

US, South Korea drills may resume

By DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Citing the “evolving threat” posed by North Korea, Presidents Joe Biden and Yoon Suk Yeol of South Korea agreed Saturday to reinforce their defensive posture on the Korean Peninsula and discuss stepped-up training by their armed forces.

Biden, on day two of his first trip to South Korea and Japan, met with Yoon on a number of issues, including economic and energy security, according to a statement issued afterward.

The two chief executives reaffirmed “their mutual commitment” to defending South Korea. Biden acknowledged an “extended deterrence commitment” that includes the “full range of U.S. defense capabilities, including nuclear, conventional, and missile defense,” according to the

statement.

The two also agreed to start discussions to “expand the scope and scale” of joint military exercises that were suspended in 2018 after a series of summit meetings between North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, then-South Korean President Moon Jae-in and then-President Donald Trump.

Moon and Trump agreed to downsize their nations’ combined exercises from field maneuvers involving large numbers of troops and equipment to tabletop computer simulations. Yoon, a conservative former prosecutor who took office May 10, campaigned on a pledge to strengthen ties with the U.S., including a return to field exercises.

“We are going to step up our exercises,” Yoon said during a press briefing with Biden in Seoul, adding that it will “take some time” to determine specifics.

Roughly 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea, the majority of them at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek city.

The exercises were suspended in part to placate the North and draw it to negotiations aimed at ridding the communist regime of its nuclear weapons program. North Korea’s leaders say the U.S.-South Korean exercises are rehearsals for an invasion of their country.

Yoon and Biden said their goal remains the “complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula” and condemned North Korea’s 15 missile tests so far this year, according to their statement.

They also agreed to deploy U.S. military assets to South Korea “in a timely and coordinated manner as necessary” and cooperate to combat North Korea’s cyber threats.

Lawmakers call for price decrease at commissaries

By ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

Eight Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee called on Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to remove the revenue requirement at base commissaries, which would lower grocery prices and help military families better cope with fast-rising inflation.

“Many of our military families are struggling to meet their basic needs due to rising prices,” the lawmakers wrote to Austin in a letter dated May 11.

In the last year, inflation has risen about 8.5%. By removing requirements to increase grocery prices to offset the military’s expense of running commissaries, families might be able to cope better with rising costs of food and essentials, the lawmakers said.

Commissaries, which are op-

erated by the Defense Commissary Agency, already boast they have lower prices for groceries than off-base competitors with the help of funding from Congress. The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets annual spending and policy priorities, mandated the Defense Department, which the agency generate some revenue selling groceries at a price above their cost.

The revenue requirement is expected to bring in about \$119 million in fiscal year 2022, according to the letter.

“Our view is those dollars should remain with service members to help them take care of their families,” the lawmakers wrote. “It has an immediate, direct impact for families, lowering their grocery bills and extending their pay as a non-pay compensation benefit, and

reducing food insecurity and inflationary effects.”

Rep. Marc Veasey of Texas spearheaded the letter with Rep. Steven Horsford of Nevada. Additional members who signed the letter were Reps. Veronica Escobar of Texas, Rick Larsen and Marilyn Strickland of Washington state, William R. Keating of Massachusetts, Anthony Brown of Maryland and Kaiiali’i Kahele of Hawaii.

Austin did receive the letter last week, said Maj. Charlie Dietz, a Pentagon spokesman.

“He is currently looking into the items discussed and will respond accordingly as appropriate,” Dietz said.

In January, troops received a 2.7% pay increase and the Pentagon has asked for a larger pay raise for troops next year, about 4.6%. That would not go into effect until January, if passed by

Congress and signed by the president.

The lawmakers’ request does not impact a 5% surcharge included on all items sold at commissaries. That money is used for maintaining and building stores, according to the Defense Commissary Agency.

Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Troy Black, the service’s top enlisted member, told House lawmakers on Wednesday that losing control of the impacts of inflation on young military members will impact retention.

It’s not just rising food costs, it’s also increasing in housing and child care, Black said to members of the House Appropriations Committee subpanel on military construction, veterans affairs and related agencies.

“Our youngest Marines right now feel the hardest impact to inflation,” he said.

Plant capture fuels concern for POWs

Associated Press

POKROVSK, Ukraine — Russia's claimed seizure of a Mariupol steel plant that became a symbol of Ukrainian tenacity gives Russian President Vladimir Putin a badly wanted victory in the war he began, capping a nearly three-month siege that left a city in ruins and more than 20,000 residents feared dead.

After the Russian Defense Ministry announced late Friday that its forces had removed the last Ukrainian fighters from the plant's miles of underground tunnels, concern mounted for the Ukrainian defenders who now are prisoners in Russian hands.

Denis Pushilin, the head of an area of eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed separatists, said Saturday that the Ukrainians, considered heroes by their fellow citizens, were sure to face a tribunal for their wartime actions.

"I believe that a tribunal is inevitable here. I believe that justice must be restored. There is a request for this from ordinary people, society, and, probably, the sane part of the world community," Russian state news agency Tass quoted Pushilin as saying.

Russian officials and state media repeatedly have tried to characterize the fighters who holed up in the Azovstal steel plant as neo-Nazis. Among the plant's more than 2,400 defenders were members of the Azov Regiment, a national guard unit with roots

in the far right.

The Ukrainian government has not commented on Russia's claim of capturing Azovstal, which for weeks remained Mariupol's last holdout of Ukrainian resistance, and with it completed Moscow's long-sought goal of controlling the city, home to a strategic seaport.

Ukraine's military last week told the fighters holed up in the plant, hundreds of them wounded, that their mission was complete and they could come out. It described their extraction as an evacuation, not a mass surrender.

The end of the battle for Mariupol would help Putin offset some stinging setbacks, including the failure of Russian troops to take over Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, the sinking of the Russian Navy's flagship in the Black Sea and the continued resistance that has stalled an offensive in eastern Ukraine.

The impact of Russia's declared victory on the broader war in Ukraine remained unclear. Many Russian troops already had been redeployed from Mariupol to elsewhere in the conflict, which began when Russia invaded its neighbor on Feb. 24.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov reported Saturday that Russia had destroyed a Ukrainian special-operations base in the Black Sea region of Odesa as well as a significant cache of Western-supplied weapons in northern Ukraine's Zhytomyr region. There was no con-

firmation from the Ukrainian side.

In its morning operational report, the Ukrainian military general staff reported heavy fighting in much of eastern Ukraine, including the areas of Sievierodonetsk, Bakhmut and Avdiivka.

As the end drew near at the steel plant, wives of fighters who had held out told of what they feared would be their last contact with their husbands.

Olga Boiko, the wife of a marine, wiped away tears as she shared the words her husband wrote her on Thursday: "Hello. We surrender, I don't know when I will get in touch with you and if I will at all. Love you. Kiss you. Bye."

The seaside steelworks, occupying some 4 square miles, had been a battleground for weeks. Drawing Russian airstrikes, artillery and tank fire, the dwindling group of outgunned fighters held out with the help of airdrops before their government ordered them to abandon the plant.

Zelenskyy revealed in an interview published Friday that Ukrainian helicopter pilots braved Russian anti-aircraft fire to ferry in medicine, food and water to the steel mill as well as to retrieve bodies and rescue wounded fighters.

A "very large" number of the pilots died on their daring missions, he said. "They are absolutely heroic people, who knew that it would be difficult, knew that to fly would be almost impossible," Zelenskyy said.

Langley suggested for top AFRICOM role

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — Lt. Gen. Michael Langley, a Marine with experience commanding American forces in Africa, has been recommended to serve as the next leader of U.S. Africa Command, The New York Times reported Friday.

Langley, if confirmed, would become the first Black four-star general in Marine Corps history, breaking new ground in a military service that has faced criticism for not promoting sufficient numbers of minority leaders.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin recommended the White House promote Langley

to the Stuttgart, Germany-based post, the Times reported, citing unnamed U.S. officials.

Langley now oversees Marine forces on the East Coast, but previously he led U.S. Marine Forces Europe and Africa based out of Germany. Langley took command of the Stuttgart-area headquarters in November 2020 after his predecessor was removed amid allegations of using a racial slur for African Americans in front of troops.

In a February 2021 interview with Stars and Stripes, Langley said the military, like society in general, is "evolving" when it comes to racial issues.

Langley said his personal experiences in

the Marines have been almost exclusively positive on racial matters. But coming up through the ranks, Langley said he experienced instances of racial tension, mostly outside of the Marine Corps.

If Langley becomes the next AFRICOM chief, replacing Army Gen. Stephen Townsend, a top priority will be countering militants in the East African country of Somalia.

On Monday, the Pentagon said U.S. special operations troops will return to Somalia, reversing a decision by former President Donald Trump during the last days of his administration to pull 700 service members from the country.

Rare tornado tears through northern Mich.

Associated Press

GAYLORD, Mich. — A rare northern Michigan tornado tore through a small community on Friday, killing at least two people and injuring more than 40 others as it flipped vehicles, tore roofs from buildings and downed trees and power lines.

The twister hit Gaylord, a city of about 4,200 people roughly 230 miles northwest of Detroit, at around 3:45 p.m.

Mike Klepadlo, who owns the car repair shop Alter-Start North, said he and his workers took cover in a bathroom.

"I'm lucky I'm alive. It blew the back off the building," he said. "Twenty feet of the back wall is gone. The whole roof is missing. At least half the building is still here. It's bad."

Emma Goddard, 15, said she was work-

ing at the Tropical Smoothie Cafe when she got a phone alert about the tornado. Thinking the weather outside looked "stormy, but not scary," she dismissed it and returned to what she was doing. Her mother then called and she assured her mom she was OK.

Two minutes later, she was pouring a customer's smoothie when her coworker's mom rushed in yelling for them to get to the back of the building, Goddard told The Associated Press by text message. They took shelter in the walk-in cooler, where they could hear windows shattering.

"I was crammed shoulder-to-shoulder with my seven co-workers, two of my co-workers' parents and a lady from Door Dash coming to pick up her smoothies."

When they left the cooler about 15 min-

utes later and stepped outside, they saw "some of our cars in pieces and insulation all over the ground," Goddard said. Three neighboring businesses were destroyed, she said.

Brian Lawson, a spokesman for Munson Healthcare, said Otsego Memorial Hospital was treating 23 people injured by the tornado and that one person was killed. He didn't know the conditions of the injured or the name of the person who died.

The second person who was killed was in their 70s and lived in the Nottingham mobile home park, which was among the first sites hit by the tornado Friday, said state police Lt. Derrick Carroll.

The Michigan State Police said in a tweet that more than 40 others were hurt and being treated at area hospitals.

Extreme fire danger prompts suspension of burns

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore cited extreme fire danger and unfavorable weather conditions Friday in announcing a suspension of all planned fire burning operations to clear brush and small trees on all national forest lands while his agency conducts a review of protocols and practices ahead of planned operations this fall.

His decision came as federal forecasters warned that expanding drought conditions coupled with hot and dry weather, extreme wind and unstable atmospheric conditions have led to explosive fire behavior in the southwestern U.S. The fires that are set on purpose are called prescribed burns or

fires.

"Our primary goal in engaging prescribed fires and wildfires is to ensure the safety of the communities involved. Our employees who are engaging in prescribed fire operations are part of these communities across the nation," Moore said in a statement.

He said they "deserve the very best tools and science supporting them as we continue to navigate toward reducing the risk of severe wildfires in the future."

The U.S. Forest Service has faced heavy criticism for a prescribed fire in New Mexico that escaped its containment lines in April and joined with another blaze to form what is now the largest fire burning nationally.

Moore said that in 99.84% of cases, prescribed fires go as planned and are a valuable tool for reducing the threat of extreme fires by removing dead and down trees and other vegetation that serves as fuel in overgrown forests.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, who praised the temporary suspension of intentionally set fires, said it's clear that well-managed prescribed burns can help reduce wildfire risks.

But "it is critical that federal agencies update and modernize these practices in response to a changing climate, as what used to be considered extreme conditions are now much more common," she said in a statement.

Trump pays \$110,000 in fines over contempt order

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump has paid the \$110,000 in fines he racked up after being held in contempt of court for being slow to respond to a civil subpoena issued by New York's attorney general.

Trump paid the fine Thursday but must still submit additional paperwork in order to have the contempt order lifted, the office of Attorney General Letitia James said Friday.

A message seeking comment was left Friday with Trump's lawyer.

A Manhattan judge declared Trump in contempt of court on April 25 and fined him

\$10,000 per day for not complying with a subpoena in James' long-running investigation into his business practices.

Judge Arthur Engoron agreed May 11 to lift the contempt order if, by Friday, Trump paid the fines and submitted affidavits detailing efforts to search for the subpoenaed records and explaining his and his company's document retention policies.

Engoron also required a company hired by Trump to aid in the search, HaystackID, finish going through 17 boxes kept in off-site storage, and for that company to report its findings and turn over any relevant documents. That proce-

ess was completed Thursday, James' office said.

Engoron told Trump to pay the money directly to James' office and for the attorney general to hold the money in an escrow account while Trump's legal team appeals the judge's original contempt finding.

Engoron stopped the fine from accruing May 6, when Trump's lawyers submitted 66 pages of court documents detailing the efforts by him and his lawyers to locate the subpoenaed records. He warned that he could reinstate it, retroactive to May 7, if his conditions weren't met.

GOP Pa. primary likely faces recount

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Pennsylvania's Republican primary for an open U.S. Senate seat is too close to call and is likely headed for a statewide recount to decide the winner of the contest between heart surgeon-turned-TV celebrity Dr. Mehmet Oz and former hedge fund CEO David McCormick.

A recount would mean that the outcome of the race might not be known until June 8, the deadline for counties to report their results to the state.

Oz, who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump, led McCormick by 1,079 votes, or 0.08 percentage points, out of

1,340,248 ballots counted as of 5 p.m. Friday. The race is close enough to trigger Pennsylvania's automatic recount law, with the separation between the candidates inside the law's 0.5% margin. The Associated Press will not declare a winner in the race until the likely recount is complete.

Both campaigns have hired Washington-based lawyers to lead their recount efforts, and both have hired Philadelphia-based campaign strategists who helped lead the operation to observe vote-counting on Election Day for Donald Trump's presidential campaign in 2020.

The two campaigns combined already

had hundreds of lawyers and volunteers fanned out around the presidential battleground state as election workers and election boards toiled through the remaining ballots.

The winner will face Democratic Lt. Gov. John Fetterman in November's midterm elections in what Democrats see as their best opportunity to pick up a seat in the closely divided Senate.

Fetterman won the Democratic nomination while in the hospital recovering from a stroke four days before the election. The incumbent, Republican Sen. Pat Toomey, is retiring after serving two terms.

Judge: COVID asylum border rules stay

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Pandemic-related restrictions on migrants seeking asylum on the southern border must continue, a judge ruled Friday in an order blocking the Biden administration's plan to lift them this week.

The ruling was just the latest instance of a court derailing the president's proposed immigration policies along the U.S. border with Mexico.

The Justice Department said the administration will appeal, but the ruling virtually ensures that restrictions will not end as planned on Monday. A delay would be a blow to advocates who say rights to seek asylum are being trampled, and a relief to some Democrats who fear that a widely anticipated increase in illegal crossings would put them on the defensive in an already difficult midterm election year.

Migrants have been expelled more than 1.9 million times since March 2020 under Title 42, a public health provision that denies them a chance to request asylum under U.S. law and international treaty on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

U.S. District Judge Robert Summerhays in Lafayette, La., ordered that the restrictions stay in place while a lawsuit led by Arizona and Louisiana — and now joined by 22 other states — plays out in court.

Summerhays sided with the states in ruling that President Joe Biden's administration failed to follow administrative procedures requiring public notice and time to gather public comment on the plan to end the restrictions. And he said the states made the case that they would suffer harm if the restrictions end.

The judge cited what he said were the go-

vernment's own predictions that ending the restrictions would likely increase border crossings threefold, to as many as 18,000 daily. That, he added, would result in more migrants being processed in congregate settings where contagious disease can be spread.

"The record also includes evidence supporting the Plaintiff States' position that such an increase in border crossings will increase their costs for healthcare reimbursements and education services. These costs are not recoverable," Summerhays wrote.

The White House said it disagreed with the ruling but would comply while it is appealed.

"The authority to set public health policy nationally should rest with the Centers for Disease Control, not with a single district court," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

1st baby formula flights from Europe set to arrive

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The first flights of infant formula from Europe, authorized by President Joe Biden to relieve a deepening U.S. shortage, were to arrive in Indiana aboard military aircraft over the weekend, the White House announced Friday.

The White House says 132 pallets of Nestlé Health Science Alfamino Infant and Alfamino Junior formula would leave Ramstein Air Base in Germany and arrive in the U.S. Another 114 pallets of Gerber Good Start Extensive HA formula are expected to arrive in the coming days. Altogether about

1.5 million 8-ounce bottles of the three formulas, which are hypoallergenic for children with cow's milk protein allergy, will arrive this week.

While Biden initially requested that the Pentagon use commercially chartered aircraft to move the formula from Europe to the U.S., the White House said no commercial flights were available this weekend. Instead, U.S. Air Force planes were to transport the initial batch of formula.

The Biden administration has dubbed the effort "Operation Fly Formula," as it struggles to address nationwide shortages of for-

mula after the closure of the country's largest domestic manufacturing plant in February due to safety issues.

U.S. regulators and the manufacturer, Abbott, hope to have that Michigan plant reopened this week, but it will take about two months before product is ready for delivery. The Food and Drug Administration last week eased importation requirements for baby formula to try to ease the supply crunch, which has left store shelves bare of some brands and some retailers rationing supply for parents nervous about feeding their children.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Killer clown trial delayed for 6th time

FL WEST PALM BEACH — A Florida judge has reluctantly delayed the trial of a woman accused of dressing like a clown and fatally shooting her lover’s wife more than 30 years ago after defense attorneys said they’re having a hard time contacting witnesses.

The trial for Sheila Keen-Warren was supposed to begin June 3. But Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Scott Suskauer agreed to what could be a four-month delay, the Palm Beach Post reported. This is the sixth time the trial has been delayed.

It was May 1990 when Marlene Warren opened her door and was shot in the face by a clown delivering carnations and balloons to her home in Wellington. The former Sheila Keen, rumored to be having an affair with Marlene Warren’s husband, Michael Warren, was considered a suspect. She later married Michael Warren. Investigators said DNA provided the evidence they needed to arrest her in 2017.

Student hurt in chemistry experiment

IN FARMERSBURG — The most severely injured among four western Indiana high school chemistry students hurt during an experiment that went awry will require skin graft surgery and therapy, his father said.

David Hooper said his son, Ethan, was airlifted to the Eskenazi Health burn center in Indianapolis. Ethan received second and third degree burns to his left arm, and to his face, his

father told the Tribune-Star.

North Central High School Principal Nancy Liston said the students were conducting a chemistry experiment outside the school that involved fire when “something went wrong.” The three other injured students were treated and later released at a local hospital for minor cuts and burns.

Police: Laser aimed at plane briefly blinds pilot

VA RICHMOND — A Virginia State Police pilot was temporarily blinded during a search for a suspect when a person on the ground aimed a laser pointer at the police aircraft, officials said.

Troopers were helping the Nottoway County Sheriff’s Office with a search for a suspect near the town of Crewe, Virginia State Police said in a news release. While one of the agency’s airplanes was aiding in the search, the pilot was temporarily blinded by a laser pointer being used on the ground, police said.

When the pilot regained his vision, he and his co-pilot identified the source of the laser and provided troopers on the ground with an exact location and address.

Police found a woman and the laser pointer, arrested her and charged her with one felony count of interfering

Fish returns to lake after 2-century absence

ME CHINA — A species of fish has returned to a central Maine lake for the first time in generations.

Alewives, a kind of herring,

reached China Lake this month, WMTW-TV reported. That hasn’t happened since the Revolutionary War era, the station reported.

Alewives return to Maine rivers from the ocean. However, dams have long prevented them from reaching some of their native areas, and conservation groups have spent years trying to change that.

Landis Hudson, executive director of Maine Rivers, said the group has worked to clear pathways between China Lake and the Kennebec River. That work is beginning to pay off, Hudson said. Three dams were removed and three others had fish ladders installed to help the fish migrate.

Gunman climbs atop church, standoff ensues

WI APPLETON — Police in Appleton have arrested a man who climbed onto a church roof with a gun.

Police said in a statement that officers received a call about a 43-year-old Appleton man who pointed a gun at someone at a crisis center and then pointed the gun at himself.

The man then climbed onto the roof of nearby St. Bernadette Parish and fired two rounds into the air, according to the statement.

A standoff, WFRV-TV reported, lasted at least two hours before the man surrendered. He was taken to the Outagamie County Jail. Officers and jail staff were working to connect the man with mental health services.

No one was hurt in the incident.

Co-pilot injured when duck hits helicopter

MN ST. PAUL — Authorities say a Minnesota State Patrol helicopter co-pilot was hurt after he was struck by a duck that went through the windshield of the aircraft returning from a law enforcement call.

The pilot was able to land the aircraft safely. The incident happened when the helicopter was returning to St. Paul after it had been dispatched to Wabasha County.

The injured co-pilot was wearing his helmet and had his helmet-shield down when he was hit, Minnesota Public Radio News reported.

He was tended to by paramedics and then taken to a nearby hospital, where he was treated for a head injury and released.

6 hurt after SUV rolls down embankment

WA VANCOUVER — Nine kids escaped from a smashed SUV that sped over a curb, rolled down a 50-foot embankment and stopped at the edge of a creek under Interstate 5 near Vancouver, Wash., the Clark County Sheriff’s Office said.

Clark County sheriff’s officials said six of the young people were taken to Randall Children’s Hospital in Portland, Ore., The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. None appeared to have life-threatening injuries, authorities said.

“It is a miracle that no one was killed,” the Clark County Fire District 6 said.

— From Associated Press



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Zalatoris surges to lead in PGA as wind subsides

Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — The Oklahoma wind came sweeping through Southern Hills and then swiftly left town in time for Will Zalatoris, Bubba Watson and yes, even Tiger Woods, to bring a sleepy PGA Championship to life on Friday.

Zalatoris hit the ball on the button whether he was in the fairway or the rough, running off three straight birdies in gentler afternoon conditions for a 5-under 65 and a one-shot lead over Mito Pereira of Chile.

Pereira missed a 7-foot putt on his final hole and had to settle for 64.

About an hour later, Watson missed a birdie putt from just inside 25 feet on the 18th hole and still delivered the 18th round of 63 in PGA Championship history.

Woods wasn't that spectacular, yet no less compelling. Outside the cut line with seven holes to play, he made two 15-foot par putts and two birdies on his battered right leg for a 69 to make the cut in his second consecutive major.

He's still 12 shots behind Zalatoris, the 25-year-old from Dallas who is built like a 1-iron and could probably hit one flush with his eyes closed. Zalatoris, a premier ball-striker, was quick to acknowledge that timing was everything.

"We lucked out with the draw, for sure," he said. "I played the last eight holes with not much wind. But take it when you can get it."

His side of the draw faced the least of the wind on Thursday morning and Friday afternoon, and it showed. Of the 22 players under par going into the weekend, only five had to endure the worst of Oklahoma's notorious wind.

Justin Thomas concentrated on every shot, even short putts, in gusts that topped 30 mph in the morning and he was rightly proud of another 67 that put him atop the leaderboard. And then he could only watch from the couch of his rental home as the trees stopped swaying, the flags stopped whipping and birdies kept dropping.

Now it's 36 more holes of more wild weather — temperatures in the low 60s for Saturday with a strong chance of some rain — and an even playing field.

Zalatoris was at 9-under 131, the lowest 36-hole score in eight majors at Southern Hills, and will be in the final group with Pe-

reira. Neither has won on the PGA Tour.

"I think it was lucky to get that draw," Pereira said. "Sometimes you get the bad draw, sometimes you get the good one. But today for sure the wind in the back nine, there was almost none."

Thomas was at 6-under 134, with Watson another shot behind.

Rory McIlroy was on the good side of the draw and failed to take advantage. He didn't make a birdie until the 13th hole. That was his only one in a round of 71, though three par saves at the end kept him within five of the lead.

"There's a long way to go, a lot of golf left," he said. "We're going to see a completely different golf course the next two days because of the wind direction. It's going to play completely differently. And that makes it very interesting."

Jordan Spieth, playing alongside McIlroy and Woods, got back to even par for the tournament until driving into the water on the 18th for a bogey and a 69. He was 10 shots behind in his bid to get the major keeping him from the career Grand Slam.

Zalatoris has history at Southern Hills, winning the Trans-Mississippi Amateur in 2014 when the final two rounds were washed out by rain. His game works well here, and it showed.

He opened with a shot from the rough that tumbled across the length of the green to 2 feet. He hit another through a gap in the trees to 7 feet. Not only did he have a bogey-free card, all five of his birdies were inside 8 feet.

Zalatoris has plenty of experience in the majors. He was runner-up in the Masters to Hideki Matsuyama in his debut in 2021. This is his eighth major, and he already has four top 10s.

"They're tough golf courses that allows my ball-striking to really give me the best chances," he said. "Obviously, these greens aren't easy, but hitting them on the right tiers and being able to have the 15- to 25-footers where I'm not going up and down slopes is huge."

The weekend will not include Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, who stumbled badly down the stretch and finished with a double bogey for a 75 to miss the cut — 4-over par — by two.

Wind, speed at Indy 500's 'Fast Friday'

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — First came the wind — 41 mph gusts that created some of the most challenging conditions in Indianapolis Motor Speedway history — and the rain was expected to follow.

It put IndyCar on its heels on "Fast Friday" as race officials scrambled to save qualifying for the Indianapolis 500. Not a single drop of rain had fallen when IndyCar adjusted its Saturday schedule in hopes of avoiding any disruption to qualifying for its marquee event next weekend.

Weather conditions at the speedway have changed daily since the track opened on sunshine-soaked Tuesday for Indy 500 prep. Wednesday was a washout, Thursday was just a regular day at the speedway and wind-whipped Friday saw nail-biting speed on the track.

Drivers were on edge and few willing to complete a full four-lap run without lifting off the gas during blistering fast mock qualifying runs. Conor Daly, with a Chevrolet engine for Ed Carpenter Racing, maxed out at 243.724 mph in turn three, where the wind was fiercest and blowing south to north from Turn 2.

Two-time winner Takuma Sato topped the speed chart for the third consecutive session with a late lap at 232.789 mph. He bumped Alexander Rossi from the top; Rossi ran only one full lap all day.

It was a six-hour session in which IndyCar allowed a horsepower boost ahead of qualifying, scheduled to begin Saturday for the 33-car field. The pole will be awarded Sunday in a shootout among the fastest six drivers. The Saturday forecast calls for rain and IndyCar moved its schedule up to start the first day of qualifying earlier. Should all 33 cars not have an opportunity to complete a four-lap run because of rain, nothing that happens Saturday will count and the field will return Sunday to do it all over again.

Smith, Raanta, Hurricanes blank Rangers

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Brendan Smith had gone nine years since last finding the back of the net in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

And Antti Raanta, well, he never had a postseason game like this.

The Carolina Hurricanes keep finding different ways to win in the playoffs. It's why they're unbeaten at home, and up 2-0 again in a series.

Smith scored a short-handed goal late in the second period while Raanta had 21 saves for his first postseason shutout to help the Hurricanes beat the New York Rangers 2-0 on Friday night, claiming Game 2 of their second-round series.

"I think if we just stick to our style, it's eventually going to wear on teams and we're going to find a way to win," Smith said.

Smith's goal off a feed from Sebastian Aho was the difference in a tightly defended game by both teams with little space to operate and even fewer traffic-free looks at the net.

Aho added a clinching empty-net score to finish this off with 1.8 seconds left as Raanta held up.

It came two nights after the Hurricanes rallied to tie Game 1 in the final minutes on Aho's tying third-period goal, then a rare OT score by defenseman Ian Cole. That came after a higher-scoring first-round series against Boston that went the full seven games.

Now 6-0 at home in the playoffs, Carolina faces the challenge of winning on the road for the first time in the postseason after failing to win a road game against the Bruins. They'll get their first chance to win at Madison Square Garden in Game 3 on Sunday.

Curry, Warriors rally past Mavs, go up 2-0

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Luka Doncic had been dominating for most of the night, yelling in celebration and flexing his arms in Stephen Curry's house.

Then Curry and the Golden State Warriors delivered one of those signature third-quarter flurries that have defined so many of their postseason runs — with this one sparked by Kevon Looney.

Just like that, the Warriors are two wins from getting back to another NBA Finals.

"Night night," Curry declared as a three-pointer went through the net in the waning moments.

Curry scored 32 points with six three-pointers and eight rebounds, Looney had a career-high 21 points and 12 rebounds, and the Warriors rallied past the Dallas Mavericks 126-117 on Friday for a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

"I feel honored just to be a part of the ride," Looney said.

Doncic scored 42 points and the Mavericks led most of the way before Golden State grabbed its first lead of the night on Otto Porter Jr.'s three-pointer 18 seconds into the fourth. Curry could see a momentum shift at that moment.

"We have that attitude and spirit that we're never out of it," Curry said.

Doncic had 18 points in the first quarter, two shy of his 20-point Game 1 total. His three-pointer with 13 seconds before halftime — the Mavs' 15th of the first half — made it 72-58 at the break and gave him 24 points.

Golden State answered with a 25-13 third quarter to pull to 85-83 going into fourth —

Smart, Bridges top All-Defensive team

Associated Press

Defensive Player of the Year Marcus Smart of the Boston Celtics was the leading vote-getter for the All-Defensive first team, with Mikal Bridges of the Phoenix Suns joining him as the other guard.

Former Defensive Players of the Year Rudy Gobert of Utah and Giannis Antetokounmpo of Milwaukee were also voted Friday to the first team with Memphis Grizzlies forward Jaren Jackson Jr.

Smart received 99 first-place votes and 198 points from the panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters. Bridges got 95 first-team votes and three second-team votes for a total of 193 points.

Players received two points for a first-team vote and one for a second-team vote.

The second team was Miami forward Bam Adebayo, Milwaukee guard Jrue Holiday, Philadelphia guard Matisse Thybulle, Boston center Robert Williams III and Golden State forward Draymond Green.

coming out of halftime with a performance reminiscent of those thrilling third quarters of past. The Warriors trailed by 19 at one point.

Oilers rally past Flames, tie series at game apiece

Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — The Edmonton Oilers got off to another slow start. This time, they bounced back quickly.

Zach Hyman scored the go-ahead short-handed goal midway through the third period and the Oilers rallied to beat the Calgary Flames 5-3 on Friday night, evening the second-round series at one game apiece.

Edmonton captain Connor McDavid had a goal and an assist, becoming the fastest

player to reach 20 points (six goals, 14 assists in nine games) in a single postseason since Mario Lemieux in 1992.

"He's willing to pay a price to win. He's driven to win," Oilers coach Jay Woodcroft said. "He has an effect on everybody in our organization with that desire to take his game to the next level. ... The way his guy is playing right now, it's special. He's driving our team forward."

Leon Draisaitl and defenseman Duncan

Keith each had a goal and two assists and Evan Bouchard also scored for Edmonton, which lost 9-6 in Game 1 and trailed 3-1 early in the second of this one.

"Losses are no fun and wins are lots of fun," McDavid said. "I thought we battled harder. ... Winning some 50-50 pucks. We didn't win many in Game 1. I thought we did a good job of that. I thought we defended better. Still gave up some chances."

Story's slam lifts Red Sox past Mariners

Associated Press

BOSTON — Trevor Story hit a grand slam over the Green Monster — and into the hands of a former Red Sox player — a night after hitting three homers over Fenway Park's fabled left field wall, leading Boston to a 7-3 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Friday night.

Story connected on a thigh-high 1-2 slider off Robbie Ray (4-4), driving it into the first row of seats to give Boston a 4-0 lead in the third inning. Former Red Sox outfielder Jonny Gomes, a member of Boston's 2013 World Series champions, was seated atop the Monster. He moved a few steps to his right and caught Story's slam against his body, high-fiving the person next to him with a big smile. He also raised his shirt in celebration.

Story didn't know it was Gomes who caught it until after the game.

"I saw like a clip of it and I saw Gomes was like going nuts," Story said. "I thought that was cool, man. That's something special. I'll never forget that."

Originally, when interviewed on the Monster by The Associated Press during the game, Gomes said he was going to keep it.

"I'm going to make Trevor sign it and take it home," the 41-year-old Gomes said with the ball sitting on a tabletop in front of him.

But he chatted with Story after and the pair came up with an idea.

"I just had him sign it for me," Story said. "My first grand slam as a Red Sox, that was something I thought was pretty special. It was a really cool moment. I had him sign the other side."

Story knew Gomes wanted it but changed his mind.

"I think he was going to keep it at first," Story said. "I said, 'I think it would be cool if you signed it and I kept it because it was the first one.'"

Gomes walked in after the game and placed the ball in Story's locker.

Jackie Bradley Jr. added a three-run shot for the Red Sox, who won for the seventh time in 10 games following a season-high five-game losing streak.

Abraham Toro hit a two-run homer for the Mariners, who have dropped four of five.

Diamondbacks 10, Cubs 6: Josh Rojas launched his first three long balls of the season and Arizona powered past Chicago in a game of home run derby at Wrigley Field.

With a strong wind blowing out on a warm day, the teams combined to clear the

walls 11 times — the Diamondbacks connected seven times. David Peralta went deep twice and Alek Thomas and Christian Walker added solo shots as the Diamondbacks won their second straight after a six-game slide.

Jonathan Villar homered and doubled for the Cubs in his 1,000th big league game.

Braves 5, Marlins 3: Ronald Acuña Jr. led off the game with a deep double and later singled and stole a base as visiting Atlanta beat Miami in the Braves slugger's first game at the stadium where he sustained a season-ending knee injury last year.

Acuña didn't play in the World Series after tearing his knee in a game at Miami on July 10. Because of the synthetic surface at loanDepot Park, the star outfielder was scheduled to be the designated hitter during the weekend series.

Marcell Ozuna homered for the third consecutive game, while Dansby Swanson and Travis d'Arnaud also went deep for the Braves.

Jorge Soler hit his eighth homer for Miami. It was his first against Atlanta since he was the MVP of the World Series for the champion Braves last season.

Rangers 3, Astros 0: Martín Pérez pitched his first shutout since 2014, scattering seven singles as Texas ended Houston's nine-game home winning streak.

Kole Calhoun homered for the Rangers, who snapped an 11-game losing streak to the Astros in Houston.

Dodgers 4, Phillies 1: Freddie Freeman singled three times and drove in two runs, Julio Urías pitched five shutout innings and visiting Los Angeles beat Philadelphia for its sixth straight victory.

Trea Turner doubled and had an RBI for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who opened a 10-day, 10-game road trip.

The Phillies continued to struggle without slugger Bryce Harper, who missed his fifth straight game after having a platelet-rich plasma injection in his injured right elbow on Sunday.

Blue Jays 2, Reds 1: Hyun Jin Ryu pitched six shutout innings to earn his first victory of the season, and host Toronto held Cincinnati star Joey Votto in check in his return from COVID-19.

Making his fourth start of the season and his second after being activated off the injured list because of a sore forearm, Ryu (1-0) allowed six hits, including five doubles, walked none and struck out three.

Guardians 6, Tigers 1: José Ramírez hit a three-run homer and tripled a day after

avoiding a serious injury when he fouled a ball off his leg, and host Cleveland defeated Detroit.

Both teams were without their managers for the series opener. Detroit's A.J. Hinch wasn't feeling well, though he tested negative for COVID-19. Cleveland's Terry Francona missed the game to have a minor surgical procedure and was expected back Saturday.

Brewers 7, Nationals 0: Eric Lauer pitched seven sharp innings and Rowdy Tellez and Tyrone Taylor homered as host Milwaukee defeated Washington.

The Nationals didn't score, but they did provide a couple of highlights as they unsuccessfully attempted an inside-the-park homer in the top of the seventh and executed a triple play in the bottom of the inning.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 3: Adam Wainwright pitched seven innings of one-run ball to extend his domination of Pittsburgh, and battery-mate Yadier Molina keyed a four-run sixth inning with a two-run single as visiting St. Louis beat the Pirates.

Wainwright has won 10 straight decisions against the Pirates and gone 19 starts since last losing to Pittsburgh in 2016, on opening day.

Orioles 8, Rays 6 (13): Ronged Odor hit a two-run homer in the 13th inning and host Baltimore snapped a 15-game losing streak to Tampa Bay.

The Rays appeared to take the lead in the 13th against Nick Vespi on a single by Kevin Kiermaier, but Wander Franco was ruled out at the plate on a throw by left fielder Austin Hays after review.

Twins 6, Royals 4: Kyle Garlick and Jose Miranda each drove in two runs, leading Devin Smeltzer and Minnesota past host Kansas City.

Smeltzer (1-0) allowed one run and five hits over 5½ innings, throwing 74 pitches in his second major league start this season.

Padres 8, Giants 7 (10): Manny Machado hit a tiebreaking double in the 10th inning and visiting San Diego won in manager Bob Melvin's return less than two weeks after undergoing prostate surgery May 11.

Jake Cronenworth homered, Wil Myers doubled in two late runs and the Padres recovered after blowing leads of 4-1 and 6-4.

Athletics 4, Angels 2: Seth Brown hit a go-ahead home run in the fifth inning and visiting Oakland topped skidding Los Angeles.

Anthony Rendon had two hits and drove in a run for the Angels, who have lost a season-high four straight games.