woman rescued after falling into well

PA ANNVILLE — Fire officials in central Pennsylvania said a woman was rescued after she fell about 30 feet into an abandoned well.

The Annville-Cleona Fire District reported on its Facebook page that the woman was reported down the Annville Township well just before 9 a.m. Saturday.

Local firefighters sought aid from special operations and rescue teams from Lancaster and Lebanon counties, and emergency personnel “set up a vertical hauling system” and rescued her.

Students' sailboat continues voyage

AK SITKA — A miniature sailboat built by Oregon sixth-graders was put back out to sea to continue its voyage to Japan after running aground near Sitka.

The Daily Sitka Sentinel reported an Alaska fisherman discovered the boat in late February.

Science teacher Stacy Gold-

en said her Blatchley Middle School students made some modifications to the vessel and launched it to sea Wednesday.

Students at Otto Peterson Elementary School in Scappoose, Ore., had launched the boat in December as part of an educational project sponsored by the Columbia River Museum.

The students built 10 fiberglass vessels, and half were launched from partner schools in Japan. The 5-foot boats are equipped with GPS but are at the mercy of currents and wind.

Firefighters rescue, resuscitate puppy

LA SHREVEPORT — Firefighters were able to resuscitate a seemingly lifeless pit bull puppy found during a house fire that left a family in Shreveport temporarily homeless.

The Times cited a Shreveport fire department news release that said crews were dispatched to the home Thursday evening after neighbors noticed smoke. Firefighters were alerted by the home owner, who arrived moments later, that the dog was possibly in the home.

The 3-month-old puppy was found, motionless, behind a washing machine.

Fire crews administered oxygen for approximately 10 minutes before the dog was able to stand on its own.

Parking violators can pay tickets with food

FL GAINESVILLE — When the University of Florida's president said on April Fools' Day that people cited for parking violations on campus over the past year could get amnesty by donating food, many thought it was a prank.

But on Friday, nearly 2,000 people learned it wasn't.

UF President W. Kent Fuchs said on Twitter that nearly 2,000 citations had been exchanged for 9,455 food donations.

The food will fill the shelves of the school's Field and Fork Pantry.

Police chief is pulled over, given a warning

AZ TUCSON — Police chief or not, that didn't stop a Tucson officer from giving his boss a warning during a traffic stop.

Tucson police Chief Chris Magnus was pulled over recently for a red-light infraction.

A recording of the March 26 traffic encounter shows the officer found his boss sitting in the driver's seat of a dark-colored SUV still in his uniform.

Magnus said he doesn't think the officer realized who he was until after he pulled him over.

The video shows Magnus repeatedly thanking the officer for doing his duty.

Arrow victim unsure if he was targeted

MI ALMENA TOWNSHIP — A southwestern Michigan man who was shot in the neck with an arrow while searching for deer antlers says he's not sure if he was targeted or if the shooting was accidental.

Michael Downey told WWMT-TV that after being shot March 25 he grabbed the arrow's shaft and “held it in place.” He made it to his car and drove for help.

No arrests have been made as police continue to investigate the shooting in a remote area of Van Buren County's Almena Township.

Downey, 61, was wearing a hunting vest and said the arrow

could have been shot carelessly by an inexperienced hunter.

Civil War artifacts stolen from museum

MO SEDALIA — Authorities said several thousand dollars worth of Civil War artifacts were stolen from a small Missouri museum.

Sedalia police said in a news release that a Pettis County Museum official told police that he tracked missing items, including a surgical kit, firearms and sword, to a Tennessee collector. The collector told police he had purchased the artifacts from a man who volunteered at the museum until fall 2017.

Police said the former volunteer confessed and that the case was turned over to prosecutors. The collector resold the artifacts, and police and the historical society are working to retrieve as many of them as possible.

Family dog turns up year after vanishing

NH HILL — A New Hampshire family was reunited with its dog almost a year after the pet went missing.

WMUR-TV reported the retriever named Beowolf disappeared in May when he got spooked and ran into a wooded area in Hill.

The volunteer organization Granite State Dog Recovery received a call about Beowolf in January but he got away.

They eventually located Beowolf and were able to coax him with hot dogs and Meaty Marrow Bones. Granite State Dog Recovery said the hardy pooch had no signs of injury or frostbite.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Reed gets last laugh with Masters win

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Patrick Reed got some laughs a few years back when he declared himself a top five player, with little on his résumé to back it up.

No one is laughing now.

Reed's breakthrough win in the Masters didn't officially move him into the top five — he's now No. 11 in the world — but it certainly moved him into the conversation when the debate turns to major championships.

As well it should, after Reed handled not only the golf course but the suffocating pressure of a Sunday at the Masters to win his first major. Playing in the same group as four-time major winner Rory McIlroy, he didn't flinch even as Jordan Spieth and Rickie Fowler made late runs at him.

The player known for a sometimes prickly attitude may have even won a few fans over in the process.

They cheered for McIlroy on the first tee, certain that he was going to overcome a three-shot deficit and win his first green jacket. But it was Reed who got the final cheers when he calmly sank a 3-footer on the 18th green for a final-round 71 to win by a shot over Fowler and two over Spieth.

"I walked up to the first tee and had a

really welcoming cheer from the fans, but then when Rory walked up to the tee, you know, his cheer was a little louder," Reed said. "But that's another thing that just kind of played into my hand. Not only did it fuel my fire a little bit, but also, it just takes the pressure off of me and adds it back to him."

Known as "Captain America" for his play in the Ryder Cup, Reed added a far more important title: Masters champion. He did it by playing steady to protect a three-shot lead as some of the biggest names in golf tried to chase him down.

And if he wasn't exactly lacking for confidence before, winning the green jacket should give him even more of a strut.

"He's not scared. I think you guys have seen that previous from the Ryder Cups and the way he plays," said Fowler, who closed with a 67. "He won't back down. I don't necessarily see him as someone that backs up and will let you come back into the tournament. You have to go catch him."

Only Spieth managed to do that on a cool but sunny afternoon on an Augusta National course that was giving up birdies in bunches. Spieth, who started the day nine strokes down, briefly drew into a tie for the lead with a long birdie putt on No. 16, but Reed birdied No. 14 behind him to retake

the lead and held on for the win.

McIlroy, meanwhile, will have to wait another year for a shot at the career Grand Slam after his disappointing round.

Trailing by three shots to start the final round, he closed to within one shot after two holes. That was as close as he came. McIlroy's putter betrayed him — he missed four putts inside 10 feet on the front nine — and he was never a factor on the back nine. He closed with a 74 and tied for fifth.

"Tough day, but I'll be back," McIlroy said. "And hopefully, I'll be better."

Reed is old-school among his generation, with a brash attitude and a willingness to speak his mind. He has never been terribly popular in this state, mainly because of allegations of bad behavior while playing for Georgia that led to an early departure from the Bulldogs. He transferred to Augusta State and led the outmanned Jaguars to a pair of NCAA titles. His parents live in Augusta, but were not at the tournament. They weren't at his wedding in 2012, a relationship Reed chooses not to discuss.

"I'm just out here to play golf and try to win golf tournaments," Reed said.

He did both on Sunday on the biggest stage in golf.

Fowler, Spieth come up short at Augusta

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — After the final putt disappeared into the cup, Rickie Fowler waited outside the scoring room at Augusta National.

Once again, he was congratulating someone else on winning their first major championship.

For Fowler, the wait goes on.

"I was ready to go win," he said. "Unfortunately, I was one shot short."

This has become a familiar lament for Fowler, who lugs around the unwanted baggage as the best player without a title in one of golf's biggest events.

He had his best chance yet on a stirring Sunday at the Masters, making six birdies over the final 11 holes — including an 8-footer at the 72nd hole that finished off a 14-under 274.

It's a score that would've been good enough to win most years.

But Patrick Reed had one less stroke on his card, claiming the green jacket by sinking a short but testy par putt at No. 18.

"Glad I at least made the last one to make him earn it," Fowler said.

Jordan Spieth did his part, too, to make Reed earn it.

The Texan turned in one of the greatest closing rounds in Masters history, shooting an 8-under 64 that pushed him into the mix after he started the day with a daunting nine-shot deficit.

Spieth thought it would be a nice, stress-free day out on the course.

Instead, he horned his way into one of the greatest duels this place has ever seen, actually grabbing a share of the lead by sinking a 35-foot birdie putt at the 16th hole.

"Are you kidding me?" Spieth mouthed to his caddie.

Reed, playing in the final group, answered with a birdie at the 14th.

Spieth's hopes ended at the 18th hole after his tee shot clipped a tree, falling to the ground just 177 yards away. He pulled off two dazzling shots to give himself a shot at saving par. But an 8-foot putt slid by the edge of the hole — his only bogey of the day.

"I was pretty gutted at the finish," Spieth said. "I hit a tee shot that wasn't that bad. It just caught the last little branch of that tree. Obviously, I want to go back to that tee shot right now. But it was a phenomenal day."

Spieth sure knows his way around Augusta National, where he won in 2015, finished second two other times, and now has a third-place showing on his résumé. His worst performance in five appearances

was a tie for 11th last year.

Fowler couldn't resist a little jab at his good friend.

"Solo second feels and sounds better than tied for second, so it was nice to edge out Jordan," Fowler said with a smile.

But Spieth already has three major titles on his résumé.

Fowler is still chasing the first.

"I am ready to go win a major, but this was kind of the first major week that I understood that and knew that and felt that," he said. "I'm ready to go. I'm really looking forward to this year and the three majors that are left."

"It should be," he added confidently, "a very good major season."

Someone asked Fowler about his goals going forward.

"My next goal?" he said. "Win a major. We're close. That's the No. 1 priority."

Ohtani flirts with perfect game in win

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Shohei Ohtani seemed to be the only person in Angel Stadium who wasn't incredibly impressed while he mowed down the Oakland Athletics' first 19 batters in order.

But when Ohtani finally yielded a hit and then struck out Matt Olson with two runners on to end the seventh inning, he gave a fist pump and a celebratory scream at the ground while the crowd rose for a standing ovation.

Even the two-way Japanese sensation realized his first home pitching start was a thrilling moment in his increasingly incredible rookie season.

Ohtani threw seven shutout innings of one-hit ball in his home debut on the mound, propelling the Los Angeles Angels to a 6-1 victory Sunday.

Marcus Semien's clean one-out single to left broke up Ohtani's bid for a perfect game, but he finished the inning with his 12th strikeout. Mixing 99 mph fastballs

with precipitous breaking pitches and tremendous professional cool, Ohtani (2-0) was too much for Oakland — until the seventh, when he showed resilience, too.

"I wanted to keep a clean zero on the board," Ohtani said. "One hit would [mean] two runs, and it's a huge difference. I wanted that strikeout, and I got it."

Ohtani struck out the side twice during the latest feat in a series of early season superlatives by the 23-year-old prodigy. He won his pitching debut in Oakland last weekend with six strong innings, and he homered in three consecutive games in Anaheim between starts in his attempt to become the first regular two-way player in decades.

"Especially with how my spring training went, I wasn't really imagining (the start of the season) to be this good, to be honest," Ohtani said. "I feel better every day. I feel like I'm getting used to everything more and more each day. But it's just the first week."

He was sharp from the beginning on a gorgeous day in Orange County, striking out the side in the first inning on 15 pitches. Ohtani struck out the side again in the fifth inning, and he fanned every Oakland batter except Jonathan Lucroy at least once.

"He got off to a good start, the crowd got into it [and] he got a little bit of a generous strike zone, all of that," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. "But the bottom line is he pitched really well."

Jed Lowrie drew a four-pitch walk after Semien's single, but Ohtani ended the threat by inducing Khris Davis' weak groundout before fanning Olson. He left the mound to the last of several standing ovations from his enthralled new fans in the sellout crowd — an unheard-of gathering at Angel Stadium in April.

"It's a rare kind of talent to do it both ways, and it's great to watch," Angels second baseman Zack Cozart said. "It didn't look like [the A's] had a chance up there, the way he was throwing."

MLB roundup

D-backs top Cardinals after benches clear

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Torey Lovullo claimed his Arizona Diamondbacks were being framed.

The manager set off a benches-clearing incident in his team's 4-1 win over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday by maintaining eight-time All-Star catcher Yadier Molina was earning unwarranted strike calls.

"I don't want to say he is getting more than anyone else, because it's part of the game," Lovullo said. "I have the utmost respect for Yadier Molina. He's one of the best catchers the game has ever seen. It was more of me saying, I respect him on that level, that he's getting special things because he's that good. That's where I was coming from."

Lovullo was ejected by plate umpire Tim Timmons in the second inning. Lovullo was arguing a called third strike on A.J. Pollock and got into a shouting match with Molina. The catcher appeared to lunge at Lovullo and made contact as players ran onto the field.

St. Louis manager Mike Matheny stepped between Molina and Lovullo.

Lovullo had shown displeasure on a strike three call to David Peralta in the first inning, then went to the umpire after the call against Pollock.

"I used a poor choice of words and he (Molina) took offense to it," Lovullo said. "I wish I could take back what I said. It really wasn't directed at him. I was just frustrated over what I was watching."

Molina remained upset after the game

"He said a bad word to me and I reacted that way," Molina said. "He called me (it) twice. You can't allow that."

Mets 6, Nationals 5 (12): Yoenis Cespedes scored Juan Lagares with a broken-bat single in the 12th inning to help visiting New York complete a three-game sweep.

Marlins 6, Phillies 3: Jake Arrieta (0-1) lasted just four innings in his Philadelphia debut, allowing three runs — two earned — and three hits while

striking out five.

Red Sox 8, Rays 7: Boston's Xander Bogaerts left with a left ankle injury in the seventh inning. The shortstop got hurt while sliding down into the visiting Tampa Bay dugout and was to have tests Monday.

Orioles 8, Yankees 7: Brad Brach escaped his own bases-loaded, no-out jam in the 12th inning, getting his second save when Aaron Judge grounded into a rare pitcher-to-catcher-to-third double play and striking out Giancarlo Stanton.

Indians 3, Royals 1: Yan Gomes hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Brandon Maurer (0-2) in the ninth inning for host Cleveland.

Tigers 1, White Sox 0: Mike Fiers combined with four relievers on a three-hitter that completed a three-game sweep for visiting Detroit.

Astros 4, Padres 1: Max Stassi hit a three-run homer off Tyson Ross (1-1), Charlie Morton (2-0) allowed four hits and three walks for one unearned run in six innings for host

Houston.

Cubs 3, Brewers 0: Jose Quintana (1-1) three-hit ball over six innings, Ben Zobrist homered and host Chicago finished 5-4 on its longest opening trip since going 7-5 in 1899.

Pirates 5, Reds 0: Jameson Taillon (2-0) pitched a one-hitter for his first shutout in 45 major league starts, allowing Tyler Mahle's single to center with one out in the third. He struck out seven and walked two at home.

Blue Jays 7, Rangers 4: Steve Pearce homered on the first pitch of the game from Cole Hamels (1-2), and Kendrys Morales added a three-run shot for visiting Toronto.

Dodgers 2, Giants 1: Cody Bellinger overcame food poisoning to score the go-ahead run on Kyle Farmer's pinch-hit double in the 10th inning off Pierce Johnson (0-1) at San Francisco.

Braves 4, Rockies 0: Sean Newcomb (1-1) allowed three hits in the first inning before retiring the next 16 batters.

Crash fatality misidentified

Associated Press

HUMBOLDT, Saskatchewan — Saskatchewan's Ministry of Justice said Monday one of the deceased in the crash that killed 15 people en route to a hockey playoff game was misidentified, partly because the players all had blond-dyed hair and similar builds.

The ministry said the body of Parker Tobin was mistaken for that of Xavier Labelle.

It said Labelle is injured but alive, and Tobin is among the deceased. The accident occurred Friday. Drew Wilby, spokesman for the ministry, said the error was discovered Sunday night.

"The new information came to light last night that raised questions with the health care professionals. In turn they were able to identify Xavier Labelle as Xavier Labelle who of course we had previously said was Parker Tobin," Wilby said.

"A lot of these boys looked alike. They had the blond hair that was supportive of their team for their playoff run. They

had very similar builds and all very similar ages."

Wilby and the Office of the Chief Coroner apologized for the misidentification.

"To find who they had thought was their loved one wasn't their loved one I can't even fathom," Wilby said. "I don't know enough could ever be said. All I could do is offer our sincerest apologies."

The news comes as this shattered town mourned its revered local youth hockey team, trying to come to grips with a devastating highway accident Friday that also injured the other 14 people on their bus.

Over the weekend, Tobin's family had tweeted that their son was alive.

"This is one of the hardest posts I have ever had to make. Parker is stable at the moment and being airlifted to Saskatoon hospital," Rhonda Clarke Tobin wrote.

Meanwhile, Xavier Labelle's family had confirmed his death over the weekend, with his brother Isaac writing in an Instagram post that he was

heartbroken.

Humboldt Mayor Rob Muench called it "an unfortunate mistake."

"It's hard to comprehend that," he said.

Broncos club president Kevin Garinger said he was contacted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police early Monday about it and said the error makes a difficult situation more challenging.

People filed into the team's home arena Sunday night for a vigil, filing up entry steps piled with flowers, jerseys and personal mementos in a makeshift memorial.

At the vigil, Sean Brandow, the local pastor and team chaplain, described how he happened upon the horrific accident scene Friday night and heard sounds of people he knew dying after a semi-trailer slammed into the bus taking the team to a playoff game.

"We travelled up and arrived at the scene ... and walked up on a scene I never want to see again, to sounds I never want to hear again," Brandow said.

Bruins blow shot at top seed in East

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Bruins didn't seem like the team with the most to gain until it was too late Sunday night.

Roberto Luongo came off the bench to shut down Boston in the third period, and the Florida Panthers dashed the Bruins' hopes of getting the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs with a 4-2 win.

The Bruins trailed Tampa Bay by a point heading into the regular-season finale but couldn't top a Panthers team that was eliminated from post-season contention Saturday.

"You would have hoped the urgency would have been there with an opportunity to win the division," Bruins forward David Backes said. "We had it in the third, but needed it right from the get go."

Boston will host the Toronto Maple Leafs in the first round beginning Thursday night. The Leafs were 3-1 against the Bruins in the regular season.

Florida starter James Reimer left in the third with an injury, and Luongo came in and stopped eight shots over the last 8:07. The pair combined to make 41 saves.

Henrik Borgstrom, Frank Vatrano, Maxim Mamin and Evgenii Dadonov scored for Florida.

Backes and David Pastrnak had a goal each for Boston, with Pastrnak cutting it to 3-2 shortly before Reimer was hurt. Tuukka Rask made 22 saves.

"We didn't deserve to win and that's the reality," Rask said. "I think it's mental, just not being sharp enough at the drop of the puck."

After beating the Bruins for the second time in three games, Florida is headed home despite an impressive 25-8-2 run to end the season, including winning their last five.

"It's disappointing. We were really hoping that we'd get a little help from some other teams and maybe get in," Panthers forward Vincent Trocheck said.

NBA roundup

Redick leads 76ers over Mavs

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — J.J. Redick scored 18 points, and the surging Philadelphia 76ers matched a franchise record with their 14th consecutive victory, 109-97 over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday.

Ben Simmons added 16 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, and Robert Covington had 15 points and 10 rebounds. Two years after going 10-72, the Sixers (50-30) clinched home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs and secured their first 50-win season since Allen Iverson's 2000-01 team, which lost in the NBA Finals.

The only other time the Sixers won 14 straight in a single

season, Dr. J and Moses Malone delivered Philadelphia its last NBA title in 1983.

Jazz 112, Lakers 97: Donovan Mitchell scored 28 points and host Utah clinched a playoff berth with a victory over Los Angeles on Sunday.

Warriors 117, Suns 100: Klay Thompson scored 22 of his 34 points in the first quarter and visiting Golden State beat Phoenix for the 15th consecutive time.

With the loss, and Memphis' win over Detroit, Phoenix — at 20-61 — is assured the worst record in the NBA and, consequently, the most ping pong balls in the May 15 draft lottery.

Raptors 112, Magic 101:

C.J. Miles scored 22 points, OG Anunoby had a career-high 21 for host Toronto.

Pacers 123, Hornets 117: Domantas Sabonis scored a career-high 30 points, Victor Oladipo had 27 points on 12-of-15 shooting and Indiana beat host Charlotte to keep alive its slim hopes of winning the Central Division title.

Hawks 112, Celtics 106: Taurean Prince scored 33 points, and Atlanta rallied for the road win.

Grizzlies 130, Pistons 117: MarShon Brooks scored 25 points, Dillon Brooks added 22 and Memphis beat visiting Detroit to snap a four-game losing streak.