

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## USAF: B-52s in Qatar due to Iran threat

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — B-52 bombers ordered by the White House to deploy to the Persian Gulf to counter unspecified threats from Iran have arrived at a major American air base in Qatar, the U.S. Air Force acknowledged Friday.

Images released by the U.S. Air Force's Central Command show B-52H Stratofortress

bombers arriving at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar on Thursday night.

Others landed at an undisclosed location Wednesday in "southwest Asia," the Air Force said. The U.S. military in the past has described its presence at both the Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates and Al Udeid as "southwest Asia."

The Air Force identified the aircraft as coming from

the 20th Bomb Squadron of Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

On Sunday, the White House announced it would send the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group and the bombers into the Persian Gulf to counter Tehran. The Lincoln on Thursday passed through the Suez Canal on its way to the Persian Gulf.

The administration of President Donald Trump has not

offered specific details of the threat allegedly presented by Iran.

On Wednesday, Iran announced it would begin backing away from its nuclear deal with world powers, a year after Trump pulled America from the accord. President Hassan Rouhani gave European leaders a 60-day deadline to find a way to shield Iran from U.S. sanctions targeting its economy.

## Shanahan, already doing job, picked as defense secretary

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Pat Shanahan, who has led the Pentagon on an interim basis since January, will be nominated by President Donald Trump to take over as defense secretary permanently, the White House announced Thursday.

"President Trump intends to nominate Patrick M. Shanahan as Secretary of Defense," Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, tweeted Thursday afternoon. She did not indicate when the nomination would be formally sent to the Senate.

Sanders' announcement comes after months of speculation about Shanahan's nomination and two weeks after he was cleared by the Pentagon's inspector general of accusations that he favored his former employer, Boeing, in violation of the ethics pledge that he signed when he arrived at the Pentagon in 2017.

Shanahan, 56, joined the Pentagon in July 2017 as the deputy secretary of defense under then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. On Jan. 1, he took over Mattis' old job after the former Marine general resigned,

citing deep policy differences with Trump.

"I am honored by today's announcement of President Trump's intent to nominate," Shanahan said in a statement sent to reporters following Sanders' tweet. "If confirmed by the Senate, I will continue the aggressive implementation of our National Defense Strategy. I remain committed to modernizing the force so our remarkable soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines have everything they need to keep our military lethal and our country safe."

Shanahan told reporters at the Pentagon that he learned he was to be nominated Thursday at the White House.

Before joining the Pentagon, his first job in government, Shanahan spent 31 years working for Boeing, leaving the massive aerospace company and key defense contractor as its senior vice president for supply chain and operations to become Mattis' No. 2.

In that role, Shanahan dealt largely with the business operations in the Pentagon and spearheaded reforms intended to smooth out the military's slow and bulky acquisition programs. He also shaped the

Pentagon's \$718.3 billion fiscal year 2020 budget request, which he has referred to as a "masterpiece" blueprint for rebuilding the military's combat readiness while also modernizing its weapons inventory.

In more than five months as acting defense secretary, Shanahan visited the war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq for the first time and met with leaders of key NATO allies in Europe and the United States. But he has also faced scrutiny from lawmakers and independent government watchdogs, primarily over his ties to his former employer.

A complaint to the Pentagon inspector general sparked a nearly two-month probe into allegations that Shanahan had disparaged Boeing competitor Lockheed Martin in meetings as the Pentagon's No. 2 and that he had urged subordinates to buy Boeing products, including the F-15X fighter jet instead of the more modern F-35 Lightning II advanced fighters. Shanahan denied any wrongdoing.

The IG probe did not substantiate any of the allegations.

The nomination comes as the Pentagon grapples with increasing tensions across the globe. The military in recent

days has deployed a Navy carrier strike group and an Air Force bomber task force to the Middle East in response to potential threats against American troops from Iran, defense officials have said. The Pentagon has also been busy preparing potential military options for the deepening political and economic crisis in Venezuela, where U.S. leaders have called for President Nicolas Maduro's resignation. And, in recent days, North Korea has fired several short-range projectiles, as talks between the United States and the North aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula have fizzled.

Shanahan acknowledged how demanding those challenges are for the Pentagon.

"The biggest challenge is balancing it all," Shanahan said Thursday at the Pentagon just before meeting with the Japanese chief cabinet secretary, Yoshihide Suga. "I'd say, for me, it's about practicing selectful neglect so that we can stay focused on the future but not ignore a lot of the emerging really important issues that pop up day to day that you don't plan for."

# \$1.5B in Afghan forces funds shifts to wall

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will shift \$1.5 billion from its 2019 budget, largely from support for Afghan security forces and a military retirement system, to help construct the U.S.-Mexico border wall, defense officials said Friday.

The plans come nearly three months after President Donald Trump declared a national emergency to use roughly \$6 billion in military funds and personnel to build a wall to curtail illegal immigration along the U.S. southern border.

However, the Pentagon has yet to announce which military construction projects could lose funding to the plan to build a border wall.

“The Department of Defense is fully engaged in addressing the crisis on our

southwest border, with more than 4,000 servicemembers and 19 aircraft currently supporting the Department of Homeland Security. Today, I authorized the transfer of \$1.5 billion toward the construction of more than 80 miles of border barrier,” Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan said Friday, a day after it was announced he would be nominated permanently to the post. “The funds were drawn from a variety of sources, including cost savings, programmatic changes and revised requirements, and therefore will have minimal impact on force readiness.”

In February, Trump said he planned to pull \$3.6 billion from military construction funds and another \$2.5 billion from the Defense Department’s drug interdiction program through an executive order. The funds are part of an overall plan to use \$8 billion to build a southern border wall.

Friday’s move adds to another \$1 billion already transferred from Army programs to wall construction.

Defense Department officials alerted Capitol Hill members to what programs will lose funding as a result, leading some to raise concerns. For example, Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin said in a tweet that the \$1.5 billion figure eclipses the amount spent so far to repair damages from Hurricane Michael at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

“Today, the Defense Department will divert another \$1.5 billion from our military to the ‘big & beautiful’ border wall,” Durbin, D-Ill., said Friday morning. “The Pentagon has now reprogrammed 12 times more money to the wall than for repairs at Tyndall AFB, destroyed by Hurricane Michael. We should put troops first!”

## 1 Marine killed, 6 hurt in rollover of armored vehicle

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

A Marine was killed and six more injured at Camp Pendleton in San Diego County on Thursday when the light armored vehicle they were in rolled over during training, the Marines said in a statement.

The Marines are from the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, based at Camp Pendleton. The incident is under investigation.

The name of the Marine who was killed is being withheld until next of kin are notified, the statement said.

The six injured Marines were taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla. Their injuries are not serious, the Marines said.

A Marine spokesman said he could not comment further on the conditions of the injured Marines.

The rollover of the LAV-25 vehicle occurred at about 9 a.m. Thursday.

This accident is not the first one at the base. Last month, another Marine, Staff Sgt. Joshua Braica, was killed in another

rollover accident during training on the base. Braica was injured when his MRZR off-road vehicle rolled over. He died the next day. He was attached to the 1st Marine Raider Battalion.

Two of the three other Marines on board received minor injuries in the one-vehicle crash, which is under investigation.

In 2017, 15 Marines were injured on base when their amphibious assault vehicle — known as an “amtrack” — hit a natural gas line and was engulfed in flames. The accident occurred during a predeployment combat readiness evaluation at the San Mateo section of the base.

Six Marines were admitted in critical condition and six were in serious condition at local hospitals at the time.

Four of the severely burned Marines have sued San Diego Gas & Electric Co., Southern California Gas Co. and Texas-based Kinder Morgan in November. They were from the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment and 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion.

## Navy officer charged with online child porn

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A San Diego-based Navy officer faces a court-martial on a range of charges that accuse him of masturbating at his desk while on duty and scouring the internet for child pornography using his government-issued computer, service charging documents show.

Lt. Cmdr. Robert J. Cleary was charged in November with more than a handful of crimes primarily stemming from an investigation of his alleged use of a Navy computer to search for illicit images of children, according to the documents, which were obtained Thursday by Stars and Stripes.

Cleary is an active-duty meteorology and oceanography officer who has been assigned to the Navy Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center in California since March 2014, according to Navy records.

His case was referred in

February to a general court-martial by Rear Adm. Yancy B. Lindsey, who approved the felony-level proceedings before relinquishing command of Navy Region Southwest in March. Cleary, who was arraigned that month, will appear in court July 8 for a motions hearing.

Prosecutors charged Cleary with attempting to commit a crime, alleging that on multiple occasions between those dates he “knowingly and wrongfully” attempted to receive and view child pornography by “entering search terms indicative of child pornography into an internet search engine” on his Navy-issued computer.

They also charged him with possessing child pornography, writing that a search of a privately owned Dell computer turned up “images of minors, or what appear to be minors, engaged in sexually explicit conduct.”

Cleary faces two charges of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.



# Trump faces mounting global challenges

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New North Korea missile tests. A trade standoff with China. Fresh nuclear tensions with Iran.

President Donald Trump's foreign policy challenges are mounting around the world, showing the limits of his self-touted ability to make a deal and perhaps the difficulty of focusing primarily on domestic concerns for his "America first" administration.

They're also forcing him into some contorted positions, for example, backing regime change in Venezuela without any displays of force and saying he's open to talks with Iran while dispatching an aircraft carrier and bombers to the Middle East.

Staring down high-stakes diplomacy around the world, Trump says his efforts are working.

"We've made a decisive break from the failed foreign policy establishment that sacrificed our sovereignty, surrendered our jobs and tied us down to endless foreign wars," he told supporters at a rally in Florida. "In everything we do, we are now putting America first."

Still, Trump has plenty of unfinished business. Since taking office, he has specialized in publicly hectoring friendly partners, embracing foes and resisting too much advice. Critics have labeled him an unreliable force, while allies say he has followed through on a promise to disrupt foreign policy norms.

Trump inherited some of his foreign policy problems, such as North Korea, Syria and Afghanistan, but has yet to solve them. And his hands-on approach to North Korea, holding the first meetings between a U.S. president and that country's leader, has not yielded a deal to curtail North Korea's nuclear missile program.

On other fronts, Trump has turned up the heat. His trade clash with China remains unresolved as he brandishes additional tariff hikes. With

## President claims tariffs on China help US businesses

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Friday that trade talks between China and the U.S. were continuing in a "very congenial manner" despite new tariffs the U.S. imposed on \$200 billion in Chinese imports and Beijing's vow to retaliate.

In a series of blustering morning tweets, Trump also claimed the new tariffs will help rather than hurt the U.S. and bring "FAR MORE wealth." He offered a proposal he said would ease any negative impact on U.S. farmers from lost sales to China.

U.S. and Chinese negotiators continued talks Friday in an effort to resolve the standoff after the United States raised tariffs on Chinese imports, escalating tensions between the world's two biggest economies and rattling stock markets around the world.

"Tariffs will make our Country MUCH STRONGER, not weaker. Just sit back and watch!" Trump tweeted.

The talks in Washington were thrown into disarray this week after top U.S. trade negotiator Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin accused

the Chinese of reneging on commitments they'd made earlier.

"China should not renegotiate deals with the U.S. at the last minute," Trump tweeted. "There is no need to rush through negotiations because 'massive payments' the Chinese are now paying 'go directly into the Treasury of the U.S.'"

Actually, the burden of tariffs falls on U.S. consumers and businesses that buy imports. By the end of last year, those consumers and companies were paying \$3 billion a month in higher taxes and absorbing \$1.4 billion a month in lost efficiency, according to a study by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Columbia and Princeton universities.

Trump tweeted that if the U.S. bought \$15 billion in agriculture from farmers it would be far more than China buys now. He also said the U.S. would have more than \$85 billion left over for new American infrastructure, health care or other programs.

It was unclear what numbers Trump was using to make his point. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, China bought \$9.2 billion in U.S. agricultural exports in 2018.

Cliff Kupchan, chairman of Eurasia Group, described China and Iran as the two most pressing issues for the U.S. But he noted that Trump's moves are not unexpected.

"With China and Iran, we're seeing a strategically very predictable president play out his hand," he said. Still, he said that handling the range of challenges proves that the administration can manage to "walk and

chew gum at the same time."

Thursday, talking to reporters, Trump said the U.S. was looking "very seriously right now" at North Korea's recent military tests. On trade talks with China, he said the U.S. would be fine either way, but said Chinese President Xi Jinping wrote him a "beautiful" letter. And amid a rising clash with Iran, he declared, "we have information that you don't want to know about."

Other pressing issues include the economic and political crisis in Venezuela. The United States and other nations have recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido as interim president, but a recent effort to encourage an uprising against President Nicolas Maduro failed. Also on the horizon is a blueprint for Middle East peace from Trump senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner, as well as the possibility of peace talks with the Taliban to end the 18-year war in Afghanistan.

Trump, who ran on limiting U.S. engagement abroad, has stressed his interest in domestic policymaking. Michael O'Hanlon, a defense and foreign policy analyst at the Brookings Institution, said a unifying theme of Trump's foreign policy is his unwillingness to commit to more wars.

"I think so far we continue to see reluctance on the part of Trump to get involved in new military operations — which is mostly a good instinct — but a willingness to brandish nonmilitary instruments" of national power, as well as assertive shows of military force with no serious intention of taking pre-emptive military action, O'Hanlon said in an email Thursday.

Trump also has stressed that he was calling the shots. Asked if he lines up with hawkish national security adviser John Bolton, he said "I'm the one who tempers him, which is OK," and added: "Ultimately, I make the decision."



# Multiple states declare porn health crisis

Associated Press

PHOENIX — More than a dozen states have moved to declare pornography a public health crisis, raising concerns among some experts who say the label goes too far and carries its own risks.

The Arizona Senate approved a resolution this week calling for a systemic effort to prevent exposure to porn that's increasingly accessible to younger kids online. At least one legislative chamber has adopted a similar resolution in 15 other states.

"It is an epidemic in our society, and this makes a statement that we have a problem," said Arizona Sen. Sylvia Allen, a Republican who blamed pornography for contributing to

violence against women, sexual activity among teens and unintended pregnancies.

Linking those social issues to pornography is "complete fear-mongering," said Mark Kernes, a senior editor at the trade publication Adult Video News media network. Pornography is harmless entertainment meant for adults, he said. "We're not really a public-health anything," Kernes said.

The Arizona resolution that passed Monday doesn't ban pornography or create any other legal changes, but it could signal future action. Similar declarations have been passed in GOP-controlled states ranging from Tennessee to Montana and been adopted in the Republican Party's national platform.

Research has raised questions about the effect of explicit material on young kids, but links to other often-cited issues like human trafficking are tenuous at best, said Emily Rothman, a community health sciences professor at Boston University.

The resolutions risk creating a stigma for marginalized groups like LGBTQ people and miss a key piece of the puzzle by leaving out calls for more robust sex education for teenagers, she said.

But the legislation could pave the way for future steps, such as keeping publicly funded internet at places like schools and libraries from being used to access porn, said Haley Halverson with the National Center on

Sexual Exploitation, which is working on new model legislation for states taking those next steps.

"We think these resolutions are really powerful, although they're non-binding, because they raise awareness and educate the public, and hopefully can lay the groundwork to make more resources available to those people who potentially struggle with pornography," she said.

Any future steps to restrict access to pornography have to be handled carefully to avoid running afoul of the First Amendment, said David Boaz, executive vice president of the libertarian-leaning Cato Institute.

## Officials aim to open the Mississippi River spillway

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Army Corps of Engineers officials in Louisiana aim to open a historic flood control structure above New Orleans on Tuesday for an unprecedented second time in one year.

"It's an unprecedented amount of water that's coming down," David Ramirez, chief of water management for the Corps' New Orleans District, told reporters Thursday.

The request for authorization from the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division comes as floods across the Midwest have caused billions of dollars in damage to homes, farms and businesses.

Continued rains in the Midwest and Ohio Valley and floodwaters from the upper Mississippi River are heading down the Mississippi, National Weather Service hydrologist Jeffrey Grascel said. In addition, he noted, storms are expected to dump 5 to 10 inches of rain in parts of Louisiana and Arkansas.

The Bonnet Carre Spillway gets opened to relieve stress on New Orleans levees when the

Mississippi flows at 1.25 million cubic feet per second — fast enough to fill the Empire State Building in 30 seconds.

"The risks in not operating the spillway as it is designed ... would be potentially catastrophic," corps spokesman Ricky Boyett said.

The spillway, completed in 1931, is a 1.5-mile-long construction of 350 concrete bays and 7,000 huge timbers called needles. Its unusually early opening in February marked the 13th time it has been used overall, but only the second time it's been used in consecutive years. Earlier this year, 206 bays were opened, discharging 213,000 cubic feet of water per second into the spillway.

"An average flood season is from March to May. This year has not been average at all," the New Orleans district's deputy commander, Maj. Jordon Davis, said Thursday.

The water is diverted along a 6-mile course of guide levees to brackish Lake Pontchartrain, after which it flows to the Mississippi Sound in the Gulf of Mexico.

## Time to break up Facebook, argues co-founder Hughes

Associated Press

Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes says it's time to break up the social media behemoth.

In a New York Times opinion piece published Thursday, Hughes said CEO Mark Zuckerberg has turned Facebook into an innovation-suffocating monopoly.

Hughes called Zuckerberg's power "unprecedented and un-American" and said his co-founder's focus on growth "led him to sacrifice security and civility for clicks."

Hughes roomed with Zuckerberg at Harvard and left Facebook in 2007 to campaign for Barack Obama. Hughes said he no longer has any ownership in Facebook or any other social media company.

"I feel a sense of anger and responsibility," he wrote, lamenting the company's "slow response to Russian agents, violent rhetoric and fake news."

Facebook has been under fire for an ever-expanding list of privacy and security lapses and for endangering democracy by failing to effectively combat the

proliferation of misinformation and hate speech by extremist groups.

Facebook's chief spokesman, Nick Clegg, responded to Hughes' criticisms with a statement saying, "You don't enforce accountability by calling for the breakup of a successful American company. Accountability of tech companies can only be achieved through the painstaking introduction of new rules for the internet. That is exactly what Mark Zuckerberg has called for."

Zuckerberg has been vague, however, on exactly what kind of regulation he favors.

Critics, including Hughes, believe Facebook has acquired too much power to continue intact. Hughes' call echoes a proposal by Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who also wants to splinter Amazon and Google into separate companies.

In the piece, Hughes called Facebook a monopoly that should be forced to spin off WhatsApp and Instagram, with future acquisitions banned for several years.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## WWII vet, 91, gets his high school diploma

**PA** DERRY — A World War II veteran has finally received his high school diploma, eight decades after leaving school to support his family.

Pete Sabedra, 91, walked across the stage at Derry Area Middle School, about 40 miles west of Pittsburgh, on Wednesday to accept his degree at a special awards ceremony.

Alongside Sabedra was his grandson, Kace, who will graduate from the district's high school on May 31.

The Tribune Review reported Pete Sabedra was attending eighth grade at the former Derry Township High School in 1940 when his father died and he had to leave school to start work. He worked for the railroad until enlisting in the military when the U.S. entered the war.

Sabedra earned his GED and said "it's something" to finally have the diploma.

## Police: Girl, 12, goes on intoxicated drive

**NM** ALAMOGORDO — Authorities said an intoxicated 12-year-old girl went on joy ride in the family car with three other children inside, leading police on pursuit on a New Mexico highway.

The Alamogordo Daily News reported Wednesday that the car fled from Alamogordo police and drove onto U.S. Highway 70 where she passed a New Mexico State Police vehicle.

Alamogordo police said the car then drove through a dirt lot and nearly struck an Otero County deputy. The chase ended when the car spun out of control and hit a speed limit sign. No one was injured.

The young driver was referred to juvenile services on

charges of reckless driving and DWI. According to police documents, the four children told authorities that they all had been drinking.

## Broken sprinkler head leaves dorm flooded

**RI** SMITHFIELD — Several hundred college students were evacuated from their dorm in the middle of finals after a broken sprinkler caused extensive water damage.

Bryant University President Ronald Machtley said in an email to students that a sprinkler head and pipe was damaged on the third floor of a freshman residence hall at about 8 p.m. Wednesday.

About 300 freshmen at the Smithfield school needed alternative housing for the night.

Machtley said the university is asking faculty to accommodate students affected by the flooding who may have final exams or presentations.

He said the school is working with the town fire marshal to allow small groups of students into their rooms to retrieve "necessary items." The cause is under investigation.

## Bus driver saves student from oncoming car

**NY** NORWICH — A fast-acting school bus driver is being lauded for grabbing a student by the back of his jacket as he was about to step out into the path of a passing car.

An inside-the-bus surveillance video posted on the Norwich City School District's Facebook page shows driver Samantha Call suddenly grabbing a student descending the stairs as a car speeds past on the shoulder.

Another student said "that was a good grab" after Call lays on the horn.

## Officers: Lost hiker wasn't prepared

**NH** FRANCONIA — New Hampshire Fish and Game conservation officers have come to the aid of a hiker who got lost in Franconia and wasn't prepared for snow and ice on his hike.

Officers said Jevin Marquinez, 22, of Jacksonville, Fla., had lost the Falling Waters Trail on Monday night as he descended from Little Haystack Mountain. They reached him at about 1 a.m. Tuesday and provided dry clothing and other supplies. He declined medical attention.

Officers said Marquinez carried a knife and a whistle, but didn't have a map, compass, a first-aid kit and other essentials.

## Man gets life for slaying blamed on sleepwalking

**FL** WEST PALM BEACH — A man who claimed he was sleepwalking when he stabbed his roommate to death has been sentenced to life in prison.

The Palm Beach Post reported Randy Herman Jr., 26, was convicted Wednesday of first-degree murder and sentenced. Herman argued that he was sleepwalking when he stabbed Brooke Preston, 21, more than 20 times at an area home in March 2017.

He testified he had no memory of the attack, just being covered in blood with a knife in his hand.

A forensic psychologist testified that Herman's history of sleepwalking could explain the attack. Herman's defense argued there was no motive or history of violence between the two. Investigators said Preston was preparing to move to New York.

Prosecutors rejected the sleepwalking claim, saying the attack was deliberate.

## Man claims meth-filled backpack, gets arrested

**WI** SHAWANO — A man was arrested after authorities said he came to the police department to claim a methamphetamine-filled backpack he had left at a northeastern Wisconsin library.

A staffer at Shawano County Library found the backpack Monday and turned it over to police. Prosecutors said there were three small bags of meth inside, along with a martial arts weapon known as nunchucks.

The suspect, 31, showed up at the police department later in the day. Court documents said he told police he had taken the drugs from his ex-girlfriend because he was investigating her drug-dealing, and that he had the nunchucks to protect himself from her.

He was arrested for drug possession.

## Dozens of wild horses put up for adoption

**WY** CODY — The Bureau of Land Management is putting up for adoption dozens of wild horses and burros in Wyoming this month.

The Cody Enterprise reported the bureau was auctioning off saddle-trained and halter-trained horses as well as burros at adoption events in Lovell on Friday and in Riverton on May 18. The animals were treated and vaccinated after they were removed from the wild. Inmates then trained the animals for six months to a year at the Wyoming Honor Farm.

Bureau wild horse and burro specialist Scott Fluer said the auctions start at \$125 per animal.

From wire reports

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# Pujols' march into history rolls on with 2,000th RBI

Los Angeles Times

DETROIT — Whether driving in runs is more of a skill or product of opportunity is open to debate. What can not be denied is that Albert Pujols has been very good at this part of the game for a very long time.

The Los Angeles Angels slugger notched RBI 2,000 of his 19-year career with a solo home run to left field in the third inning of Thursday's game against the Detroit Tigers in Comerica Park.

Pujols, 39, joined Hank Aaron (2,297) and Alex Rodriguez (2,086) as the players to reach the milestone since 1920. Babe Ruth is credited with 1,992 RBIs, though baseball's official records don't count the runs the slugger drove in with the Boston Red Sox from 1914 through 1919. He has an unofficial tally of 2,213.

Pujols slammed a 2-and-0 fastball from left-hander Ryan Carpenter 415 feet into the left-field seats for the 639th homer and 3,107th hit of his career.

The hit, which snapped an 0-for-15 slump and extended the Angels' lead to 6-0, also vaulted Pujols into another exclusive club: He joins Aaron and Rodriguez as the only players in history with 600 homers, 3,000 hits and 2,000 RBIs.

The ball ended up in the hands of a fan, who would not give up the ball and the superstar didn't have a problem with the decision.

"We play this game for the fans, too, and if they want to keep it, I think they have the right," Pujols insisted. "I just hope he can enjoy."

Pujols received an ovation by the sparse crowd at Comerica Park, where his accomplishment was recognized on the videoboard and by the public address announcer.

"I played against Albert for a long time when we were both in the National League Central, and he is one of the greatest hitters to ever walk the planet, without question," Angels manager Brad Ausmus said.

"For about 10 years, he was the Mike Trout of his time. It kind of went from Pujols to (Detroit Tigers slugger Miguel) Cabrera and it shifted to Trout. They were all excellent, but Albert's body of work right now is clearly the best."

The latest Pujols milestone in a Hall of Fame career filled with them has rekindled the argument — fueled by the mountains of advanced statistical data that has emerged in the past decade — about whether the ac-

cumulation of RBIs is driven more by skill or an abundance of opportunities.

"A thousand percent, that's a skill," Angels right fielder Kole Calhoun said. "You get hits, but the game is different when someone is on second base or guys are in scoring position. Watch any game. Guys pitch at 92 to 93 mph, and then a guy gets in scoring position and they are 95 to 97."

"Pitchers step up and don't let runners score. Guys who get RBIs, it's 100 percent a skill. When he comes up in those situations throughout his career, there are not many better guys to have up there."

Pujols was baseball's most feared right-handed hitter during his 11-year career (2001-11) in St. Louis, nicknamed "The Machine" for his persistent power and production while winning three NL most valuable player awards and two World Series titles.

While his performance has tailed off since signing a 10-year, \$240 million deal with the Angels before 2012, the numbers over his career suggest that Pujols has always thrived in the clutch.

His career average with runners in scoring position (.313) is 12 points higher than his overall average (.301) and 18 points higher than his average with the bases empty (.295). He has a .317 mark with the bases loaded.

Ausmus points to another statistic that illuminates Pujols' run-producing prowess. With a runner on first base, Pujols has a .304 average, 125 homers and 332 RBIs, meaning he has driven home 207 of those runners with singles, doubles or triples.

"I do think RBIs are a product of opportunity often, but the difference between guys like Mike (Trout) and Albert is they are such good hitters they can constantly drive people in from first base or themselves in when nobody is on," Ausmus said. "That's what makes a good RBI guy. If someone is at second and you hit a single, that's a little easier. Put a guy on second every time for two different players and they have the same average, they're going to get similar RBIs."

"But it's the guy at first you can drive in with a double, or when he's standing in the box by himself and drives himself in.... Albert was the best for 10 years. I saw him in his prime, and he was the guy no one wanted to come to the plate in a big situation, or anytime, really. There are some guys who just have a knack for being able to focus more with runners in scoring position."

## Roundup

### Nationals' Corbin smothers Dodgers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — No matter which uniform he's wearing, Patrick Corbin knows he has a good thing going against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

He's also savvy enough not to shout about it.

The left-hander said plenty with his pitches Thursday night as he shut down the Dodgers' powerful lineup again, pitching the Washington Nationals to a 6-0 victory in the opener of a four-game series.

Corbin fired seven smooth innings and Howie Kendrick hit a three-run homer in the first as the Nationals ended a four-game slide and stopped the Dodgers' 10-game home winning streak.

Corbin entered with a 3.59 career ERA against the Dodgers, but posted a 0.77 mark in four starts last year with Arizona. In two outings at Los Angeles last season, he gave up one earned run over 10 innings with 14 strikeouts.

**Rockies 12, Giants 11:** Nolan Arenado homered among his three hits and Chris Iannetta hit a go-ahead two-run double in the sixth inning to lead hos Colorado over San Francisco on a cold, sometimes wintry day at Coors Field.

**Cubs 4, Marlins 1:** Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo homered and host Chicago beat Miami for its 10th win in 11 games.

**Yankees 3, Mariners 1:** J.A. Happ (2-3) and four relievers combined on a two-hitter, Cameron Maybin contributed with his bat and glove, and host New York beat Seattle.

**Reds 3, Athletics 0:** Derek Dietrich hit his fifth homer in six games, and visiting Cincinnati snapped a 10-game interleague losing streak with a win over Oakland.

**Indians 5, White Sox 0 (5):** Carlos Carrasco (3-3) held Chicago to two hits, Jordan Luplow hit his first two home runs of the season and host Cleveland won in a game called after five innings following a rain delay of 2 hours, 34 minutes.

**Astros 4, Rangers 2:** Josh Reddick hit the tiebreaking RBI single in the sixth inning and preserved the lead with a leaping grab over the wall in right field in the ninth, and Wade Miley (3-2) struck out seven as host Houston beat Texas for its fifth victory in six games.

**Cardinals 17, Pirates 4:** Marcell Ozuna drove in four runs and Dexter Fowler had three RBIs, leading host St. Louis to a rout of Pittsburgh.

**Diamondbacks 3, Braves 2 (10):** David Peralta hit a tying homer with two outs in the ninth inning and Ketel Marte singled home the winning run in the 10th for host Arizona.

# Butler, Sixers force Game 7 with Raptors

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jimmy Butler lived up to his Jimmy Buckets nickname.

With “Jimmy! Butler!” chants ringing from the rafters, he helped Philadelphia force a seventh game against Toronto in the Eastern Conference semifinals, hitting big baskets in bunches and scoring 25 points in the 76ers’ 112-101 victory over the Raptors on Thursday night.

“I play to win,” Butler said. “Right now, this is what I have to do in order to give us a great chance at winning.”

Game 7 is Sunday in Toronto. The Milwaukee Bucks await the winner.

Kawhi Leonard, who scored 30-plus points in the first four games of the series, was finally tied up early by the Sixers and hit 29 points well after the game was out of hand.

Leonard and the Raptors had no answers for Butler and All-Star guard Ben Simmons.

Simmons broke through and scored 21 points — more than his combined total of Games 4 and 5 — and helped show the Sixers still had some fight after a brutal Game 5 loss.

“It was amazing focus. Everybody was locked in,” Simmons said. “We knew what was at stake.”

Joel Embiid had played through a bad left knee and a stomach bug for most of the playoffs and the entire team had reason to be ill after the Raptors crushed the Sixers by 36 in Game 5.

“I knew I had to come in with high spirits,” Embiid said. “If I’ve got to play 45 minutes and push myself out there, that’s what I’ll do.”

Embiid had a burst of energy late in the third when he blocked a driving Leonard, and Simmons capitalized with a basket for an 18-point cushion. Embiid, who gingerly walked into the postgame press conference with his left knee packaged in ice, had 17 points and

12 rebounds in 35 minutes.

Embiid didn’t do much early in Game 6, but Butler and Simmons built some needed separation.

Butler about did it all, and showed in the first half why the free agent will command a max contract — \$188 million over five years — in the offseason.

Butler, disgruntled in Minnesota before he was traded to Philadelphia in November, scored 19 points in the half and all of them seemed worthy of the highlight reel. He took a bit of a trick shot when he rebounded his own missed jumper and was fouled by Kyle Lowry on an off-balance attempt. The basket was good and so was the free throw. Butler stole the ball from Leonard and capped the half with a fast-break dunk for a 58-43 lead.

“Game is simple. I shoot the ball when I’m open,” Butler said. “Sometimes I shoot it when I’m not open.”

He forced his way open in the first half, making 9 of 15 shots

in the first and he gave the Sixers the confidence they needed to know another game wasn’t going to turn into a rout.

“He was all over that game,” coach Brett Brown said. “The mood in the locker room, you could sense the serious side. They got the moment and I think he got it as much as anybody and led us.”

Simmons was called out by Butler about the need to attack the basket and play more off screens to become the triple-double threat he was in the regular season and not the non-factor he was against the Raptors. Simmons did it all early (eight points, five assists in the first quarter) and the Sixers got the outside shots to fall — an early domination that happened even as Embiid was held scoreless until he hit a 3 early in the second quarter.

Simmons had no turnovers and six assists in 34 minutes.

“What he did today was lot of the reasons he was an NBA All-Star at age 22,” Brown said.

## With backs to the wall, Trail Blazers come through

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — The shots were finally falling for Damian Lillard.

Lillard had 32 points, including 17 in the third quarter, and the Portland Trail Blazers staved off elimination to force a decisive Game 7 in their series with Denver with a 119-108 victory on Thursday night.

Lillard had been fairly quiet for the previous two games in the semifinal series, both Portland losses.

“I think over the course of the series, at least after Game 1, I just haven’t seen the ball go in consistently enough,” Lillard said. “My job is to stay aggressive, keep doing what I do, and tonight, shots fell.”

The series now shifts to Denver, where the Nuggets will have a chance to make it to the Western Conference finals for the first time since 2009. Den-

ver has been to the conference finals three times in franchise history.

The winner of Sunday’s game will face the winner of the series between the Golden State Warriors and the Houston Rockets. The defending NBA champion Warriors have a 3-2 advantage in the series after a 104-99 victory on Wednesday night. Game 6 is Friday in Houston.

CJ McCollum added 30 points for the Blazers, who haven’t advanced to the conference finals since the 2000 playoffs. Rodney Hood came off the bench with a career playoff-high 25 points and fans at the Moda Center drowned out his postgame on-court interview by chanting “Rodney! Rodney!”

Nikola Jokic led the Nuggets with 29 points and 12 rebounds, while Jamal Murray added 24 points and 10 rebounds.

“We’ll go back home, re-

group, like we did for San Antonio, come back with energy and just be ready to play,” Murray said.

Seth Curry’s three-pointer gave the Blazers a 101-88 lead with 7:24 left. Things got heated midway through the final period after Jokic was called for an offensive foul and the players got into a shoving match and had to be separated. After a review, there were offsetting technicals involving Denver’s Will Barton and Torrey Craig, and Curry and Zach Collins for Portland.

Lillard hit an off-balance jumper that put Portland up 106-93. The Nuggets got within 113-103 with 1:04 left, but Craig and Jokic fouled out and Portland closed out the win.

The Nuggets were in this situation before: They lost on the road to San Antonio in Game 6 in the opening round, forcing that series to return to Denver

for the deciding game.

After Portland won Game 3 in quadruple overtime, Denver beat Portland at home to even the series. Then Paul Millsap had 24 points to spark Denver’s 124-98 blowout of the Blazers on Tuesday night — and put Portland on the verge of elimination.

“I thought our Game 6 here in Portland was better than our Game 6 in San Antonio,” Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. “Now we go home and have the best home-court advantage in the NBA.”

Denver led by as many as 10 points in the opening quarter but Portland went on an 11-4 run to start the second quarter that closed the gap to 38-37.

After his three-pointer gave Portland the lead, Lillard added a layup to extend it and Portland led 58-54 at halftime after outscoring the Nuggets 32-20.



# Some of Red Sox visit White House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump honored the World Series champion Boston Red Sox — well, some of them — at the White House on Thursday, but made no mention of the controversy that shadowed the visit.

The team's manager, Alex Cora, did not attend the ceremony after citing his frustration with the administration's efforts to help his native Puerto Rico recover from a devastating hurricane. And nearly a dozen members of the team, all players of color, skipped the opportunity to shake Trump's hand. Meanwhile, every white player on the team — as well as outfielder J.D. Martinez, who is of Cuban descent — attended.

The Red Sox repeatedly denied that there was any sort of racial divide caused by the White House visit, which has been transformed from moment of celebratory ritual to hyper-politicized event under Trump. And there was no sign of discord during the rained-upon ceremony on the White

House South Lawn.

The U.S. Marine Corps band played versions of "Dirty Water" and "Sweet Caroline," two unofficial Red Sox anthems. A derogatory shout about the Red Sox rival, the New Yankees, was heard. Trump was presented with a Red Sox jersey with No. 18 on the back.

The day was not without mishaps: The White House first incorrectly labeled the team as the "Red Socks" on its website and then later, in an email, dubbed them the champions of something called the "World Cup Series." But Trump himself stuck to the correct script, honoring the team's dominant run to the title.

"Frankly, they were unstoppable. I watched," said Trump, who noted that the squad had now won more World Series titles than any other franchise this century. He laughed when Martinez teased him for being a Yankees fan.

The president was accompanied by two of the team's stars, Martinez and pitcher Chris Sale, from the Oval Office and joined the rest of the team as-

sembled under the South Portico. The team's third base coach, Carlos Febles, who is from the Dominican Republic, stood two rows behind the president. And dozens of administration officials and members of government, many of whom hail from the six New England states, stood on the lawn to cheer.

Tom Werner, the team's chairman, downplayed the no-shows, saying that it was each player's personal decision whether to attend.

"We don't see it as a racial divide," he said after the team received a post-ceremony tour of the Lincoln Bedroom. "I think, to the extent that we can, baseball is apolitical."

A championship team's coach rarely, if ever, misses the White House visit, a tradition that began in earnest in 1924 when then-President Calvin Coolidge invited the Washington Senators. Cora had considered attending Thursday's White House event to call attention to the plight of those in Puerto Rico, where Hurricane Maria is estimated to have caused nearly 3,000 deaths. But in the

end, he opted not to go.

"Unfortunately, we are still struggling, still fighting," Cora said in a statement. "Some people still lack basic necessities, others remain without electricity and many homes and schools are in pretty bad shape almost a year and a half after Hurricane Maria struck. I've used my voice on many occasions so that Puerto Ricans are not forgotten, and my absence is no different. As such, at this moment, I don't feel comfortable celebrating in the White House."

Before the visit, Trump defended his stance on Puerto Rico, falsely asserting once again that the territory received \$91 billion in hurricane relief money, which he claimed was "the largest amount of money ever given to any state."

In fact, Congress has allocated Puerto Rico just a fraction of that figure. The White House has said Trump's \$91 billion estimate includes about \$50 billion in speculated future disaster disbursements that could span decades, along with \$41 billion already approved.

## Four-goal third period lifts Bruins over Hurricanes

Associated Press

BOSTON — The door to the visiting team's penalty box had scarcely slammed shut before the official was opening it again for another Carolina Hurricanes player to serve his punishment.

Penalty. Goal.

Penalty. Goal.

Twenty-eight seconds apart, Marcus Johansson and Patrice Bergeron scored on power plays during a four-goal outburst as Boston rallied from a third-period deficit to beat Carolina 5-2 on Thursday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

"We took advantage of our power plays early, and that's huge," said Bruins forward Charlie Wagner, who skated in alone on Petr Mrazek with 2:02 left to clinch it. "We tied it up pretty quick there, and I think

we kept our foot on the gas for the most part."

Boston trailed 2-1 before capitalizing on back-to-back power plays about three minutes into the third period. With about three minutes left in the game, the Bruins scored two more: One on Brandon Carlo's deflected, slow-rolling empty netter, and then 11 seconds later on Wagner's unassisted goal that made it 5-2.

"We were fortunate to only be down one goal, and then when you get those chances on the power play, you've got to make them pay," said Tuukka Rask, who stopped 29 shots. "Today, we did."

Back in the net for the first time since Game 2 of the second-round series against the Islanders, Mrazek made 23 saves for the Hurricanes.

Curtis McElhinney finished off New York, but coach Rod Brind'Amour went back to Mrazek when he was cleared by doctors after the five-day break between series.

"Petr was fine," Brind'Amour said. "We left him out to dry there at the end."

Steven Kampfer, starting for suspended defenseman Charlie McAvoy, also scored for Boston — his first career postseason goal — with about three minutes gone in the game. Sebastian Aho and Greg McKegg scored for Carolina.

It was still 2-1 when Jordan Staal was sent off for roughing in the opening minute of the third period. Johansson slammed home a rebound of Brad Marchand's shot to tie it, and just 15 seconds later the Bruins were back on the

power play when Dougie Hamilton was given 2 minutes for roughing.

Boston set up in the Hurricanes' zone, Jake DeBrusk sent the puck across the ice to Marchand, who tipped it back into the slot for Bergeron, and he slid it through Mrazek's pads to make it 3-1.

Brind'Amour called his timeout to settle things down. But Hamilton, a former Boston first-round draft pick, picked up another penalty less than three minutes later.

The Bruins failed to score, but the crowd taunted the former Bruin.

"I don't really care," he said. "They've chanted my name before, so for me it is what it is. Obviously, it was unfortunate I was in the box and taking those penalties."