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STARS AND STRIPES®

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CRISIS IN IRAQ

Sailors happy to be at 'tip of the spear'

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- Iraqi military helicopter crashes delivering aid

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HENDRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

An aircraft handler directs the pilot of an F/A-18 Hornet to the catapult of the USS George H.W. Bush, underway in the Persian Gulf on Monday. With a focus on routing Islamic extremists in Iraq and preventing a humanitarian disaster there, the sailors aboard the ship are experiencing an excitement absent during their last mission to Afghanistan.

Comedian Robin Williams, who died of an apparent suicide Monday, meets fans at Logistics Support Area Anaconda during a series of shows in Iraq for the USO in December 2004.

Stars and Stripes



Williams connected with troops

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The title of the movie comes in an unmistakable howl: "Good morning, Vietnam!"

Robin Williams delivered one of his most iconic roles as a U.S. servicemember — the voluble, nonconformist Air Force broadcaster Adrian Cronauer.

His screen portrayal and rapid-fire jokes ribbed rigid commanders and life in the military, but it was never mean-spirited. It was timeless gruff humor, making light of the dreariness and monotony of war. His lines still provide sound bites for overseas

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■ Obituary, reaction to the comic's death
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ONLINE

■ Video of Williams greeting, performing for servicemembers
stripes.com/go/robin

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Martin Luther King did not live and die so that we may steal and lie in the middle of the night.”

— National NAACP President Cornell William Brooks, imploring residents of Ferguson, Mo., to turn into positive action their anger over the shooting death of unarmed teen Michael Brown by a police officer

See story on Page 8

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MILITARY

Williams: Performed many shows for USO

FROM FRONT PAGE

Armed Forces Network radio shows.

“What’s the difference between the Army and the Cub Scouts? The Cub Scouts don’t have heavy artillery,” Williams quipped in one on-air scene.

The connection that service members felt with Williams could have started and ended with the fake uniforms, movie sets and jokes of “Good Morning, Vietnam” in 1985. But by the time he died this week, Williams had worked for over a decade building a real-life relationship with those who fought – and were wounded – in the country’s newest wars.

It was a bond strong enough to be recognized not only by the ranks, who posted photos of themselves with Williams on social media Tuesday, but also by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, who called him a “true friend and supporter” of U.S. troops.

“From entertaining thousands of service men and women in war zones, to his philanthropy that helped veterans struggling with hidden wounds of war, he was a loyal and compassionate advocate for all who serve this nation in uniform,” Hagel said in a released statement. “He will be dearly missed by the men and women of DOD, so many of whom

were personally touched by his humor and generosity.”

Williams, 63, who apparently committed suicide in his home Monday after battling drug abuse and depression, traveled around the world with USO to perform at military bases after the attacks on 9/11. He was among the first entertainers to travel to Afghanistan and eventually visited bases in 13 countries, including Bahrain, Djibouti, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Spain, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, according to USO spokeswoman Oname Thompson.

In his home state of California, Williams participated in charity events to support wounded troops such as a Marin County bicycle ride in 2010, and he supported a charity for wounded athletes that included many servicemembers.

“I’m so honored to meet them and know what they’ve gone through and say, ‘Hey dude,’ this is just something that really humbles me,” Williams told ABC News’ Bob Woodruff during a “Stand Up for Heroes” event in 2012.

During his many USO trips, he would often stay after his shows to make personal connections with servicemembers, retired Gen. Carter Ham told ABC News.

“He would go to the guard tow-



Stars and Stripes photos

Comedian and actor Robin Williams entertained troops at Logistics Support Area Anacosta, Iraq, during a USO show in 2004.

ers, he’d go to the dining facilities, he’d go to the security police who couldn’t come to the shows because they were on duty. And he would spend time with them individually. That was very moving,” Ham said.

John Hanson, senior vice president of the USO, went on tour with Williams in 2007 and said the comedian never complained about uncomfortable sleeping arrangements or running to the next helicopter ride.

At one show, Williams completed his stand-up act and found a harmonica so he could stay and perform with musician Kid Rock for troops who had waited three hours in the snow, Hanson said.

“He was the kind of the guy who made you think we was your friend, even if you were never going to see him again,” he said.

But it was his honesty that connected with servicemembers on the USO circuit, Hanson said. Williams joked to them about his struggle with substance abuse, a common problem that many in the military could relate to and

one that may have contributed to his suicide by asphyxiation.

After missing a USO tour for a stint in rehab, he told troops he had violated his own standards faster than he could lower them.

“He was out there narked on the stage and giving of himself,” Hanson said.

On Tuesday, fans were placing flowers, candles and memorabilia on Williams’ Walk of Fame star in Hollywood, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Christopher Mulrooney, an Iraq war veteran, was holding a photo of himself with the comic and told the newspaper they met during a USO tour in 2003.

“That five minutes I got to know him, I felt like I was a part of his family,” Mulrooney told the Times. “It was just a few days from the holidays, everyone was kind of bummed and depressed ... the great news that we had was that we got Saddam [Hussein] and next thing you know we have Robin Williams on our base.”

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Report details insider attack that killed general

By THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF

The Washington Post

At least five of the American servicemembers who were wounded in last week’s “insider attack” in Kabul have been brought back to the United States, including one who was shot six times shielding a British colonel who was not wearing body armor at the time.

New details about the wounded are included in a casualty report about the Aug. 5 shooting that killed Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, the highest-ranking U.S. servicemember killed in the Afghan War. The wounded include at least one major and one cap-

tain, according to the report, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Post.

The report does not identify the soldier but provides details about their backgrounds and their injuries.

Afghan officials have said the shooter, an Afghan army soldier, was within close range of his targets when he opened fire on members of the U.S.-led military coalition at a training base.

Among his targets was an Army specialist, a reservist from Northern California who works as a customer service manager at Apple’s Cupertino, Calif., headquarters, according to the casualty report. The reservist

recounted that when the Afghan soldier opened fire, he moved to shield the British colonel.

The soldier then fired at the Afghan with his rifle and pistol, but not before being struck by six bullets fired from the Afghan’s weapon. Two bullets went into one of his legs, one tore into his shoulder and three rounds were stopped by his bulletproof vest.

The soldier has deployed three times, including once to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

One of Greene’s aides, a 31-year-old captain who volunteered for the deployment, was shot multiple times and is paralyzed below the waist.

An Army major who has per-

formed 11 years of service and was serving as a public affairs officer was also wounded. Married with two daughters, the major had completed four combat tours, three of them with an infantry unit.

An Army captain and a Navy noncommissioned officer were also injured.

There have been dozens of insider attacks this year alone in Afghanistan. As of June, 87 such attacks had killed 142 troops with the U.S.-led coalition and wounded 165 others, according to the Long War Journal, an online publication focused on counterterrorism and Islamic radicalism.



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MILITARY



MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

A unique act

Boys who are part of the Mobile Mini Circus for Children demonstrate their skills during a performance at the European Union compound in Kabul, Afghanistan. The MMCC is a program run by a nonprofit group supported by foreign embassies and others in Afghanistan. Some 850 children across the country take part in the program, including kids from refugee families and orphanages.

Afghan political talks begin

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan—A committee formed by Afghanistan's rival presidential candidates began discussions on a unity government here Tuesday as NATO's secretary-general urged a speedy resolution to the country's election crisis.

The committee is part of a joint agreement signed by candidates Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah last week during a visit by Secretary of State John Kerry. It will flesh out the scope of several new government positions established in the agreement, including a chief executive and an opposition leader.

It also will determine the opposition's role in the government. The committee was scheduled to meet for the first time Tuesday afternoon.

The talks begin as a massive audit of the June 14 runoff between the two men continues, with the goal of announcing a winner by month's end in time for the president-elect to attend a NATO summit in Wales during the first week of September.

The pressure on Afghanistan to reach a resolution was reinforced again Monday, when NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told the Reuters news agency that NATO needed an agreement with Afghanistan signed as soon as possible if the alliance is to keep a training and advising force in the country past 2014, when its combat mission ends.

"Time is now of the essence, and that is why we urge the Afghans to find a rapid conclusion of the presidential election process, and we urge the new president to sign the legal arrangements as soon as possible after inauguration," Rasmussen told Reuters.

Both candidates have said they

will sign security agreements with the U.S. and NATO laying out the terms for foreign troops to stay.

The slow pace of election auditing has raised doubts that it will determine a winner in time for the NATO summit. As of Sunday evening, 26 percent of about 23,000 ballot boxes had been reviewed, according to the Afghan Independent Election Commission, which is overseeing the audit. The IEC increased the number of auditing teams by a third on Tuesday in hopes of speeding up the process.

The audit, part of an initial deal brokered by Secretary of State Kerry, began July 17 after accusations by Abdullah that fraud was behind Ghani's win in the second round of voting. Abdullah led after the first round, but not by enough votes to avoid a runoff.

Creating the new government structure, referred to as the recent Kerry agreement as a "national unity government," poses new challenges for the candidates. A chief executive position would be established by presidential decree to function as a prime minister until that office could be added to Afghanistan's constitution. The chief executive position would be filled with a nominee chosen by the losing candidate and agreed upon by the president.

The new government will also include the position of "opposition leader," to be filled by the losing candidate and to work with the president in staffing key government positions "according to the principle of achieving parity," the agreement states.

Some observers and media have called the new structure "power-

sharing," a term Ghani took issue with in a recent TV interview in Kabul, noting it was never used in the agreement. Those comments, in turn, rankled the Abdullah camp, which points to the word "parity."

"I hope the commission comes out with a single interpretation of the text and we stop playing with words and move forward," said an Abdullah campaign spokesman, Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Rahimi.

The candidates also disagree on the timeline for finalizing the new government structure.

Abdullah's campaign believes it should be finished before election results are released, while Ghani's camp said he has already promised to

abide by the Kerry-brokered deal, so the timing is not an issue.

"I don't think Dr. Abdullah's support and their views and their capacity to be used for the serving of the nation."

Spokesmen for both campaigns said international pressure mattered less than the opinions of Afghans.

"Not only from the U.S. and NATO but there is a lot of pressure from the Afghan people," Farooqi said.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report. beardsley.steven@stripes.com Twitter: @sjsbeardsley



Ghani



Abdullah

Attack kills ISAF troop; 3 policemen die in bombing

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan—A servicemember with the NATO-led military force in Afghanistan died Tuesday in an attack in the country's east, while a roadside bomb in the south killed three Afghan policemen, according to the coalition and news reports.

The identity or nationality of the servicemember were not released by the International Security Assistance Force, as is customary. Coalition militaries typically announce the details of their own casualties.

The death brings the number of ISAF servicemembers killed this year to 51 — 38 of them Americans — according to a tally by The Associated Press.

In the south, the three policemen were driving in southern Ghazni province when they struck a bomb implanted in the

roadway, according to the AP. Another policeman was injured, the AP said.

Eastern and southern Afghanistan are traditional hot spots during the summer fighting months in the country.

While casualty rates for ISAF servicemembers have fallen in recent years as Afghan security forces assume more of the fighting against insurgents, ISAF servicemembers still patrol their bases, attend meetings with locals and work closely with Afghan forces to target insurgents.

There are roughly 44,000 international troops in Afghanistan, but all combat troops are to be withdrawn by the end of the year. NATO plans call for a residual training and advising force to remain after 2014, pending agreements with the government.

news@stripes.com

US-Australia agreement

During the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations, a new force posture agreement between the United States and Australia was presented. The new agreement looks at long-term joint military capacity building and humanitarian assistance, among other initiatives.

Australia Force Posture Agreement:



SOURCE: Department of Defense GRAPHIC: Eric Rodriguez MCT

US, Australia sign military pact to 'broaden and deepen' alliance

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

SYDNEY — The U.S. and Australia signed an agreement Tuesday that will allow the two countries' militaries to train and work better together as U.S. Marines and airmen deploy in and out of the country.

"This long-term agreement will broaden and deepen our alliance's contributions to regional security," Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Tuesday. He described the U.S.-Australia alliance as the "bedrock" for stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Hagel spoke during a press conference with Secretary of State John Kerry and their Australian counterparts. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Defense Minister David Johnston, at the conclusion of annual Australia-U.S. strategic talks.

Kerry praised Australia as "a vital partner in so many different endeavors."

When President Barack Obama visited Australia in 2011, he fueled tensions with China, Australia's

biggest trading partner, by announcing that up to 2,500 U.S. Marines would rotate through a joint military training hub in the northern Australian city of Darwin.

The Marines conduct humanitarian and military exercises with Australian forces.

Since 2011, the number of Marines there has grown from about 250 to more than 1,100 now. Australian Defense Minister David Johnston said the northern Territory looks forward to the Marine presence growing to the 2,500 limit.

Adm. Sam Locklear, who heads U.S. Pacific Command, told reporters Monday that there is no timeline for the increase.

The 2,500 is the size of a Marine air/ground task force unit, which "gives us the best flexibility to partner with" Australia and other allies in the region, Locklear said.

One U.S. official said it will take several years to reach the full 2,500-troop level. That official was not authorized to speak publicly about the timeline and requested anonymity.

CRISIS IN IRAQ



PHOTOS BY HENDRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

An F/A-18 Hornet launches from the flight deck of the USS George H.W. Bush, underway in the Persian Gulf on Monday.

Training propels sailors supporting Iraq mission

By HENDRICK SIMOES

Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH — For sailors aboard this ship in the Persian Gulf their focus on routing Islamic extremists in Iraq and stanching a humanitarian disaster there lends an excitement to their current mission that was absent during their last mission in Afghanistan.

“They (sailors) know, no kidding, they are at the tip of the spear, and that spear is having an impact on what’s going on,” said Master Chief Petty Officer David Carter, the USS George H.W. Bush’s command master chief. He said the thought of helping people and doing good things really registers with the sailors.

Several sailors who spoke with Stars and Stripes shared the sentiment. But they also stressed that they devote the same kind of attention to their jobs whatever the mission.

Petty Officer 1st Class Shelley Paulina oversees all the flight deck lights and the Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing system, which helps pilots set down safely on the ship. He said the flight deck is always a hazardous place.

“We have to launch and recover aircraft regardless of what we’re doing, and that in itself is important ... so you have to take it serious at all times.”

This is only the second deployment for the Navy’s newest Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, named after the 41st U.S. president. It’s the last of the Nimitz series. Four ships and nine aircraft squadrons are part of the carrier strike group.

Capt. Dan Cheever, commander of Carrier Air Wing 8 embarked on the carrier, tells his pilots to “follow the training, follow the rules and do what’s right.”

As of Monday afternoon, 17 airstrikes had been conducted by U.S. Air Force



Above: An F/A-18 Hornet taxis to the catapult on the carrier’s flight deck carrying ordnance on Monday. Right: A landing signal officer talks to the pilot of an F/A 18 on approach for recovery. The Hornets being launched from the carrier are among the aircraft conducting airstrikes in Iraq.



and Navy aircraft, including some by F/A-18s from the Bush. The action is aimed at checking the advance of the Islamic State and at protecting U.S. personnel in Irbil, the regional capital of Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan region. Irbil was under threat by Islamic State forces when President Barack Obama authorized airstrikes Thursday. The first strikes were launched Friday.

While the airstrikes represent an escalation of the mission, pilots from the carrier have been flying armed patrol missions over Iraq since June, when the ship was tasked from supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and ordered to the Persian Gulf as the Islamic State’s threat emerged.

“We are always ready to support any

contingency like that. It’s what we spend all the time training for; it’s just what we do,” said Capt. Andrew Loisel, the carrier’s commander. He’s been keeping the crew informed of the current situation via the ship’s public address system, known as the IMC. Sailors onboard have also been watching their ship’s role in the airstrikes play out on CNN.

Officials say the airstrike missions in Iraq are very similar to those flown in Afghanistan. Cheever, who has flown missions into Iraq in the past few days, said it’s not a giant shift, just “a little different geography.”

Cheever said he flew the missions to stay in touch with the situation there.

“Everything our guys do, I do, so that I know exactly what’s going on, and what

they are going through.”

The operation in Iraq is the primary focus for the Norfolk, Va.-based carrier, which is on a nine-month deployment that started in February. The ship also continues to conduct maritime security missions and training evolutions with allies in the region.

“We have a lot of capacity and a lot of ability to do a lot of different missions,” Cheever said.

Officials said the operational tempo for the more than 5,000 sailors aboard the ship has remained consistent, despite the recent airstrikes, and the ship can sustain the missions for as long as the president deems it necessary.

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CRISIS IN IRAQ

Kerry calls for quick action by Iraqi leadership

By MATTHEW LEE
The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Secretary of State John Kerry urged Iraq's new leaders Tuesday to work quickly to form an inclusive government and said the U.S. is prepared to offer significant additional aid in the fight against Islamic State militants.

Kerry said the U.S. "stands ready to fully support a new and inclusive Iraqi government" and called on Prime Minister-designate Haider al-Abadi "to form a new Cabinet as swiftly as possible." As that happens, he said Washington would be ready "to fully support a new and inclusive Iraqi government, particularly in its fight against ISIL (Islamic State)."

"Without any question, we are prepared to consider additional political, economic and security options as Iraq starts to build a new government," Kerry said. He added that the assistance would be "very much calculated to try to help stabilize the security situation, expand economic development and strengthen democratic institutions."

In Washington, a senior defense official said the Pentagon is considering sending several dozen military advisers, in addition to the 250 already in Iraq, to help assess the impact and implications of several days of targeted U.S. airstrikes. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because no decision has been made.

Also on Tuesday, the U.S. military said a U.S. drone had attacked and destroyed a militant mortar position north of the town of Sinjar.

Iraqi military helo crashes

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A Russian-built Iraqi military helicopter providing aid to those stranded on a mountain fleeing Sunni militants crashed Tuesday after too many tried to climb aboard, killing the pilot, said the army spokesman.

Lt. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi said in a statement that Iraqi parliamentarian Vian Dakheel, of the minority Yazidi community most affected by the fighting, was aboard the Mi-17 helicopter and was injured in the crash. She and others aboard were evacuated to a hospital in the nearby Kurdish autonomous region.

The New York Times reported on its website that reporter Alissa J. Rubin, riding along on the helicopter for a story, suffered an apparent concussion and broken

Kerry's comments came a day after Iraqi President Fouad Massoud selected al-Abadi, the deputy speaker of parliament from current Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite Dawa party, to be the new prime minister and gave him 30 days to present a new government to lawmakers for approval. Al-Maliki has balked at stepping aside and accused Massoud of violating Iraq's constitution.

The Obama administration believes new leadership is needed in Iraq, not only to face the immediate crisis of the rise of the Islamist militants but also to restore the confidence of the Iraqi people in democracy. Kerry said a new government should move quickly to resolve numerous initiatives that have stalled under al-Maliki's premiership, including a long-delayed oil law and constitutional reforms.

Kerry spoke in Sydney at a news conference with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and their Australian counterparts, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Defense Minister David Johnston, at the conclusion of annual Australia-U.S. strategic talks known as AUSMIN.

Kerry would not outline the potential new U.S. assistance to Iraq but, as President Barack Obama has done numerous times in the past, he ruled out the return of American combat troops to the country.

Hagel said the Pentagon was considering additional aid to the Iraqi security forces, including the Kurdish army, which is now handling the brunt of the fighting against the Islamists. He said increased coordination between Baghdad and the Kurdish capi-

wrists in the crash. Photographer Adam Ferguson was also on board but was uninjured.

"The helicopter delivered aid to the people stranded in Sinjar and too many people boarded it and it hit the mountain during takeoff," the Iraqi statement said.

Sunni militants from the Islamic State on Aug. 4 took the town of Sinjar in a remote region of Iraq near the Syrian border and gave the local Yazidi minority population an ultimatum to convert to Islam or die. The Yazidis follow an ancient religion with links to Zoroastrianism.

Tens of thousands fled to the remote and arid Sinjar mountains, where they suffered from lack of food and water, prompting Iraq, the U.S. and other nations to airlift them supplies.



KARIM KADHIM/AP

Shiite lawmaker Haider al-Abadi speaks to the press about election law in Baghdad in December 2009.

tal of Irbil was encouraging and said the U.S. hoped to be able to build on that in the future as it determines how best to support the Iraqi armed forces.

"We think that's a signal for potential growing cooperation between Baghdad and Irbil," Hagel said.

Lawmakers on board with US action in Iraq

By BRADLEY KLAPPER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Little of the impassioned debate that fractured lawmakers last year over possible military intervention in Syria is happening now as American warplanes strike extremist targets in Iraq.

Almost a week into the Obama administration's emergency action in northern Iraq, the campaign is attracting surprisingly broad bipartisan support.

"The need to move quickly to prevent further loss of life of men, women and children is not in dispute," said Rep. Scott Rigell, R-Va., expressing the view on Iraq of many in both parties. A year earlier, Rigell wrote a letter to President Barack Obama demanding that the White House seek congressional approval before ordering an attack on Syria, collecting the signature of more than 100 of his House members.

Obama's goals are more defined this time.

Last summer, he wanted to punish Syrian President Bashar Assad's government for using chemical weapons, hoping to deter repeat attacks and, at the prodding of Senate hawks, re-

verse the country's civil war. With weak support at home and abroad, Obama requested authorization from Congress.

Lawmakers returned early from recess full of town hall meetings where they heard little support for action. Facing defeat in the House and Senate, the administration ultimately opted for Russian-supported mediation and Assad relinquishing his chemical arsenal.

Several elements worked against Obama back then. Americans felt little responsibility for Syria, a country the United States has shunned for decades. Even without committing ground troops, U.S. airstrikes would have meant taking on a Syrian military with formidable air defense capabilities.

As for Iraq, Obama says he's acting to protect thousands of American personnel there and avert a possible genocide of minority groups. In a place where the U.S. spent hundreds of billions of dollars and lost almost 4,500 lives, the fact that hundreds of thousands of Christians are at risk reinforces an American sense of responsibility. Unlike with Syria, the U.S. is working with the government in Iraq and fighting a group already on a U.S. terrorism blacklist.



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MILITARY

VA loan program eases way to owning home

By Prashant Gopal
and Jody Shenn
Bloomberg News

During his third deployment in Afghanistan, Air Force Staff Sgt. Claude Hunter was so eager to return to the United States and buy a house that he signed a contract for a property that his agent showed him over Skype.

Hunter got back in time to close the deal, paying \$219,000 in May for the four-bedroom Waldorf, Md., house that he financed with a Department of Veterans Affairs mortgage. It didn't require a down payment.

"On Facebook, my friends have started posting: 'I got my VA loan, I got my house,'" said Hunter, 31. "Everybody is just ready. A lot of them have done their jobs overseas and are coming home."

America's fragile housing recovery is getting a boost from military buyers using VA mortgages as the U.S. draws down troops after more than a decade of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. About 4.7 million full-time troops and reservists served during the wars and many are now taking advantage of one of the easiest and cheapest paths to homeownership. The program's share of new mortgages, at a 20-year high, is also increasing as other types of government-backed loans have grown more costly.

"The reduction in uncertainty for returning vets allows them the freedom to spend more, including buying housing," said Sam Khater, deputy chief economist at CoreLogic Inc., an Irvine, Calif.-based property-data firm. "VA buyers are coming into the market in higher and higher proportions and tend to be first-time buyers, one of the missing drivers in the recovery in housing demand."

VA loans accounted for 8.1 percent, or \$19.5 billion, of mortgages made in the first quarter, up from less than 2 percent a decade ago, according to newsletter Inside Mortgage Finance. There are more than 2 million VA loans, with balances in excess of \$370 billion, after six years of increasing volumes.

The road to homeownership for Michael Malaris, 26, began on a bridge in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, less than a month into his deployment. An improvised explosive device threw Malaris 20 feet into an irrigation canal during an ambush of his patrol team.

When he woke up a week later at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital in Washington, he learned four friends were killed in the Jan. 3, 2010, attack and that the injuries to his face were so severe that he would never see again.

Two years later, he got a different kind of surprise. A veterans nonprofit called Operation Finally Home presented Malaris and his family with a newly built house near his Air Force base in San Antonio. They sold the property because he needed to live close to public transit and, on July 8, Malaris purchased



ANDREW HARRER/Bloomberg News

Staff Sgt. Claude Hunter, a radio communications supervisor at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., stands in front of his new home in Waldorf, Md., which he financed with a Department of Veterans Affairs mortgage.

a house in South Jordan, Utah, using a VA mortgage.

Now Malaris, who has a wife and three young children, plans to go to college to study communications, possibly with a minor in computer science, he said. Homeownership is "our step to normal life," the retired staff sergeant said.

The American Dream

VA loans came into existence in 1944, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the G.I. Bill of Rights, which included college tuition assistance as well as help with mortgages, business loans and unemployment benefits.

As veterans returned from fighting against Germany and Japan, the loans jumped to 28 percent of all mortgages recorded in 1947. That drove up homeownership and helped create a suburban building boom, said Daniel Fetter, assistant professor of economics at Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

"The most important thing in the increase in homeownership after World War II is mortgage finance," Fetter said.

While about half of today's 21 million veterans served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam era, many of the 2.8 million veterans who joined since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks are now prime candidates for homebuying as they shift into civilian life.

For some, the combat deployments helped them build a nest egg. Servicemembers don't pay taxes during deployments in war zones and receive \$225 a month

in danger pay for service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Basic salaries range from \$18,378 to \$64,933 for enlisted personnel and \$34,078 to \$153,925 for officers with less than 20 years of experience. In addition, servicemembers receive significant tax-free housing and food allowances.

Reynaldo Diaz, 35, retired from the Marines a year ago after five deployments to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. He dreams of buying a three-family brownstone in New York City where he plans to remake his life. He's working to raise his credit score, damaged during his divorce, complete his degree in business administration and get a job.

Diaz, who struggles with nightmares caused by post-traumatic stress disorder, said he lost three close friends to combat in Iraq, and one who committed suicide. Buying a house "is part of the healing process," he said.

"It's part of the reason we were fighting and the reason we lost so many people out there," he said. "We were fighting for the American Dream."

An affordable deal

VA mortgage benefits are available to veterans, their surviving spouses, active members of the armed forces and reservists who have served six years or been called up for 90 days. The government reduces risks for lenders by covering a portion of losses, typically up to 25 percent of the loan amount.

While the VA program hasn't always been the best deal, its

popularity surged as the Federal Housing Administration boosted the cost of its mortgages over the past few years to bolster its finances, said Jason Pepsnik, a veteran who oversees retail mortgage lending in the South for JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Unlike the FHA, which allows down payments of as little as 3.5 percent, the VA doesn't charge monthly insurance premiums, and the relatively moderate upfront cost can be rolled into loan balances. About 90 percent of VA mortgages don't have down payments.

Underwriters are required to test how much income VA borrowers have left over to cover other living expenses, an approach that has kept default rates low compared with other loans, Urban Institute researchers Laurie Goodman, Ellen Seidman, and Jun Zhu said in a report this month.

The VA backed a record 629,293 mortgages in its last fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30. That partly reflected booming refinancing as rates reached record lows.

"It's really the only avenue out there for people who are completely cash-strapped to be able to get into a home," said Michael Litzner, a real estate broker at Century 21 American Homes in Levittown, N.Y., the town that symbolized the post-World War II suburbanization of America the loans helped fuel.

Changes in the maximum size of the VA's guarantees have helped expand its worth since the mid-2000s, especially in high-cost states such as California, according to Mike Frueh, director of the VA's Loan Guaranty Service. VA consumers can get loans of more than \$1 million in the most expensive areas of the U.S., higher than other taxpayer-backed loans offer.

While VA underwriting can be cheaper and more flexible than other types of mortgages, most VA lenders require at least a 620 FICO credit score, said Chris Birk, director of VA loan education at Veterans United Home Loans, a national lender based in Missouri. Credit scores go up to 850.

One lender with no minimum credit score for VA loans is the Navy Federal Credit Union, with more than 5 million members. It matches its guidelines to what the agency will accept while making judgments based on an individual borrower's circumstances, said Katie Miller, vice president of mortgage lending.

"There's no reason we should be saying no if the VA is saying yes," Miller said.

Now that values are increasing, Hunter, the Air Force man who returned from Afghanistan, said he wanted to purchase before they get any higher. His agent used a cellphone to give him a tour of properties before he settled on a four-bedroom brick house with gleaming hardwood floors, a country kitchen and a large backyard where his 6-year-old son, Claude, can play.

Hunter, who is less than six years away from retirement, spent six years in Portugal, Korea and England and 18 months in Afghanistan during the three deployments. Andrews Air Force Base, 10 miles from his new home, will likely be his final stop, he said.

"I went overseas for the love of my country. I didn't do it to gain the VA benefit," Hunter said.

"But because the benefit is there, I took advantage of it. I now have a stable place where I can raise my son and know that, at some point, I can leave him this property."

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NATION



Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute in Oakland, Calif.

'Peace, progress, prosperity'

Clinton separates herself from Obama on foreign policy

By NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

EDGARTOWN, Mass. — After working to carry out President Barack Obama's foreign policy mission for four years as secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton is presenting a contrasting vision for America's role in the world ahead of a possible 2016 White House bid.

Clinton drew the sharpest distinctions yet from her former boss in a rebuke of his cautious approach to global crises.

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," Clinton said in a weekend magazine interview, referring to a version of the phrase Obama and his advisers have used privately to describe his approach to foreign policy. Asked for her organizing principle, she replied: "Peace, progress and prosperity. This worked for a very long time."

Clinton wrapped her critiques in expressions of respect for the president and sympathy for the tough global decisions he grapples

with from the Oval Office. On Monday, a vacation day for Obama, he dealt with issues involving Iraq, Ukraine, Gaza, Syria, terrorism and Ebola in Africa.

"He's thoughtful, he's incredibly smart and able to analyze a lot of different factors that are all moving at the same time," she said. "I think he is cautious because he knows what he inherited, both the two wars and the economic front, and he has expended a lot of capital and energy trying to pull us out of the hole we're in."

Coincidentally, Clinton plans to be on Martha's Vineyard on Wednesday for a signing of her memoir at the Bunch of Grapes bookstore, which Obama often visits while he's in town. The White House said before the interview was published that Obama would not attend.

In a wide-ranging interview published on The Atlantic's website, Clinton offered an uncompromising defense of Israel's battle against Hamas in Gaza and argued against Obama's decision not to build up a rebel fighting force to confront Syrian President Bashar

Assad.

Clinton previously described her advocacy for the Syrian rebelion in "Hard Choices," her memoir about her time leading the State Department. Obama has said supporting the rebels would not have stopped al-Qaida-inspired groups from rampaging across Syria and inside Iraq today.

The White House declined to respond to Clinton's comments, but said her team gave them a heads-up before the interview was published.

Republicans say she won't be able to escape that she carried out Obama's foreign policy for his first term without public complaint.

"Hillary Clinton spent four years executing Barack Obama's foreign policy, and in year five of Obama's term it's ridiculous for Hillary to try to swindle voters into thinking what's happening around the world isn't a product of Obama-Hillary diplomacy," Republican National Committee spokesperson Kirsten Kukowski said in response to Clinton's interview.

Probe: DEA improperly paid for passenger lists

By PETE YOST
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Drug Enforcement Administration paid an Amtrak employee hundreds of thousands of dollars over two decades to obtain confidential information it could have gotten for free, according to internal investigators at the railroad.

According to a report released Monday by Amtrak's inspector general, the DEA paid an Amtrak secretary \$854,460 to be an informant. The employee was not publicly identified except as a "secretary to a train and engine crew."

Amtrak's own police agency is already in a joint drug enforcement task force that includes the DEA. According to the inspector general, that task force can obtain Amtrak confidential passenger reservation information at no cost.

The office of Amtrak Inspector General Tom Howard declined to identify the secretary or say why it took so long to uncover the payments. Howard's report on the incident suggested policy changes and "other measures to address control weaknesses that Amtrak management is considering." DEA spokeswoman Dawn Dearden declined to comment.

Amtrak is officially known as the National Railroad Passenger Corp. and is not a government agency, although it has received tens of billions of dollars in federal subsidies and is subject to the U.S.

Freedom of Information Act.

Passenger name reservation information is collected by airlines, rail carriers and others and generally includes a passenger's name, the names of other passengers traveling with them, the dates of the ticket and travel, frequent flyer or rider information, credit card numbers, emergency contact information, travel itinerary, baggage information, passport number, date of birth, gender and seat number.

Amtrak's inspector general said the secretary provided the passenger information without seeking approval from Amtrak management or police, but from Amtrak management.

\$854,460

The amount the Drug Enforcement Agency paid an Amtrak secretary to be an informant, according to a report released Monday by Amtrak's inspector general.

Amtrak's own corporate privacy policy expressly allows it to sell or share personal information about its customers and passengers with contractors or a category of others it describes as "certain trustworthy business partners."

It was not immediately clear whether the DEA has rules against soliciting corporate insiders to provide confidential customer information in exchange for money when providing that information would cause the employee to violate a company's or organization's own rules or policies. The DEA does not publish on its website its staff manuals or instructions for employees.

The report said the secretary was allowed to retire, rather than face administrative discipline, after the discovery that the employee had "regularly" sold private passenger information since 1995 without Amtrak's approval.

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NATION



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Police wearing riot gear walk toward a man with his hands raised Monday in Ferguson, Mo.

More clashes near St. Louis

By ALAN SCHERZAGER
The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — Police in riot gear fired tear gas into a crowd of protesters in a St. Louis suburb where an unarmed black teenager had been fatally shot by police over the weekend as tension rose even amid calls for collective calm.

Between two nights of unrest, a community forum hosted by the local NAACP chapter Monday night drew hundreds to a sweltering church in Ferguson, the nearly 70 percent black St. Louis County suburb where unarmed Michael Brown, 18, was shot multiple times by a police officer.

Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson said a large crowd that gathered throughout Monday at the site of a weekend-out convenience store turned rowdy at nightfall, throwing rocks at police. Officers used tear gas and shot “beanbag rounds” meant to

stun them, he said. St. Louis County police spokesman Brian Schellman said there were at least five arrests but no reports of looting. Nearly three dozen people were arrested following a candlelight vigil Sunday night, when crowds burned stores, vandalized vehicles, assaulted reporters and taunted officers.

“People are tired. They have reached the end of their rope,” said Ruth Latchum Nichols after the NAACP forum, where many more were left waiting outside once the pews reached capacity. “Enough is enough. This is a state of emergency.”

Early Tuesday, the streets of Ferguson were once again calm. A handful of police officers sat in patrol cars near a burned-out gas station, vastly outnumbered by the news crews putting together their early reports.

National NAACP President Cornell William Brooks implored residents to “turn your anger into

action” while condemning the violent response to Brown’s death. “To sneak around under the cover of darkness, to steal, to loot, to burn down your neighborhood — this does not require courage,” he said. “Courage is when you strive for justice.”

“Martin Luther King did not live and die so that we may steal and lie in the middle of the night,” he added.

The FBI has opened an investigation into Brown’s death, looking into possible civil rights violations. Witnesses have said that Brown had his hands raised when the unidentified officer approached with his weapon drawn and fired repeatedly.

Brown’s parents have been among those calling for calm. His family, who had planned to drop him off at a technical college Monday to begin his studies, have asked people to share any information and videos they might have related to the shooting.

Group forms betting pool on number of SD rally fatalities

The Associated Press

RAPID CITY, S.D. — Members of a Black Hills, S.D., family and their friends acknowledge that a betting pool they run on how many bikers will die during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is a bit macabre, but they say they mean no harm.

This year, 12 people put in \$5 each, with the winner pocketing \$60, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Fatalities are a fact of life at the rally, which draws hundreds of thousands of bikers to the Black Hills each year, said Carol Landrum, 62, who travels from Arkansas every summer to her family’s cabin in the Black Hills.

“We hate that anybody does die, but we know it’s going to happen,” she said. “It was a joke initially.

It’s just kind of a way for us to get through the rally and be good-humored about it.”

Landrum, a retired physician assistant, said she has seen the aftermath of tragic accidents.

“[The pool] is not meant in any way to be malicious, or hoping anyone has a bad accident,” she said.

The pool started seven years ago based on an idea from a friend of Landrum’s husband, William. That friend later died in a motorcycle accident, she said.

“The first time, they kind of roll their eyes,” said William Landrum, 63, of skeptical neighbors.

Picking zero deaths is not an option in the pool.

“Unfortunately, that’s always going to lose,” he said. “For someone out there, it’s their time.”

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Southwest braces for water shortage

By KEN RITTER
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A 14-year drought in the U.S. southwest has steadily dropped water levels to historic lows, leaving marinas idle in once-teeming Lake Mead, a major water source for the region.

Officials from nearby Las Vegas are pushing conservation, but are also drilling a new pipeline to keep drawing water from the lake. Hundreds of miles away, farmers who receive water from the lake behind the famed Hoover Dam are preparing for the worst.

The receding shoreline at one of the main reservoirs in the vast Colorado River water system is raising concerns about a network serving a perennially parched region that is home to 40 million people and 4 million acres of

farmland.

Marina operators, water managers and farmers who for decades have chased every drop of water across the booming Southwest and part of Mexico are closely tracking the reservoir’s water level — which is already at its lowest point since it was first filled in the 1930s.

“We just hope for snow and rain up in Colorado so it’ll come our way,” said marina operator Steve Biggs, referring to precipitation in the Rockies that flows down the Colorado River to help fill the reservoir separating Nevada and Arizona. By 2016, continued drought could trigger cuts in water deliveries to both states.

While water authorities say they’ve been saving water for potential dry days, the prospect of the first cuts is already prompting

action.

Last week, officials announced an \$11 million pilot program involving the federal government and water agencies in Denver, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Phoenix to pay farmers, cities and industries to reduce river water use.

“We can certainly hope for better conditions than we’ve experienced in recent times, but we have to actively and continue to plan for the worst case,” said Michael J. Lacey, director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

This week, an update from the federal Bureau of Reclamation, the keeper of the Colorado River network’s dams and reservoirs, will help set the course for water deliveries for the next two years.

Administrators say they’re confident they can meet current commitments next year.

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NATION

Michigan highways flooded after rain

The Associated Press

WARREN, Mich. — Some highways and streets were impassable Tuesday after a storm dumped more than 6 inches of rain on southeastern Michigan, stranding motorists and prompting state police drivers to search flooded freeways.

The state warned commuters against driving in affected areas.

The National Weather Service said 5.2 inches of rain fell Monday in the Detroit suburb of Warren. Mayor James Fouts said he may seek state help for residents dealing with the aftermath.

"It's overwhelming. It's catastrophic," Fouts told The Macomb Daily of Mount Clemens.

Weather service meteorologist Dan Thompson said the highest rainfall report was 6.25 inches, also in suburban Detroit. The weather service said 4.57 inches fell at Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Romulus.

"The Detroit metro area ... had a long period of rainfall and there were some em-



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

A stranded motorist sits on top of his car as he awaits rescue from the flooded Southfield Freeway on Monday in Dearborn, Mich.

bedded thunderstorms that enhanced the rainfall rates," Thompson said.

On Tuesday morning, portions of Interstates 75, 94, 696 and the Lodge and Southfield freeways were closed. Water remained on some roadways, while mud, debris and vehicles blocked the path for traffic in places. Motorists were stranded on flooded roads in the Flint area.

Michigan State Police troopers worked into Tuesday to assist stranded motorists and clear vehicles from the roads.

Lt. Michael Shaw told WWJ-AM that a dive team was checking Interstate 94 at Michigan Avenue on Tuesday morning and

planned to check the interchange for interstates 696 and 275. He said there had been no reports of people missing in the floods, but that police wanted to be sure.

Basements were flooded in several Detroit suburbs, and water lingered on some streets where motorists were stranded during the Monday evening commute.

The State Emergency Operations Center was monitoring the flooding and cleanup.

The Michigan Department of Transportation was assessing damage to roadways and used front-end loaders Tuesday morning to clear mud from portions of some freeways that flooded.

3 trapped firefighters take shelter

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Three trapped firefighters had to deploy their personal fire shelters as a rapid wind shift sent a Northern California wildfire burning over their location Monday, authorities said. All three survived with no serious injuries.

The firefighters had created a predetermined safety zone earlier in the day and retreated there when the fire worsened about 5:30 p.m. Monday. Beaver Fire spokesman Corey Wilford said. Still, the flames burned over their location. A thunderstorm produced winds as high as 35 mph, causing extreme fire behavior.

Wilford said all firefighters in the area were withdrawing as the thunderstorm approached. All personnel were safe late Monday night, he said.

The three were not immediately identified. Wilford said he didn't know if they suffered any minor injuries.

The fire in Siskiyou County near Klamath River, Calif., has burned across nearly 40 square miles and was reported 30 percent contained.

The sheriff's office issued more mandatory evacuation notices Monday but Wilford did not immediately know how many homes were affected.

The Beaver Fire and a second Northern California blaze reportedly were threatening nearly 750 rural homes.

Meanwhile, crews were anticipating the possibility of more lightning strikes while battling a lightning-sparked wildfire in Mendocino County about 200 miles southwest of the Klamath blazes. The fire near Laytonville had burned through nearly 15 square miles and was threatening nearly 60 structures. Mandatory evacuation orders remained in place.

Elsewhere in the West, rescuers escorted to safety 19 hikers trapped on Sunday by a wildfire atop Saddle Mountain State Park near Seaside, Ore.

In Idaho, firefighters made progress against the state's largest wildfire, which had burned 101 square miles on the Idaho side of the Snake River near the Oregon and Washington border. The fire was nearly 50 percent contained, though crews were expecting triple-digit temperatures and gusty winds that could pose problems.

Boy, 17, held in sexual assault and death of 6-year-old

PORT ORCHARD, Wash. — A judge on Monday found probable cause to detain a 17-year-old boy under investigation in the death and sexual assault of a 6-year-old Washington girl.

Judge Kevin Hull set bail at \$1 million for Gabriel Gaeta after prosecutors said in court filings they had enough evidence to hold the teen on suspicion of first-degree murder with aggravating circumstances, felony murder and first-degree rape of a

child. Kitsap County prosecutor Kelly Montgomery asked for the bail amount "based on the heinous nature of the crime that is alleged."

Court records released Monday showed Jenise Wright, 6, suffered blunt-force trauma to the head and was strangled and sexually assaulted. Authorities said they linked evidence found near the girl's body to the DNA of Gaeta, who was friends with

her family. Prosecutors are pursuing the case in Kitsap County Superior Court, where the teen is expected to be tried as an adult.

The judge also granted prosecutors' request for a mental health review of Gaeta. After the hearing, Kitsap County Prosecutor Russ Hauge said they sought the competency evaluation to first determine whether they can charge the teen with anything.

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WORLD

Ukraine won't allow entry to Russian trucks

By LAURA MILLS
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A convoy of 280 Russian trucks reportedly packed with aid headed for eastern Ukraine on Tuesday, but Ukraine said it would deny the mission entry because it has not been certified by the Red Cross and could be a covert military operation.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it had no information on what the trucks were carrying or where they were going. That has raised fears in Ukraine and the West, where leaders have voiced concerns that Russia could use the initiative as a pretext for sending troops into separatist-held territory.

Russian television and news agencies reported that 2,000 tons of aid was en route to Ukraine, where fighting between pro-Russia separatists and government forces has claimed more than 1,300 lives since April, according to a U.N. report.

Pro-Kremlin television channel RT showed hundreds of white trucks gathered at a depot outside Moscow, and said they were carrying everything from baby food to sleeping bags. The report also showed a Russian Orthodox priest sprinkling holy water on the trucks, some of which bore a red cross on their sides.

But Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, said the



RTR via Associated Press Television

In this video image, white trucks with purported humanitarian aid leave Alabino, Russia, on Tuesday.

convoy will not be allowed across the border.

"This convoy is not a certified convoy. It is not certified by the International Committee of the Red Cross," Lysenko said.

He also showed a covertly filmed video appearing to show vehicles similar to the white-canopied trucks dispatched from Moscow on Tuesday parked at a

military base in Russia. One frame displayed by Lysenko shows unarmored troops lined up in front of the trucks.

Andre Loersch, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross mission in Ukraine, said that while the organization had reached a general agreement about delivery of humanitarian aid to the region, he

had "no information about the content" of the trucks and did not know where they were headed.

"At this stage we have no agreement on this, and it looks like the initiative of the Russian Federation," he said.

The deputy head of Ukraine's presidential administration, Valery Chaly, said Kiev had agreed to an arrangement

whereby aid could be transferred across the border and reloaded onto trucks approved by the Red Cross.

But the Ukrainian government has insisted that aid must cross at a government-held border crossing. At least 60 miles of the border is currently in rebel hands.

Chaly suggested a suitable transfer point could be between Russia's Belgorod region and Ukraine's Kharkiv region, which has been spared the major unrest seen further south.

Chaly said that any attempt to take humanitarian goods into Ukraine without proper authorization would be viewed as an attack on the country.

French President Francois Hollande took up the issue directly with Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying "he emphasized the strong fears evoked by a unilateral Russian mission in Ukrainian territory."

Hollande told Putin on Tuesday morning that any mission must be multilateral and have the agreement of the Red Cross and Ukraine, according to a statement in Paris.

Alexander Drobyshesky, a spokesman for Russia's emergency ministry that is conducting the mission, told The Associated Press that his organization had "not yet defined" where the trucks would cross the border. He said it could take several days for them to reach Ukraine.

Many Kenyan men flee to avoid forced circumcisions

By TOM ODULA
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — The circumcision season among Kenya's Bukusu ethnic group brings a festive atmosphere: music, food and free-flowing beer. For the uncircumcised men from other tribes in the area, however, it is not time to party, it's time to flee in disguise. At least 12 men from other tribes have been forcibly circumcised since the start of the circumcisions in August, according to police and local authorities. Others have sought refuge in police stations to avoid the procedure.

The Bukusu ethnic group prefers traditional circumcisions using simple tools and no anesthesia. But tradition can be disastrous. A 13-year-old boy lost his penis this month after it was chopped off by a circumciser, according to local press reports quoting his parents.

Adult male members of the Turkana community living in the Bukusu-dominated town of Moi's Bridge are the majority of the victims of the circumcisions, according to local administrator Moses Okumu. A group of Turkana men wielding swords, bows and clubs held protests last week over the spate of forced procedures.

Abdullah Ngilimo said a family member was forcibly cut by a

group moving house to house in search of uncircumcised men.

"They pounced on my uncle and circumcised him and left him there bleeding without treatment. I spent a sleepless night as my uncle was bleeding," he said. "I woke up very early to go and look for medicine."

To avoid becoming victims, many other Turkana men in the area sleep in the cornfields and others seek refuge in the police station, he said.

No one has been arrested for the involuntary circumcisions, said Okumu, the local government official. He warned that those who continue with the practice will be charged.

Traditionally the Turkana, a Nilotic tribe whose cultural practices and way of life has not been diluted by modern influences, do not engage in circumcision as a rite of passage into adulthood.

Wycliffe Khaemba, a laborer from the Bukusu tribe, said that because Turkana were living among them and marrying their girls, "we want them to be clean."

"The foreskin keeps a lot of germs and it also prevents them performing in bed," he said.

Khaemba said that while some Turkana men are persuaded to agree to circumcision, others are "cowards" who have to be forced.

Israelis, Palestinians to keep talking in Cairo; truce holds

By MOHAMMED DARAGHEH
The Associated Press

CAIRO — A temporary Israel-Hamas truce was holding for a second day Tuesday as marathon, indirect negotiations on a lasting cease-fire and a long-term solution for the battered Gaza Strip were set to resume in Cairo.

A similar, three-day truce collapsed Friday when militants resumed rocket fire on Israel after the sides were unable to make any headway in the Egypt-hosted talks. Hamas is seeking an end to an Israeli-Egyptian border blockade of the Gaza Strip while Israel wants Hamas to disarm.

The Israeli military said no incidents between the two sides were registered overnight — neither Hamas rocket fire at Israeli nor Israeli strikes in Gaza.

The monthlong Gaza war has killed more than 1,900 Palestinians, the majority of them civilians. Palestinians and U.N. officials say. In Israel, 67 people have been killed, all but three of them soldiers, officials there say.

The Israeli delegation returned to the Egyptian capital Tuesday after a trip back to Israel.

A senior Israeli official suggested that the first day of talks had not gone well.

"The gaps between the sides are big and there is no progress in the negotiations," he said.

A member of the Palestinian delegation said that on Monday's talks, Israel had offered a number of concrete measures aimed at improving life for Gaza's 1.8 million residents, including an increase in the number of daily goods trucks crossing into the territory from Israel and the free transfer of funds by the Palestinian Authority to Hamas-affiliated government employees in Gaza.

Also included in the purported Israeli package, the official said, was an easing in transit conditions between Gaza and the West Bank and an eventual quadrupling — to 12 miles — of the sea area in which Gaza fishing vessels are permitted to operate.

The official said that Israel was tying continuing Palestinian demands for the opening of a Gaza sea and airport to a verified cessation of smuggling, development and manufacture of weapons in the territory.

Last week's talks failed in part because Israel rejected Hamas' demand for a complete end to the blockade of the Gaza Strip, enforced by Egypt and Israel. Israel says the closure is neces-

sary to prevent arms smuggling, and officials do not want to make any concessions that would allow Hamas to declare victory.

Hamas officials have since signaled that they will have more modest goals in the current round of talks.

Another member of the Palestinian delegation said that Egyptian officials told the delegation to expect "an extremely long negotiating session" on Tuesday — an indication that the talks may be about to enter a sensitive phase.

The Israeli official and the two members of the Palestinian delegation spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the talks with the media.

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"We love to say yes!"

Israel says the closure is neces-

WORLD

Ebola treatment sparks debate as priest dies

By MARIA CHENG AND CLARAN GILES
The Associated Press

MADRID — A Spanish missionary priest being treated for Ebola died Tuesday in a Madrid hospital amid a worldwide debate over who should get experimental Ebola treatments.

After a meeting with medical experts, the World Health Organization declared it is ethical to use unproven Ebola drugs and vaccines in the current outbreak in West Africa provided the right conditions are met. Its statement sidestepped the key questions of who should get the limited drugs and how that should be decided.

Two more experimental Ebola treatments were reportedly heading Tuesday to Liberia to be used on two infected doctors — the first Africans to receive the untested drug.

The U.N. health agency says 1,013 people have died so far in the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and authorities have recorded 1,848 suspected or confirmed cases. The killer virus, spread by direct contact with bodily fluids like blood, diarrhea and vomit, was detected in Guinea in March and has since spread to Sierra Leone, Liberia and possibly Nigeria.

Two Americans and reportedly the Spanish priest who died had gotten an experimental Ebola treatment never tested in humans. But the vast majority of Ebola victims have been Africans, and some have protested that their citizens are not getting access to the novel drugs.

“We can’t afford to be passive while many more die,” said Aisha Dab, a Senegalese-Gambian journalist who was tweeting using the hashtag “GiveUsTheSerum.” “That’s why we raise our voice for the world to hear us.”

The Spanish missionary, Miguel Parajes, 75, died in Madrid’s Carlos III Hospital, the hospital and his order said. The hospital would not confirm that he had been treated with the drug, but his order and Spain’s Health Ministry said earlier that he would be. His body will be cremated Wednesday to avoid any further public health risks, the hospital said.

Parajes had worked for the San Juan de Dios hospital order, a Spain-based Catholic humanitarian group, and had been helping to treat people with Ebola in Liberia when he became ill and was evacuated.

WHO decided it is ethical to use experimental treatments and vaccines in an ongoing outbreak even though there’s no evidence yet that these experimental drugs can actually help fight Ebola — and it is possible they could be harmful. Still, this outbreak has had about a 50 percent death rate, according to the U.N., adding urgency to the search for a treatment.

“In the particular circumstances of this outbreak and provided certain conditions are met, the panel reached consensus that it is ethical to offer unproven interventions with as yet unknown efficacy and adverse effects, as potential treatment or prevention,” the agency said.



SAURABH DAS/AP

A worker covers his face with a handkerchief as he sees people photographing him and his coworker handling asbestos sheets at the Ramco Industries Ltd. factory in Bhojpur district of Bihar state, India, in November.

In India, asbestos is touted as safe to use and essential

By KATY DAIGLE
The Associated Press

VAISHALI, India — The executives mingled over tea and sugar cookies, and the chatter was upbeat. Their industry, they said at a conference in the Indian capital, saves lives and brings roofs, walls and pipes to some of the world’s poorest people.

Their product? Asbestos. Outlawed in much of the developed world, it is still going strong in the developing one. In India alone, the world’s biggest asbestos importer, it’s a \$2 billion industry providing 300,000 jobs.

The International Labor Organization, World Health Organization, medical researchers and more than 50 countries say the mineral should be banned; asbestos fibers lodge in the lungs and cause disease. The ILO estimates 100,000 people die from work-

place exposure every year.

But the industry executives at the asbestos conference, held in a luxury New Delhi hotel, said the risks are overblown. They described their business as a form of social welfare for hundreds of thousands of impoverished Indians still living in flimsy, mud-and-thatch huts.

“We’re here not only to run our businesses, but to also serve the nation,” said Abhyasa Shankar, a director of India’s Asbestos Cement Products Manufacturers Association.

Yet there are some poor Indians trying to keep asbestos out of their communities.

In the farming village of Vaishali, in the eastern state of Bihar, residents became outraged by the construction of an asbestos factory in their backyard. They had learned about the dangers of asbestos from a school boy’s science

textbooks, and worried asbestos fibers would blow into their tiny thatch homes. Their children, they said, could contract lung diseases most Indian doctors would never test for, let alone treat.

They petitioned for the factory to be halted. But in December 2012, its permit was renewed, inciting thousands to rally on a main road for 11 hours. Amid the chaos, a few dozen villagers demolished the partially built factory.

The company later filed lawsuits, still pending, accusing several villagers of vandalism and theft.

Durable and heat-resistant, asbestos was long a favorite insulation material in the West.

Medical experts say inhaling any form of asbestos can lead to deadly diseases 20 to 40 years later including lung cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis, or the scarring of the lungs.

Rights group calls for inquiry into mass killings in Egypt

By SARAH EL DEEB
The Associated Press

CAIRO — The New-York based Human Rights Watch on Tuesday called for an international commission of inquiry into mass killings by Egyptian security forces last summer, saying they likely amount to crimes against humanity.

Based on a yearlong investigation into the incidents that followed the ouster of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi on July 3, 2013, HRW called specifically for an inquiry into the role of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and at least 10 senior military and security chiefs in the killing of 1,150 protesters in the span of six weeks last summer.

The group also called on Egypt’s

allies to suspend military aid and cooperation with the Egyptian authorities and military until the government adopts measures to end human rights violations.

Egypt’s government rejected the report, accusing HRW of being “biased and unprofessional.” In a statement issued by the government press office, it said the report’s authors operated in Egypt without a permit, which it called a “blatant violation” of the country’s sovereignty.

“What is not surprising is the report, in light of the organizations’ clear leaning and methods, the government rejects the report and criticizes its bias,” the statement said, without clarifying what it meant by “leaning.”

The 188-page report said it found that authorities had used

‘While it is not surprised by the report ... the government rejects the report and criticizes its bias.’

‘Egyptian government statement

excessive and deliberate force against protesters on political grounds ... in successive attacks on their gatherings. The worst incident of mass killings occurred on Aug. 14, when authorities opened fire on a massive pro-Morsi sit-in at Cairo’s Rabaa al-Adawiya square. HRW said the day’s death

toll there was at least 817 and likely as high as 1,000, higher than the toll of 624 documented earlier by the state’s human rights body. HRW called it the “world’s largest killings of demonstrators in a single day in recent history.”

Two HRW executives, arriving from New York on Sunday, were barred from entering Egypt and were turned back ahead of a planned launch of the report in Cairo. Officials said they were barred from entering after the government asked them to postpone their visit until September. The executives refused and insisted on coming, the Interior Ministry said Tuesday.

Holding a videoconference from Geneva, Beirut and New York to launch their report, HRW executives and researchers said

the September invitation was not conveyed to the group’s members before the ministry statement Tuesday.

HRW Executive Director Kenneth Roth, speaking from New York, said his group would like to continue its dialogue with the Egyptian government, but stressed that justice must be realized to ensure a transition to democracy in Egypt. He pressed Egypt’s allies to pressure the government to establish the rule of law.

“It is very short-sighted on the part of the major Western governments to believe if they just make nice with el-Sissi’s government that somehow this imagined transition to democracy which is repeatedly trumped will somehow come to pass,” he said.

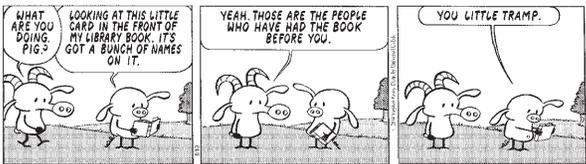
Frazz



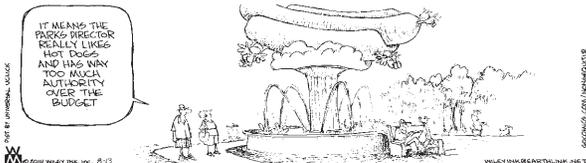
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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54						55				56
57						58				59

ACROSS

- 1 Water source
- 5 NASCAR advertiser
- 8 Call a halt to
- 12 Jai follower
- 13 "There's — in team"
- 14 Frat party garment
- 15 Prata Clark
- 16 Piercing tools
- 18 Vocalist
- 19 Trumpet's cousin
- 21 Erstwhile acorn
- 22 "Thirty days — ..."
- 23 Doo follower
- 26 "Family Guy"
- 28 Sudden light
- 31 "Oh, woe!"
- 33 Part of UCLA
- 35 Nevada city
- 36 Greek letter
- 38 Make up your mind
- 40 Caustic solution
- 41 Deposited
- 43 Altar constellation
- 45 Talk incomprehensibly
- 47 Defensive football tactic
- 51 Elliptical
- 52 Price cut
- 54 Round Table address
- 55 Skating surface

DOWN

- 1 Bankrolls
- 2 "The Time Machine" people
- 3 Croquet venue
- 4 Jargon
- 5 Diver's aid
- 6 AAA assignment
- 7 Nip
- 8 Scare slightly
- 9 Public meeting place
- 10 Look lecherously
- 11 History
- 12 Squad
- 20 Lummo
- 23 Mid-June honoree
- 24 Hearty brew
- 25 Distinguishing characteristic
- 27 Sticky stuff
- 29 Firmament
- 30 Weeding need
- 32 Belmont buildings
- 34 Practiced pugilism
- 37 Have a bug
- 39 Arduous journey
- 42 Relinquish
- 44 Calculating snake?
- 45 Parks at a bus stop?
- 46 Hertz rival
- 48 Clinton opponent
- 49 Pride: lions' parliament: —
- 50 Summertime pest
- 53 Blackjack component

Answer to Previous Puzzle

F	A	L	A	B	A	D	S	I	R	E
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8-13

CRYPTOQUIP

APJ TSQPXTM QOVZARPX PM
 YGPGX LTQPNZW IKVOW NS
 WOTYOOC TQO XZRIPLTIOC
 KOTQ-QNZMC: TRJTO-QPT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OFTEN HAVING TO COMMUNICATE VERY SECRETLY, THE CAT OF TV ADS IS LEARNING TO USE MORRIS CODE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Judge says man's texts disturbed the peace

NE LINCOLN — A southeastern Nebraska judge has ruled that a Kansas man's angry texts to his ex-girlfriend were enough to convict him of disturbing the peace.

The Lincoln Journal Star reported that Kyle Hudlin, 20, of McPherson, Kan., had appealed after being found guilty last year of the misdemeanor count. He had argued that his texts were protected under his constitutional right to free speech.

Last week, Lancaster County District Judge Stephanie Stacy upheld the conviction and \$250 fine. The judge said that while the texts didn't contain direct threats of violence, they did contain "angry, profane, insulting and abusive language," and that's enough to convict someone of disturbing the peace under Nebraska law.

Sunbather run over in home driveway dies

UT SYRACUSE — According to a family spokesman, a Utah teenager has died after being run over by a pickup truck while sunbathing on a residential driveway.

Lance Hamblin said Marli Hamblin, 15, died Sunday afternoon at a hospital, two days after she suffered head injuries in Syracuse, 25 miles north of Salt Lake City.

Police said she was listening to her iPod and didn't hear the truck as it backed out of the garage.

Investigators said the driver was a family member who didn't realize the girl was on the driveway. They said the driver was "really struggling" after the accident and won't be charged.

The driver's name and relationship to the teen weren't released.

Police try taming wild costumed characters

NY NEW YORK — New York City police are launching a public education campaign to keep Times Square's roving band of costumed characters in line after a series of high-profile incidents.

The department said Saturday it's partnering with the Times Square Alliance, a business and tourism group, to remind the people inside the costumes that they cannot charge for photographs.

The campaign comes two weeks after police said a man dressed as Spider-Man slugged a police officer who told him to stop harassing a tourist for a bigger tip.

The department is handing out fliers instructing people to talk to the officer or call 311 if a character gets out of hand.

Circumvention lawsuit tossed over '87 law

AL BIRMINGHAM — An Alabama law passed to rein in health care costs nearly three decades ago was at the heart of a judge's decision to dismiss a lawsuit over what a man claims was a botched circumcision.

Circuit Judge Jim Hughey III

THE CENSUS

120

The weight in pounds of a 12-foot Burmese python captured by South Florida police. Sgt. Frank Sabol said an officer responded to a Port St. Lucie neighborhood Friday morning after residents said they'd seen a large snake. The Palm Beach Post reported that he extricated the snake from waist-high brush with the help of fellow officers. A dead cat was found nearby. Researchers believe pythons are decimating populations of native mammals in the Everglades, including pets.



MICHAEL CHOW, THE (PHOENIX) ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP



JOHN SLEEZER, THE KANSAS CITY (MO.) STAR/AP

A super sight

Above left: Men play on a climbing structure at Riverview Park in Mesa, Ariz., as the moon rises on Saturday, a day before the supermoon appeared. Above right: The supermoon rises above Kansas City, Mo., on Sunday evening at its closest point to the earth, called perigee, as seen from Kansas City, Kan. It is the second of three supermoons in 2014.

last week threw out the civil lawsuit filed by Johnny Lee Banks Jr. and his wife after ruling it lacked details required by the Alabama Medical Liability Act.

The judge didn't rule directly on Banks' claims about what he says was a surgical procedure that resulted in the amputation of his penis.

Instead, Banks' attorney can refile the case and provide specifics such as the time and date of the procedure that the defense claims didn't happen.

Driver attacked after woman killed by SUV

NJ LAKEWOOD — Authorities say the man who was beaten after he struck and killed a woman on a southern New Jersey roadway was driving with a suspended license.

Lakewood police said Juan Gregorio-Chacon, 26, hit Chandra Martin, 41, as she crossed Route 88 on Saturday. She suffered multiple injuries and later

died at a hospital.

Police said the woman's relatives and friends witnessed the crash and attacked Gregorio-Chacon. He remains hospitalized.

The Motor Vehicles Commission told the Asbury Park Press that Gregorio-Chacon's license was suspended in 2013 for unlicensed driving.

No charges have been filed in the fatal crash.

Police ID man killed in pizza oven collision

CA PETALUMA — Authorities have identified the Northern California man killed after a large brick pizza oven towed by a catering van broke loose and careened into his car.

The California Highway Patrol said Dwayne Usher, 32, of Vallejo, was behind the wheel of his Honda waiting to turn onto Lakeville Highway when the catering van lost its trailer carry-

ing the pizza oven in Petaluma on Friday night.

The oven slammed into Usher's car, killing him at the scene and injuring his 4-year-old and 8-year-old sons. They were later released from a local hospital.

The CHP said a 34-year-old woman who was in the passenger seat of Usher's car remained hospitalized after she suffered injuries in the accident.

Couple accused of shooting at driver

NM LAS CRUCES — Authorities in Las Cruces arrested a couple accused of trying to commit a drive-by shooting with their infant son in the backseat.

Las Cruces police spokesman Dan Trujillo said Friday that Anthony J. Herrera, 26, and Anna Herrera, 29, are each facing charges of attempted first-degree murder and intentional child abuse. Anthony Herrera faces additional counts of firearm possession by a

felon and evidence tampering.

Trujillo said Anna Herrera was driving the couple and their 1-year-old son Wednesday night when they spotted a 19-year-old driver who Anthony Herrera had threatened to kill on several occasions.

The suspects allegedly began chasing the teen's Honda before Anthony Herrera fired several times at it. Neither the teen nor his passenger was hurt.

Motorcyclist dies after crashing into cow

AR CROSSETT — A Crosett man died after crashing his motorcycle into a cow.

Arkansas State Police said Ethan Brantley, 21, died in the collision just after 11:30 p.m. Thursday.

A state police report said Brantley was eastbound on an Ashley County road when his motorcycle struck the cow and he was thrown from the vehicle.

From wire reports

WIRED WORLD

A watchful eye

LG unveils child-tracking device, app

By JIAXI LU
The Washington Post

Various tech companies have introduced wearable devices over the past few years that track your steps and heartbeat and even deliver your emails to your wrist.

Is electronically tracking your kid the next frontier?

LG has announced a new device, the KizON wristband, designed to let parents keep track of their children's whereabouts. The KizON uses GPS, WiFi and mobile Internet signals to identify the user's location in real time and sends the information to an Android app.

The device is designed for families with preschool and primary school children. Besides the location-tracking feature, parents will be able to communicate directly with their child through a "One Step Direct Call" button on the device, according to a news release from LG.

But what if the child doesn't respond to their parent's call? Within 10 seconds of an unanswered call, KizON automatically connects the parent anyway, allowing them to listen in through the built-in microphone.

British company KMS showcased a similar device for tracking children in January 2013. KMS' device also

has a GPS chip to help parents locate their child, plus there is a bar code on the band with encoded information about the person wearing the device, such as blood type, allergies and emergency contact numbers.

The technology already has raised some questions about whether such devices are too invasive and breach children's privacy.

"The majority of these kid-orientated wearables bear a striking resemblance to the tagging devices used to track convicted criminals on partial release back into the population," Samuel Gibbs, The Guardian's technology reporter, wrote in a recent column. "They come packing a GPS sensor to constantly report their location, a thick band that's difficult to remove and an integrated mobile phone that cannot be silenced."

The LG device has made its public debut for South Korean consumers and will come to North America and Europe later this year.

LG's KizON child-tracking device initially will be sold only in South Korea, but is expected to be rolled out later this year in North America and Europe.

Courtesy of LG Electronics



ILLUSTRATION BY BOY SCHULTE FOR STARS AND STRIPES



FACES

Boisterous comedy star Williams dead at 63

By HAVEN DALEY AND HILLEL ITALIE

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — He was the funniest guy in the room, something that made it all the harder for friends and fans to accept that beneath that reservoir of frenetic energy and seemingly endless good humor resided demons so dark they could push Robin Williams to suicide at age 63.

It was no secret that the Oscar-winning actor had suffered for years from periodic bouts of substance abuse and depression — he made reference to it himself in his comedy routines. But word that he had killed himself Monday at his San Francisco Bay Area home left both friends in the Hollywood community and neighbors in the quiet community of Tiburon that he called home equally stunned and grief-stricken.

He was last seen alive at home about 10 p.m. Sunday, according to the Marin County coroner's office. Shortly before noon, the Sheriff's Department received an emergency call from the home, where the star of "Good Will Hunting," "Mrs. Doubtfire," "Good Morning, Vietnam" and dozens of other films was pronounced dead.

Sheriff's officials said a preliminary investigation determined the cause of death was suicide due to asphyxia.

"This morning, I lost my husband and my best friend, while the world lost one of its most beloved artists and beautiful human beings. I am utterly heartbroken," said Williams' wife, Susan Schneider. "On behalf of Robin's family, we are asking for privacy during our time of profound grief. As he is remembered, it is our hope the world will not be of Robin's death, but on the countless moments of joy and laughter he gave to millions."

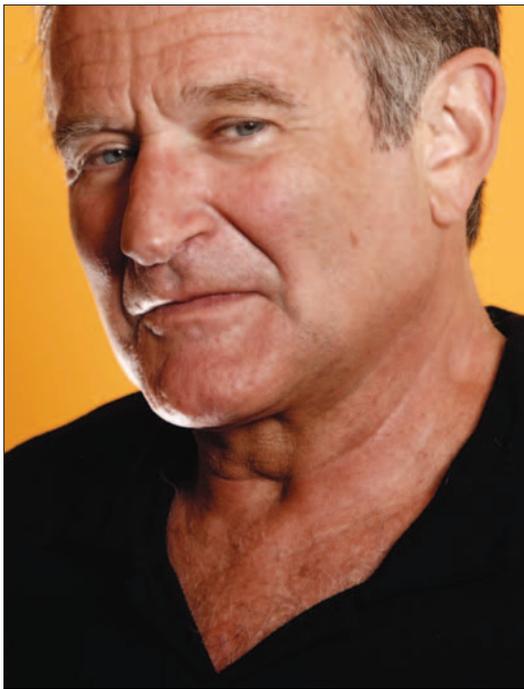
Williams had been battling severe depression, said Mara Buxbaum, his press representative. Last month, he announced he was returning to a 12-step program he said he needed after 18 months of nonstop work. He sought treatment in 2006 after a relapse following 20 years of sobriety.

Williams joked about that fall off the wagon during a comedy tour, saying: "I went to rehab in wine country to keep my options open."

Likewise, when word spread about his struggles with drugs in the early 1980s, Williams responded with a joke that for a time became a catchphrase for his generation's recreational drug use: "Cocaine is God's way of telling you you are making too much money."

His struggles never seemed to affect his talent.

From his breakthrough in the late 1970s as the alien in the hit TV show "Mork & Mindy," through his standup act and numerous hit films, the short, barrel-chest-



AP

Robin Williams, whose free-form comedy and adept impressions dazzled audiences for decades, yet could also handle serious film roles, died Monday in an apparent suicide.

ed Williams ranted and shouted as if just sprung from solitary confinement. Loud, fast and manic, he parodied everyone from John Wayne to Keith Richards, impersonating a Russian immigrant as easily as a pack of Nazi attack dogs.

He was a riot in drag in "Mrs. Doubtfire," or as a cartoon genie in "Aladdin."

He could do drama, too, winning his Academy Award as an empathetic therapist in the 1997 film "Good Will Hunting."

He won Golden Globes for "Good Morning, Vietnam," "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "The Fisher King."

Other film credits included Robert Altman's "Popeye" (a box office bomb), Pam Mazursky's "Moscow on the Hudson," Steven Spielberg's "Hook" and Woody Allen's "Deconstructing Harry."

More recently, he appeared in the "Night at the Museum" movies, playing President Theodore Roosevelt in the comedies in

which Ben Stiller's security guard has to contend with wax figures that come alive and wreak havoc after a museum closes. The third film in the series is in post-production, according to Internet Movie Database.

Williams also made a short-lived return to TV last fall in CBS' "The Crazy Ones," a sitcom about a father-daughter ad agency team that co-starred Sarah Michelle Gellar. It was canceled after one season.

Born in Chicago in 1951, Williams remembered himself as a shy kid who got early laughs from his mother — by mimicking his grandmother. He opened up more in high school when he joined the drama club. He was accepted into the Juilliard Academy, where he had several classes in which he and Christopher Reeve were the only students and John Houseman was the teacher. Encouraged by Houseman to pursue comedy, Williams identified with the wildest and angriest performers: Jonathan Winters, Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor and George Carlin. Their acts were not warm and lovable. They were being themselves.

"You look at the world and see how scary it can be sometimes and still try to deal with the fear," he said in 1989. "Comedy can deal with the fear and still not paralyze you or tell you that it's going away. You say, 'OK, you got certain choices here, you can laugh at them and then once you've laughed at them and you have expunged the demon, now you can deal with them.' That's what I do when I do my act."

He unveiled Mork, the alien from the planet Ork, in an appearance on "Happy Days" and was granted his own series, which ran from 1978 to 1982 and co-starred Pam Dawber as a woman who takes in the interplanetary visitor.

Williams could handle a script, when he felt like it, and also think on his feet. He ad-libbed in many of his films and was just as quick in person. During a media tour for "Awakenings" when director Penny Marshall mistakenly described the film as being set in a "menstrual hospital," Williams stepped in and joked, "It's a period piece."

Winner of a Grammy in 2003 for best spoken comedy album, "Robin Williams — Live 2002," he once likened his act to the daily jobs he took across the Golden Gate Bridge. There were times he would look over the edge, one side of him pulling back in fear, the other insisting he could fly.

"You have an internal critic, an internal drive that says, 'OK, you can do more.' ... Live 2002," he once liked to say, "Williams said, 'Maybe that's a demon. ... Some people say, 'It's a muse.' No, it's not a muse! It's a demon! DO IT! YOU BASTARD!! HAH AH AH AH AH!! THE LITTLE DEMON!!!"

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"Robin Williams was an airman, a doctor, a genie, a nanny, a president, a professor, a hangarang, Peter Pan, and everything in between. But he was one of a kind. He arrived in our lives as an alien — but he ended up touching every element of the human spirit."

— President Barack Obama, in a statement

"His kindness and generosity is what I think of. How kind he was to anyone who wanted to connect with him. And he could not help but be funny all the time. He would do something as long as it would keep you laughing. He made many, many film crews laugh out loud before the audiences ever saw it. He made such a big impact on the world."

— "Night at the Museum" co-star Ben Stiller, in a statement

"Robin and I were great friends, suffering from the same little-known disease: depression. I never could have expected this ending to his life and to ours with him. God bless him and God bless us all for his LIFE! I cannot believe this. I am overwhelmed with grief. What a wonderful man/ boy and what a tremendous talent in the most important art of any time — comedy! I loved him."

— actor-comedian Chevy Chase, in a statement

"We have lost one of our most inspired and gifted comic minds, as well as one of this generation's greatest actors. To watch Robin work, was a magical and special privilege. His performances were unlike anything any of us had ever seen, they came from some spiritual and otherworldly place. He truly was one of the few people who deserved the title of 'genius.'"

— "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Bicentennial Man" director Chris Columbus, in a statement

"I am completely and totally devastated. What more can be said?"

— "Mork & Mindy" co-star Pam Dawber, in a statement

"What I will always remember about Robin, perhaps even more than his comic genius, extraordinary talent and astounding intellect, was his huge heart — his tremendous kindness, generosity, and compassion as an acting partner, colleague and fellow traveler in a difficult world."

— "The Birdcage" co-star Nathan Lane, in a statement

"Robin was a lightning storm of comic genius and our laughter was the thunder that sustained him. He was a pal and I can't believe he's gone."

— "Hook" director Steven Spielberg, in a statement

"I saw him on stage the very first time he auditioned at the Improv and we have been friends ever since. It's a very sad day."

— talk show host/comedian Jay Leno, in a statement

■ Quotes compiled by The Associated Press

FACES



AMY SUSSMAN, INVISION/AP

Singer-songwriter Meghan Trainor is working on an EP and album to capitalize on the popularity of "All About That Bass."

Singer breaks through with song about body acceptance

By MESFIN FEKADU
The Associated Press

Not everyone was initially "All About That Bass." Meghan Trainor, the 20-year-old who is having a pop culture moment with the song about body acceptance, said she initially wrote the track and pitched it to other artists, but was turned away.

"Labels were like, 'We love it, but you have to reproduce it. You got to get it more synth-y, pop-y,'" said Trainor, who worked with producer Kevin Kadish on "Bass." "We looked at each other like, 'Man, I thought this was a hit, but I guess not.'"

Things changed when record executive L.A. Reid heard the doo-wop pop song and told Trainor she should be the voice behind it. He signed the budding songwriter to Epic Records after hearing her sing "Bass" while playing the ukulele.

'I wish there was a song like this when I was 13.'

Meghan Trainor

13 million views, has become a water cooler topic among young girls and parents.

"Bass" features standout lines like "it's pretty clear, I ain't no size two," "I'm bringing booty back" and "yeah my momma, she told me not to worry about your size."

Trainor said Grammy-nominated Kadish, who has worked with Jason Mraz, had the song title but didn't know where to go from there. "And I immediately thought, 'Booty. Bass. Thickness.'"

Trainor, who grew up in Nantucket, Mass., recently moved to Nashville. She was signed to a publishing house in Music City, and wrote

songs for Rascal Flatts and others. Now, she's working on an EP and album to capitalize on the breakthrough that "Bass" has given her.

Trainor said she's ecstatic and humbled that young girls have gravitated to the song. "I tear up and I call my mom like, 'Did you see that? Did you read that one?' because some girls are like, 'I've hated myself. I hated life. I didn't want to go to school. I got bullied. And then I heard your song and I cried,'" she said.

"They say they cried because they're happy and they dance around the room. And I was just like, 'What?' It's crazy."

"Bass" has given Trainor a boost as well. "I wish there was a song like this when I was 13," she said, adding that she's not always confident. "It's all mostly in my head. I would sit right there in class like, 'I know they are judging me right now. I know they're picking on me! ... So it helped me a lot, watching this video and seeing the comments that were positive. It's helped me go up a little bit.'"



AP

Pharrell curates 'NBA 2K15' soundtrack

The Associated Press

Pharrell is teaming up with the world's best-selling basketball video game franchise as a music curator.

2K Sports announced Tuesday that the Grammy-winning performer chose 27 tracks for the soundtrack of the upcoming "NBA 2K15." He's the second music performer to select songs for the popular video game; Jay Z served as executive producer in 2012.

LeBron James picked songs for last year's installment that sold 7 million copies.

Pharrell said in a statement

to The Associated Press that he wanted to create an "eclectic mix" of songs. Three of his songs are featured on the soundtrack including "Hunter," "Can I Have It Like That" and "How Does It Feel?"

Another song Pharrell will be featured on is Major Lazer's "Aerosol Can." The soundtrack also will include songs from Lauryn Hill, One Republic, Snop Dogg, Lorde, A Tribe Called Quest, Missy Elliott, Junior, Basement Jaxx, Afrika Bambaataa & Soulsonic Force, Clipse, Death from Above 1979, No Doubt, Public Enemy, Ratatat, Santigold, The Black Keys, The Rapture, The Strokes, Strafe, Depeche Mode and Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Pharrell performed at this year's NBA All-Star Game in New Orleans, and that performance was one of the reasons 2K selected him as curator.

Other news

■ **Kings of Leon** will be off the road for two weeks while drummer Nathan Followill recovers from broken ribs suffered when the band's bus driver was forced to stop for a pedestrian Saturday night after a show in Boston. Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson came to the rescue for Tuesday night's appearance on "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon." The house band leader sat in for Followill on "Family Tree."

■ **Guitarist Bob Weir** has canceled all of the tour dates he had planned through January. The Grateful Dead co-founder said his tour with his other band, RatDog, won't kick off this week as planned. He posted a message Sunday on RatDog's website saying "circumstances have necessitated that all scheduled tour dates for Bob Weir & RatDog are being cancelled." The 66-year-old didn't offer more details. Weir also is canceling a September performance at the Lockn' Festival with Furthur, the band he formed with fellow Grateful Dead co-founder Phil Lesh.

■ **An all-star cast** will salute seminal Southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd with "One More for the Fans! Celebrating the Songs & Music of Lynyrd Skynyrd." The Nov. 12 concert, at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, will feature performances from Gregg Allman, Alabama, Charlie Daniels, Peter Frampton, John Hiatt, Jamey Johnson, Cheap Trick and more. The concert will be recorded and released at a later date.

■ **Emma Stone**, who last year abandoned appearing in the Broadway revival of "Cabaret," might still be in need of fishnets and a bowler hat. Roundabout Theatre Company says Trick and the Stone is in negotiations to make her Broadway debut as Sally Bowles. She would take over for Michelle Williams, who extended her run as Bowles opposite Alan Cumming through Nov. 9.

■ **Film stars Julia Roberts, Matthew McConaughey and Halle Berry** are among the first presenters announced for the Aug. 25 Emmy Awards. In a statement Monday, executive producer Don Mischer said 13 celebrities have been confirmed as presenters. They include Bryana Cranston of "Breaking Bad," Woody Harrelson of "True Detective" and Julia Louis-Dreyfus of "Veep." Also handling trophy duties are "New Girl" star Zoey DeSchanel and pop stars Adam Levine and Gwen Stefani, both part of "The Voice."

■ **AMC** says that "Breaking Bad" spinoff "Better Call Saul" will debut in February. Previously, AMC said "Better Call Saul" would premiere in November 2014.

■ **Tracy Morgan** is struggling more than two months after he was injured in a motor vehicle crash that left a fellow comedian dead. His attorney, Benedict Morelli, told NBC's "Today" show Monday the former "Saturday Night Live" cast member is fighting hard. Morgan suffered a broken leg and broken ribs when the limousine van he was riding in was hit from behind June 7 by a Wal-Mart truck on the New Jersey Turnpike.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Feds warn of digital currency risks

By LINDSAY WISE
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Government regulators issued a consumer advisory Monday on the risks of bitcoin and other digital currencies, warning that the virtual funds expose users to volatile exchange rates, hacking, scams and theft.

Markups and transaction fees for digital funds such as bitcoin, XRP and Dogecoin can cost consumers more than using credit cards or regular cash, and the companies that issue digital currencies aren't backed or insured by any government, according to the alert from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a federal watchdog agency.

The advisory also cautions consumers that digital currencies can experience huge price fluctuations due to speculation and the lack of regulation. Bitcoin's price has fallen by as much as 80 percent in a single day.

Consumers who use or invest in

virtual currencies "are stepping into the Wild West," the bureau's director, Richard Cordray, said in a statement.

"Virtual currencies may have potential benefits, but consumers need to be cautious and they need to be asking the right questions," Cordray said.

In addition to issuing the advisory, the bureau announced Monday that it will start collecting consumers' complaints about virtual currencies on its website, www.consumerfinance.gov.

An official with the trade group Bitcoin Foundation shrugged off the advisory as standard practice.

"There are consumer risks around new technologies, and even-keeled educational material from government agencies can help make consumers aware and savvy," Jim Harper, Bitcoin Foundation's global policy counsel, said in a statement.

In response to Cordray's characterization of the digital currency market as "the Wild West," Harper said new ideas — from

credit cards to the Internet — always started as unknowns that became familiar over time as the market matured.

"Bitcoin is poised to modernize legacy financial services, one of the most regulated industries in the global economy. It's not going to remain an unknown territory for very long," he said.

Virtual currencies are a form of electronic money that enables people to send and receive payments online. Consumers store the funds in digital wallets in clouds or on computers and protect them with 64-digit codes known as keys.

Advocates hail the technology as an innovative, anti-establishment payment system that protects users' anonymity and has the potential to transcend politics and national boundaries.

But the pitfalls of bitcoin and other virtual currencies became painfully clear to many users in February, when the Japanese bitcoin exchange Mt. Gox suddenly disappeared. The exchange had

lost \$460 million to hackers, and collapsed into bankruptcy. Customers have yet to recover any money.

"Some virtual currency exchanges do not identify their owners, their phone numbers and addresses, or even the countries where they are located," Monday's advisory warned. "Ask yourself: In any other business transaction, would you trust these people with your money?"

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 13)	\$1.3701
Dollar buys (Aug. 13)	€0.7299
British pound (Aug. 13)	\$1.72
Japanese yen (Aug. 13)	100.00
South Korean won (Aug. 13)	1,003.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.7494
Canada (dollar)	1.0937
China (Yuan)	6.1580
Denmark (Krone)	5.5812
Egypt (Pound)	7.1515
Euro	\$1.3359/7.0486
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7514
Hungary (Forint)	235.29
Israel (Shekel)	3.4907
Japan (Yen)	102.17
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2832
Norway (Krone)	6.1730
Philippines (Peso)	43.95
Poland (Zloty)	3.15
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2505
South Korea (Won)	1,028.94
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9083
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.10
Turkey (Lira)	2.1611

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the euro, which is represented in dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

Aug. 11, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	+16.05	16,569.98
Nasdaq composite	+30.43	4,401.33
Standard & Poor's 500	+5.33	1,936.92
Russell 2000	+10.58	1,141.93

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.09
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	3.25

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

‘Student athlete’ due for a reality check

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By DAN K. THOMASSON
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Ernie Gates

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It may take a bit longer but it seems clear that college athletics is about to change dramatically and one of the most autocratic, often overbearing institutions ever conceived might never be the same.

It's about time. The NCAA with its doorknob rule book and its pretense at amateurism until now has managed to sidestep attacks on its lucrative business model built on the exploitation of mainly young men and a few women. But two decisions have produced severe cracks in the organization's future.

The first of these is its decision to award its top five richest conferences in football and basketball new autonomy to establish their own rules. They would no longer have to abide strictly by the regulations that apply to the NCAA's other divisions. More importantly, however, is a judge's rulings that the member institutions are in violation of antitrust laws by denying athletes any share of the revenues gained through the use of their names and images in video games and television broadcasts.

While the ruling by federal Judge Claudia Wilken didn't go as far as many would like, it certainly was more than a mere hanger of things to come. The big money producers are about to have their pockets patted and a whole lot of people, including fans, are going to cheer.

Wilken suggested that trust funds could be set up to pay the football and basketball players \$5,000 a year after they graduate. The NCAA's legal team, saying only that it would appeal the decision, apparently saw

Feeding and housing athletes in reality is miniscule when compared with the financial gain to the school.

some relief in the fact the amount of remuneration could be capped.

This is an enormously complex issue that will take several years to play out. It involves the crumbling concept of amateurism whose enormous revenues belie it is anything but professionalism. It also poses the thorny question of who actually should benefit — only those players whose sports produce the money? If so, should a quarterback make more than a lineman or a 20-points-per-game-guard get more than a line player or a guard?

What about the impact on Title IX? The law requires balance between men and women in the number of scholarships afforded and that includes the 85 allowed for football where there is no female equivalent. Should football be set aside as it has long been argued? What is the value of a scholarship and should the baseball players or soccer players or members of the track team and the swimmers be excluded because they are nonrevenue sports?

This has been coming for a long time. More and more it has become clear that a mere college education in trade for athletic services when the school is benefiting to the tune of millions wasn't going to last much longer. The NCAA presidents' uncompromising approach, which has led to bizarre petty judgments — they once punished a player for posing fully clothed for a sorority charity calendar — is as outmoded as their constant reference to "student athletes."

Obviously, in basketball the big schools already are a professional minor league for the NBA with the "one and done" concept of college attendance more prevalent every year. Whole starting fines leave for the NBA after the freshman year. Players have to make their grades for only one semester to be eligible to play through tournament time before declaring for the NBA draft.

So why maintain the fiction? For just the reasons the judge's ruling covered. To be able to continue a model that produces significant amounts of money at an increasing amount of cost. Feeding and housing athletes in reality is miniscule when compared with the financial gain to the school. Tuition in reality costs practically nothing. The expense comes in the high salaries being paid the coaches and a lot of that is offset by the contributions of alumni with deep pockets and TV networks.

Those who have played major college athletics, at least in the modern era, will attest to the truth of the often repeated allegation that signing the contract is tantamount to slavery. They own you.

But the proverbial game is out of the bottle and from those who claim they should have union bargaining rights to those who demand recompense beyond the price of a scholarship to those big boys who can not make their own rules, the NCAA is feeling the first tremors of an earthquake.

Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Try Missouri's prescription for health care access

By ARTHUR L. CAPLAN

Everyone agrees that the United States does not have enough primary-care physicians. There are huge swaths of the nation, especially rural and inner-city areas, that lack any physician or physicians. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that the shortage is at least 16,000 doctors.

Various strategies have been pushed to solve the problem, such as creating medical schools that emphasize educating primary-care providers, increasing the number of residencies for medical school graduates, and expanding the number and authority of nonphysician providers of primary care to include nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists and pharmacists.

But these are all long-term changes to a problem that is only going to become more dire. A growing aging population will need more primary medical care. The Affordable Care Act, with its laudable emphasis on primary care and prevention, is likely to increase the demand for primary-care doctors as insurance coverage is extended to more Americans. Some primary-care doctors, already overwhelmed by patient demand and paperwork, are becoming less accessible by creating smaller, boutique cash-out practices or are simply retiring.

So what to do? One exceedingly controversial idea has just become law in Missouri.

Missouri will allow medical school graduates to work as "assistant physicians" treating patients in underserved rural areas, even though they have not been trained in a residency program. In the U.S., at least a year of residency after medical school is usually required to prac-

tice medicine independently. Most medical school graduates spend at least three years in residency before starting to practice on their own. Under the new law, an assistant physician must have passed the first two sections of the national licensing exam for doctors but not the final one. If they want to become full-fledged physicians, they will still have to pass the last test and do a one-year residency.

These assistant physicians — not to be confused with physicians' assistants, who are not medical school graduates — must work in person with a collaborating physician for 30 days and could prescribe most medications. They then may treat patients on their own if they practice within a 50-mile radius of that supervising doctor. They also must be approved by the state Board of Healing Arts, which issues medical licenses.

The Missouri State Medical Association, which represents the state's 6,500 physicians, helped draft the legislation. It argued the law was needed to address a severe shortage of health care professionals in the state. At least one-fifth of Missouri's residents lack adequate access to a doctor.

There are many national medical groups that oppose the idea. Letting someone practice without a residency, in the view of critics, is to dangerously weaken professional competency.

So who will these new doctors be? Some will be graduates of medical schools who failed to get into a residency program — a growing problem as more medical schools open but more residencies do not. Even some highly competitive students do not get a residency in their chosen specialty. This year, among students who are more than one year out of medical school, and

thus probably in their second try at getting a residency, only 48 percent succeeded.

Others will have failed or gotten low scores on Step 1 or Step 2 of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination on the first try, even if they passed or did better on subsequent attempts. Some will have gone to non-U.S. medical schools.

It's a bit of a leap to say that those who choose the assistant physician route in Missouri all failed at getting a residency. A few medical school grads will choose to be an assistant physician rather than enter residency. That being said, the most competitive U.S.- and non-U.S.-trained students are going to go the residency route.

So the bottom line is that assistant physicians are not likely to be the cream of the U.S. medical school crop. But that crop is not yielding many primary-care providers, given the level of debt new graduates face and the lower salaries primary care pays. And new residency slots are not going to open anytime soon.

The real question is, can someone who successfully got through four years of medical school, including a lot of clinical time, who is supervised and certified by another doctor for a month and by the state board but who is probably not near the top of their class, deliver high-quality primary care to people who currently have nothing?

It's a question that I think it is very likely that most can. And Missouri, and other states like Michigan that are considering following its lead, are right to give assistant physicians a chance. Fairly good primary care is a lot better than no care at all.

Arthur L. Caplan is the director of medical ethics at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

OPINION

Iraq makes case against nation-building

By **WALTER PINCUS**
The Washington Post

For those who want to see it, President Barack Obama's vision and strategy for the post-Arab Spring Middle East is clear.

A main theme: The United States can't create governments for other countries. They must do it themselves.

That goes for Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Libya. And it will be just as true for Afghanistan when U.S. and coalition troops leave at the end of the year.

Speaking about Iraq on Saturday, the president said: "Once an inclusive government is in place, I'm confident it will be easier to mobilize all Iraqis against ISIS (Islamic State fighters) and to mobilize greater support from our friends and allies. Ultimately, only Iraqis can ensure the security and stability of Iraq. The United States can't do it for them, but we can and will be partners in that effort."

Perhaps there is a lesson from Ukraine. After initial setbacks, the Ukrainian army seems to have come together after the election of the new president, Petro Poroshenko.

Like the eastern Ukraine supposedly controlled by pro-Russia separatists has been retaken, and the holdouts in Donetsk are seeking a cease-fire. Not too long ago, Obama's critics were complaining that Washington had increased its military aid from the meals, ready-to-eat and night-vision goggles to weaponry.

However, along with our European allies, Obama supported the free elections in Ukraine and constitutional changes. Also, Washington provided a \$1 billion loan guarantee to help the country meet its immediate financial problems.

But Ukrainians were the key to those gains.

Looking back at Iraq and the years when more than 100,000 U.S. troops were there, the president on Saturday correctly said, "Our military is so effective that we can keep a lid on problems wherever we are if we put enough personnel and resources into it. But it can only last if the people in these countries themselves are able to ar-



HADI MIZBAN/AP

An Iraqi soldier stands guard amid tight security measures during a demonstration to show support for embattled Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in Baghdad on Monday.

rive at the kinds of political accommodations and compromise that any civilized society requires."

That did not happen in Iraq after U.S. combat forces left in 2011. Instead, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and his Shiite-dominated government failed, as the president noted, "to pass legislation that would reincorporate Sunnis and give them a sense of ownership" in the Baghdad government.

Instead, the regime jailed Sunni leaders and alienated the Sunni tribes that had helped make the 2007 "surge" of U.S. troops work and end the previous sectarian violence.

Of course al-Maliki's anti-Sunni, anti-Kurd approach was apparent before Obama became president. In a May 2007 secret cable to Washington, then-U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker pointed out that al-Maliki already seemed to be reshaping "the Iraqi national security architecture"

to produce "increasing centralization of power in the hands of an inner circle of Shia Islamists."

More than seven years ago, Crocker described al-Maliki as having "repeatedly expressed fears of coups and conspiracies against him and his government." As prime minister, al-Maliki, despite the objections of his Defense Ministry, in January 2007 took personal control over Iraqi special forces — the very units that in recent days moved into the Green Zone in Baghdad in his direction.

In a PBS "Frontline" interview two weeks ago, Crocker pointed out that al-Maliki came of age under Saddam Hussein, seeing "members of his family, his party, tracked down and murdered, [which] drove him into a zero-sum mode, where he would trust no one except those closest to him who were from his party."

Crocker went on to say that Americans, for whom democracy is secure, don't un-

derstand a country like Iraq where "losers in elections in that part of the world may lose more than the election."

Although he was talking about al-Maliki's view ahead of the 2010 Iraqi elections, Crocker could easily have been speaking about today's crisis when he said, "In the back of [al-Maliki's] mind is that if he lost the election, he stayed in Iraq, which was determined to do, he'd be brought up on capital charges."

Obama's critics — and in this case Crocker is one of them — say the United States could have reached agreement with al-Maliki that would have allowed 5,000 or 10,000 U.S. troops to remain after 2011.

That did not happen. Obama has maintained that U.S. soldiers needed immunity from prosecution to protect themselves should they end up "getting in a firefight with Iraqis, that they wouldn't be hauled before ... an Iraqi judicial system."

"Politically, they (the Iraqi legislators) could not pass the kind of laws that would be required to protect our troops in Iraq," Obama said.

Crocker on "Frontline" said, "[Al-Maliki] certainly bears a major responsibility. He is the prime minister. But the Kurds and the Shia went in the same opposite directions. I imagine we had only one who could have been an antidote to that. We left the stage."

But to Obama, the al-Maliki government's exclusionary path inevitably was going to invite the jihadists — this time, to invade the State.

"We would have now been reinforcing [those remaining American troops]," Obama said Saturday. "I'd have to be protecting them, and we'd have a much bigger job."

Shouldn't the United States have learned this lesson about trying to choose other countries' government from our Vietnam experience 40 years ago?

At a far greater loss of lives and treasure, Washington had to evacuate from Saigon after failing to keep what it claimed to be a democratic government in South Vietnam.

Walter Pincus reports on intelligence, defense and foreign policy for The Washington Post and writes the Fire Print column.

Time for plan to fix Social Security isn't 'someday'

By **JASON J. FICHTNER**
AND **FREDERICK W. KILBOURNE**

The latest Social Security Trustees' report shows the projected dates of insolvency for the program's trust funds remain largely unchanged. Regrettably, some misinterpret this as an indication that Social Security doesn't require immediate reform. Make no mistake: There is a Social Security crisis.

Misunderstanding the critical state of the program's financial health will lead to grave consequences for all of the program's beneficiaries — both current and future.

The 2014 report projects depletion of the combined Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance trust funds in 2033. Social Security has no borrowing authority, and after the trust funds are exhausted there is only enough payroll tax revenue to cover a projected 77 percent of benefits, meaning future benefit payments must be reduced by about 23 percent. The resulting cut in benefits will actually be much worse for retirees, workers and the economy if we don't act now to reform Social Security.

In 2013, total benefit costs offset by taxes on those benefits, plus administrative expenses, came to \$832 billion. Most, but not all, of this cost was covered by payroll taxes (\$726 billion), with the balance sub-

stantially covered by interest (\$103 billion) on money Congress "borrowed" from the trust funds — which means Social Security is currently adding to the deficit.

When the trust funds are depleted, the upcoming year's benefits will be suddenly and immediately reduced by nearly \$200 billion (in 2013 dollars), and not just for that year alone. The 23 percent haircut will persist indefinitely without legislative action. Gross Domestic Product includes government outlays, including spending on entitlement programs. Hence, less Social Security spending by definition results in a smaller GDP. Additionally, a sudden and large reduction of Social Security benefits would also result in less private consumption, since beneficiaries will have less money to spend, and this too would presumably result in an additional corresponding negative effect on GDP.

If the economy shrinks, relative to where it was otherwise heading, the one-quarter reduction in Social Security benefits will have a reverse dynamic effect on the economy; as GDP falls, employment falls, income and taxable wages fall, and even less payroll tax revenue will come into the Social Security program, resulting in even further reductions to benefits beyond the 23 percent haircut that will occur when the

trust funds are depleted in 2033.

And don't mistakenly believe we can just raise payroll taxes to cover any shortfall without also causing drastically harmful effects on the economy. If we raised the payroll tax rate today, it would have to rise from 12.4 percent to about 15.2 percent — that's a nominal 23 percent increase in the payroll tax rate. If we wait until 2033, the rate would have to increase to approximately 16.5 percent; more than 4 percentage points higher than the payroll tax rate is today and a nominal 33 percent increase.

But wait, it's actually much worse than that. Because Social Security benefits decline at a much slower rate than GDP and payroll taxes, the benefit formulas result in benefit level changes that considerably lag behind other changes in the economy, especially during periods of decline. Further, disability applications jump dramatically during economic downturns (increasing about 25 percent during the Great Recession), and disability payment increases then quickly follow. This puts even more financial pressure on Social Security. Finally, fertility and immigration rates tend to decline during times of economic stress — which, over the longer term, reduces revenue coming into the program and ad-

versely affects Social Security financing.

What this all means is that the Social Security crisis that appears to be coming in 2033 is actually here now.

The Social Security Trustees recommend that "lawmakers address the projected trust fund shortfalls in a timely way — through a mix of necessary changes gradually and give workers and beneficiaries time to adjust to them." While this phrasing reflects the traditionally reserved tone of the Trustees, we simply cannot get around the facts the trustees report lays out: The response to the Social Security crisis cannot wait until 2033. The crisis is here now, and is a tsunami that will drown us all and harm both retirees and workers. If we put off immediate, meaningful reform and passively wait for the trust funds to dry up, the ensuing reduction in Social Security benefits may well bring with it a vicious cycle from which neither Social Security nor the general economy will be able to escape.

Jason J. Fichtner is senior research fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, having previously served at the Social Security Administration as acting deputy commissioner of Social Security. Frederick W. Kilbourne started actuarial divisions for three international consulting firms and is a member of all the major actuarial organizations.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Twitter Q&A backfires on FSU, Winston

By KATEEM COPELAND
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A Florida State social media campaign turned ugly Sunday when the university's athletic department opened its Heisman-winning quarterback up to nationwide mockery.

The department attempted to engage fans on Twitter by soliciting questions to be used for a video on the team website.

The hashtag "#AskJameis" became a trending topic on Twitter for a time Sunday — for all the wrong reasons.

The twitter feed was bombarded by accounts making fun of Winston and taking shots at the sophomore. Winston has been heavily criticized for several off-the-field incidents during his time at Florida State.

He was investigated in an alleged sexual

assault of a female student last season, but was never charged. Winston was suspended from the baseball team for three games and ordered to perform 20 hours of community service after being cited for stealing \$32 of crab legs from a local grocery store. There were also other minor run-ins with authorities, but no arrests.

"I knew there was going to be some negativity going into it," said Elliott Finebloom, FSU sports information director.

"The goal of the Twitter Q&A was to continue to find ways to connect our fans and the players they support. That's important to us ... and social is a big way of doing it these days. That was the ultimate goal."

The tweets covered a wide range from witty to malicious. Most were aimed at Winston, but others questioned why FSU would risk this type of response.

One post read: "Do you know that you have to Buy One to get One Free at Publix?"

Another read: "Who gave you better

protection last year — your offensive line or the (Tallahassee Police Department)?"

"This was doomed from the beginning," said Robert Stewart, director of the Ohio University school of journalism. "It's basically a setup. Whoever thought this was a good idea had not done P.R. 101, which is to think about what all could go wrong. Everything about this was naive."

Winston has grown accustomed to the chatter. He was relentlessly heckled at away games during the baseball season. Hundreds of online memes were generated after the crab legs incident. Winston said during Florida State's football media day on Sunday that he doesn't focus on the negative things, but has become more guarded.

Florida State still plans to run the video of Winston answering questions. And a large number of people had to be turned away from a winding line hoping for an autograph from Winston during Fan Day on Sunday.



PHIL SEARS/AP

A question-and-answer session on Twitter with Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston drew a number of questions regarding the Heisman Trophy winner's recent off-the-field legal troubles.

Bell changes from throwing to catching as TE for Oklahoma

By CLIFF BRUNT
The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Blake Bell sometimes heard complaints from "open" receivers he missed last year.



Now, the new Oklahoma tight end is on the other end of the deal.

Bell started eight games last season before requesting the switch. As part of his transition, he's giving quarterback Trevor Knight some good-natured grief.

"I'm always in his ear," Bell said with a smile. "I played quarterback once, so I'm kind of used to the all receivers. It seems like everyone (thinks he's) open on every play. I kind of laugh, and I'll joke around with him every once in a while."

The 6-foot-6, 259-pound senior has drawn raves from coaches



SUE OROCOU/AP

Former Oklahoma quarterback-turned-tight end Blake Bell reaches to catch a pass during practice in Norman, Okla., on Tuesday.

and teammates since the transition began. Coach Bob Stoops said Bell could start the Aug. 30 opener against Louisiana Tech.

"He can run, he's got soft hands, he's got natural feel for the routes," Stoops said.

Bell led the Sooners with 1,648

yards and 12 touchdown passes last season, and he ran for 255 yards. He has a nose for the end zone, with 24 rushing touchdowns on 179 career carries.

"As a guy who's played quarterback mostly his whole life, I love the position change," he said.

"I'm having fun with it. It's just a whole different aspect. Getting down and blocking people and getting into the fight down there in the trenches with those guys and running routes, catching balls, it's awesome."

Stoops said Bell's approach has helped everyone.

"He's been very positive about it and he's been nothing but a great teammate and worker and attitude guy for us," Stoops said. "The entire team looks up to him that way. He's been nothing but positive. I think he truly sees an opportunity to play in the NFL. This is his best opportunity."

Bell said the biggest challenge has been blocking, but it helps to practice against good defensive players such as Geno Grissom, Charles Tapper and Eric Striker.

The switch forced Bell to make some changes in the offseason, such as getting stronger and avoiding fast food.

"Being a quarterback, you don't have to move around as

much," he said. "You're not running around, then, all of a sudden, you have to run back and block and do that stuff. I felt like I was a little out of shape toward the end of (last) year, so I wanted to make sure I got back in shape. Kind of slimmed down a little bit, cut some body fat off and go that direction with it."

Bell's hands are so good that quarterbacks coach Josh Heupel said Bell could be a featured target.

"I think he's going to have a major impact on what we're doing offensively," Heupel said. "He dramatically changes the ability for play-action passes in the middle of the football field because of his size and length."

Knight said he and Bell have clicked because of their understanding of the offense.

"He understands it from the other point of view," Knight said. "It helps a lot. He knows what I want to see and I know what he wants to see."

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NFL

Giants' Pierre-Paul looking like old self

Defensive end may finally be healthy after injuries shortened two seasons

By Tom Canavan
The Associated Press

IT might be time to stop worrying about New York Giants defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul.

Pierre-Paul is showing signs that the back and shoulder injuries that slowed him last season are behind him and that he's ready to make life miserable for NFL quarterbacks.

In 2011, Pierre-Paul recorded 16½ sacks in his second season to help the Giants win their second Super Bowl in five seasons.

It's been downhill since. "JPP" had 6½ sacks in 2012 and he was limited to two in 11 games last season, spending the final month on the sidelines.

After a quiet performance in the Hall of Fame game earlier this month, Pierre-Paul created a buzz against the Steelers this past weekend with three solo tackles, an assist and a big hurry and hit on Pittsburgh quarterback Bruce Gradkowski in the first quarter.

It was like old times. The 25-year-old was a force again with his speed, strength and sheer athletic ability.

"Fun has always been in football for me," Pierre-Paul said Monday. "It never left. Being injured, nobody wants to be injured. It comes with the game. You never know when you're going to be injured. You have to fight through it. You go out there and play. If you can't, you can't."

Pierre-Paul didn't have much fun last season. He had back surgery before the season and he never seemed to be 100 percent for the second straight season. His last start was on No. 10. He came off the bench the next two games and then was inactive

for the last five.

"I'm back now, so the only thing that can stop me from being me is me."

Heading into the 2014 season, Pierre-Paul isn't broadcasting his goals. He obviously would like to help the Giants get back to the playoffs for the first time since 2011. He is being quiet on the individual stuff.

"I'm trying to be better than that 2011-2012 year," Pierre-Paul said. "Each year is a year for you to get better so that's what I'm trying to do."

Pierre-Paul said it's hard to judge anything based on training camp and preseason games because it's not game conditions. Players rarely get into a rhythm in preseason games because they only play a few series, and practices are held in a controlled situation.

"Don't get me wrong, you have something to play for but you really don't, you know," he said. "Guys are not trying to get hurt but the last thing when you're on that football field, you don't think about that. You just play the game. It's all preseason. I know, guys, it matters or whatever. Really it doesn't. I know for a fact when it's time to buckle down and get ready to play Detroit on Monday night, we're going to be ready to go."

The Giants are going to need the old Pierre-Paul after losing defensive end Justin Tuck and defensive tackle Linval Joseph to free agency. Veteran Matthias Kiwanuka has stepped into Tuck's spot on the line and either Mike Patterson, who is sidelined with a shoulder injury, or second-year pro Johnathan Hankins will take over at tackle.



Bill Kestroun/AP

New York Giants defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul (90) knocks Pittsburgh quarterback Bruce Gradkowski to the ground during Saturday's preseason game in East Rutherford, N.J. Pierre-Paul is starting to show signs that he is back to 100 percent.



Bob Leverone/AP

Saints quarterback Drew Brees, right, is sacked by the Panthers' Greg Hardy (76) and Mario Addison (97) in 2013 in Charlotte, N.C. Some of the Panthers think they have a shot to set the NFL's record for sacks in a season held by the 1984 Bears.

Panthers target sack record

By Steve Reed
The Associated Press

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — The Carolina Panthers are setting the bar a little higher this season after leading the NFL in sacks in 2013.

Defensive tackle Colin Cole said one of the goals for this year's defense is to break the NFL's single-season sack record of 72 set by the 1984 Chicago Bears — a team that included current Panthers coach Ron Rivera at linebacker.

The Panthers are coming off a franchise-record 60-sack season and return all of their starters and most of their reserves from a talented front seven. The league's No. 2-ranked defense features veteran pass rushing ends Greg Hardy and Charles Johnson, who combined for 26 sacks last season, and the NFL's reigning Defensive Player of the Year in middle linebacker Luke Kuechly.

Carolina is also hoping to get some added penetration from second-round draft pick Kony

Did you know

The record for sacks in a season is 72, set by the 1984 Chicago Bears. Carolina coach Ron Rivera was on that team.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Ealy, a player the team said will enter a first-round grade on entering the Draft.

It's a lofty goal, for sure, but Cole said "if you don't talk about it, you don't bring it into fruition."

"We set our bar pretty high last year ... but the goal is to surpass that and get up there with the big dogs of the past years and set records," said Cole, who started 13 games last season for Carolina. Rivera was a rookie on the 1984

Bears team, although he didn't register any sacks that season.

Rivera said the Bears had the "perfect storm" in terms of personnel, a group which included Richard Dent, Dan Hampton, Steve McMichael, Mike Singletary and Wilber Marshall, and went on to win the Super Bowl the following season.

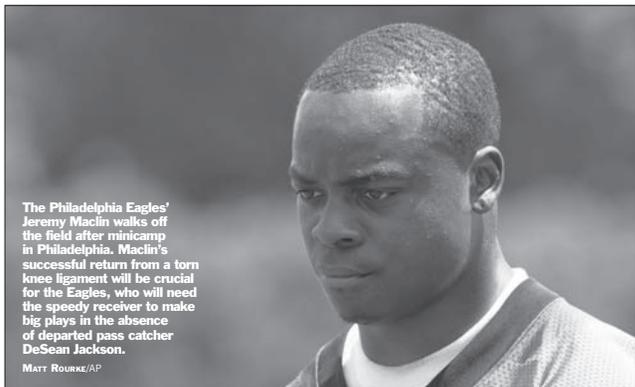
"We were very talented, but we blitzed a lot more," Rivera said. "We were doing the 46 (defense), which was very new to a lot of people and innovative. So it created a lot more opportunities."

Rivera isn't sure how 2014 will turn out.

He's more concerned about winning football games than piling up sack numbers. But he said taking down the Bears sack record would be an extraordinary accomplishment.

"That would be nice. It really would," Rivera said. "Do we have the kind of guys that are capable of good numbers? We do. You can predict all you want. You just don't know. You have to do it."

NFL/MLB



The Philadelphia Eagles' Jeremy Maclin walks off the field after minicamp in Philadelphia. Maclin's successful return from a torn knee ligament will be crucial for the Eagles, who will need the speedy receiver to make big plays in the absence of departed pass catcher DeSean Jackson.

MATT ROURKE/AP

Back: Injuries often devastating in NFL

FROM BACK PAGE

But after an extensive rehabilitation process, the Eagles are counting on their speedy wide receiver to make big plays again.

"He was out there every day in the offseason program and it's just a matter of him getting his timing back," Eagles coach Chip Kelly said.

Wayne was off to a terrific start last year with 38 catches for 503 yards in seven games for Indianapolis. A torn ACL kept him out the last half of the season. Even at 35, he says he is ready to rebound.

Jones also was on his way to another Pro Bowl season with 41 catches in five games for the Falcons, but a broken right foot sent him to the sideline. He had a special cleat designed for him by Under Armour, a wider shoe that features a steel shank at the bottom for added support.

"I feel explosive, I still feel fast," he said. "I still feel like I can beat one-on-one matchups."

San Diego's Floyd missed almost all of last season after spraining his neck after making a reception at Philadelphia last Sept. 15.

Foster, one of the NFL's top running backs when healthy, considered retirement after a back injury limited him to eight games for the Texans.

"People die on the football field," Foster told ESPN. "This is a really brutal sport. Going through an injury like that, being 27 years old, I'm young, still I'm at the prime of my career. Is it worth it to try to come back?"

Martin, one of the league's rising running backs, ran for 1,454 yards and 11 touchdowns for Tampa Bay as a rookie in 2012. Last year, he struggled early, injured his shoulder and his sophomore season was done after just six games.

Another of the NFL's top rookies two years ago wasn't quite the same last season. After tearing his ACL in Washington's playoff loss, Griffin struggled a year ago to be the electrifying playmaker he was

in his first season. With the Redskins out of the playoff hunt, then-coach Mike Shanahan ended Griffin's season and plugged in Kirk Cousins for the final three games.

"For me, personally, obviously, not having to come off of a knee surgery is a big boost for me," Griffin said, "having an opportunity to work on my craft during the offseason."

Philadelphia's Mark Sanchez could have a shot, too, after missing all last season with the Jets because of a shoulder injury — but he's Nick Foles' backup.

Griffin and St. Louis' Sam Bradford, who tore an ACL last season, might be front-runners for the AP Comeback Player of the Year award. Since it began in 1998, 11 of the winners have been quarterbacks — including the past six.

The award usually goes to a player who has overcome an injury, but San Diego's Philip Rivers bucked that trend last year when he won it for bouncing back from a season in which he didn't play up to par. There are a few quarterbacks other than Griffin who could fit that description this year: Baltimore's Joe Flacco, the Giants' Eli Manning, Oakland's Matt Schaub and the Jets' Michael Vick — already a previous winner — if he overtakes Geno Smith for the job.

A few defensive players could be in the running, too. Cincinnati's Atkins (torn ACL) and Leon Hall (torn Achilles tendon), Houston's Cushing (broken leg, torn ligament) and Denver's Demarcus Ware (career-low six sacks) are all contenders.

Then, there's also Ware's new Broncos teammate Von Miller, who was suspended six games for a drug violation and then lost after nine games with a torn ACL that caused him to miss Denver's Super Bowl run.

"I feel like I've been ready mentally back when the Super Bowl was here," Miller said. "But the competitor in me is definitely ready to go."

Davis HR lifts O's, but Machado hurt

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — It was a night when both teams lamented a potentially devastating loss.

The satisfaction the Baltimore Orioles derived from beating the New York Yankees 11-3 Monday was dampened by the possibility that third baseman Manny Machado could head to the disabled list with a sprained right knee.

"We'll just wait for the results," Machado said in front of his locker, where a pair of crutches stood. "Hopefully it is on the good side other than the bad."

He was to have an MRI on Tuesday morning determine the severity of the injury and whether a stint on the DL is necessary.

"There's a chance we may have dodged a bullet," manager Buck Showalter said.

The Yankees had a far different problem to cope with. Their third straight defeat dropped them to a season-high seven games behind the AL East-leading Orioles with 44 games remaining.

"This is the team we have. We've got to go win with the guys that we have," New York captain Derek Jeter said. "You can't sit around and be negative. We have to stay optimistic. You've got to have a lot of faith in your team-

mates and then you're going to get the job done."

With each loss to the Orioles, the deficit increases. There are two games left in the series that concludes Wednesday.

"I really don't think it makes a difference who you're playing," Jeter said. "We've got to find ways to win games. It's not like you can exhale when you're playing a team that's not in front of us."

Machado, a 2013 All-Star third baseman, sprained his right knee in the second inning while hitting a broken-bat grounder to shortstop. He dropped on his back in the batter's box and needed help getting off the field.

He was replaced by Chris Davis, who came up in the fifth against Chris Capuano (1-3) with a man on and New York leading 3-2. With the count full, Davis hit a drive over the right-field scoreboard for his 21st home run.

"Chris Davis was the big at-bat in the game," Capuano said. "Obviously Chris Davis is the guy you don't want to beat you. I would've liked to have that pitch a little more down in the zone, probably expand it a bit, but I left it up and it caught too much of the plate."

Bud Norris (10-7) gave up three and five hits in five innings and the Orioles won despite committing three errors.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Baltimore Orioles first baseman Chris Davis watches his two-run home run in the fifth inning of Monday's 11-3 win over the New York Yankees at Camden Yards in Baltimore.

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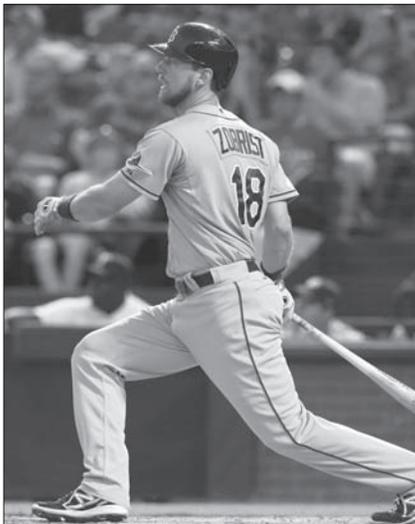
MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

	East Division		Pct	GB
	W	L		
Baltimore	68	50	.576	—
Toronto	63	57	.525	6
New York	61	57	.517	8
Tampa Bay	58	60	.492	10
Boston	48	65	.444	15½

	Central Division		Pct	GB
	W	L		
Kansas City	64	53	.547	—
Detroit	53	64	.449	11
Cleveland	59	59	.500	5½
Chicago	53	65	.449	9
Minnesota	53	64	.453	11

	West Division		Pct	GB
	W	L		
Oakland	72	46	.610	—
Los Angeles	68	49	.581	3½
Seattle	63	55	.534	9
San Diego	49	72	.402	17
Texas	46	72	.390	26



Tampa Bay's Ben Zobrist follows through on a run-scoring double to right off a pitch from the Rangers' Colby Lewis in the third inning on Monday in Arlington, Texas. The Rays won 7-0.

—TOROY GUTIERREZ/AP

Orioles 11, Yankees 3

New York	Baltimore	R	H	E	
Gardner 5	ab 1 b0	Marks 7	5	2	2
Jeter 5	4 0 1	Mach 3b	2	1	0
Elby 5	4 0 0	C Davis 2b	2	1	0
Tejeda 5	4 0 0	A Jones cf	5	1	3
Belt 5	4 0 0	N Cruz if	2	0	0
Headly 5	2 1 1	Lough if	1	0	1
Drift 5	3 0 0	Adrian 3b	4	0	0
Prado 5	4 0 0	Pearce lb	4	0	0
Cervelli 5	3 0 0	C Joseph c	4	1	1
Audren 5	1 0 0	Flaherty 2b	1	0	0
Totals	33 5 1	Schoop 2b	4	2	3

Marlins 6, Cardinals 5

St. Louis	Miami	R	H	E	
McRort 3b	4 1 0	Yelich if	4	2	3
Wong 2b	5 1 1	Vidoss 2b	3	0	0
St. Louis	4 0 0	St. Louis	2	2	3
SRonsen pr	0 0 0	McGeh 3b	4	0	0
Adams 5b	5 0 0	Gomes 1b	3	0	0
Drum 3b	4 0 0	Cruz c	4	0	0
MZins c	4 1 2	Stillich c	4	1	2
Bay 3b	4 0 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Tavers lf	4 0 0	Koehler p	2	0	0
SMiller pr	2 0 1	Hatch p	0	0	0
Bassals lf	1 0 0	Solano ph	0	0	0
SFRom p	0 0 0	Mumpan p	0	0	0
Brantley lf	1 0 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Bourjos ph	0 0 0	JeBarb lf	1	0	0
Totals	37 512 5	Cishk p	0	0	0

National League

	East Division		Pct	GB
	W	L		
Washington	60	58	.508	4
Atlanta	60	58	.508	4
Miami	58	60	.492	6
New York	57	62	.479	7½
Philadelphia	53	66	.445	11½

	Central Division		Pct	GB
	W	L		
Milwaukee	65	55	.555	—
Pittsburgh	63	55	.534	2½
St. Louis	61	53	.530	3
Cincinnati	60	58	.508	5½
Chicago	56	67	.425	15

	West Division		Pct	GB
	W	L		
Los Angeles	68	52	.567	—
San Francisco	65	53	.552	5
San Diego	55	62	.470	11½
Arizona	51	67	.432	16
Colorado	46	72	.390	21



Tampa Bay's Ben Zobrist follows through on a run-scoring double to right off a pitch from the Rangers' Colby Lewis in the third inning on Monday in Arlington, Texas. The Rays won 7-0.

—TOROY GUTIERREZ/AP

Twins 4, Astros 2

New York	Houston	R	H	E	
DaSnTr 5	1 3 0	Grsnmr if	5	0	0
Brach 5b	3 0 0	Dove 2b	2	0	0
Mauer lf	4 0 2	Carth 3b	3	1	1
Spring 1b	3 0 0	Miller 2b	1	0	0
Flaherty 2b	4 0 1	JCastro c	4	0	0
Keszec c	4 0 0	DoSnTr if	4	0	0
Schall 3b	3 1 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Edwards 2b	3 1 2	Mrfnc of	4	0	0
Yates 1b	3 0 0	Vorp 2b	0	0	0
Tom Hunter	3 0 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Canabano 7	3 4 1	34,018 (45,971)			

Pirates 11, Tigers 6

Detroit	Pittsburgh	R	H	E	
RDavis cf	5 1 3	JHrrn 3b	5	1	3
Kinsler 2b	4 0 0	GrInce pr	3	2	1
Schwarz 1b	4 0 0	Martyz 2b	3	0	0
VWtrnz lf	5 1 2	Do 1b	1b	3	2
TrHrn pr	4 1 2	Schtz ph	1b	2	3
Alford 2b	3 0 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Coke p	0 0 0	Snider lf	5	3	4
Cattaph 3b	4 0 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Avila c	3 1 2	Nix 2b	4	0	1
Samrzs 3b	3 1 1	Loack p	3	0	0
Flares 2b	4 0 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
JMiller sp	0 0 0	Palvpr lf	1	0	0
Adrian 3b	3 0 0	Watson p	0	0	0
Krol ph	1 0 0	Jedler p	0	0	0
Whelan 1b	0 0 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
St. Louis	2	0	0	0	
Totals	36 61 6	Totals	37 114 11		

Sunday's games

Cleveland 4, N.Y. Yankees 7
 Toronto 6, Detroit 5, 19 innings
 St. Louis 8, Baltimore 3
 Kansas City 7, San Francisco 4
 Texas 6, Houston 2
 Chicago Cubs 3, Tampa Bay 2, 12 in.

Monday's games
 Pittsburgh 11, Detroit 6
 Baltimore 11, N.Y. Yankees 3
 Tampa Bay 7, Texas 9
 Minnesota 4, Houston 2
 Philadelphia 3, Oakland 2
 Seattle 11, Toronto 7
 N.Y. Mets 5, Philadelphia 3
 Los Angeles 4, Atlanta 2
 Miami 6, St. Louis 5
 Milwaukee 2, Chicago Cubs 1
 Flores 5b
 N.Y. Yankees at San Diego
 Tampa Bay at Texas
 Minnesota at Houston
 Oakland at Kansas City
 Toronto at Seattle
 Pittsburgh at Cleveland
 Detroit at Philadelphia
 Boston at Cincinnati
 A.A. Dodgers at Atlanta
 St. Louis at Miami
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets
 Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs
 Philadelphia at L.A. Angels
 Colorado at San Diego
 Chicago White Sox at San Francisco

Mets 5, Phillies 3

New York	Philadelphia	R	H	E	
Grndrs 5	0 0 0	Revere cf	5	0	2
DmRpr 2b	4 1 0	Rollins 2b	4	0	0
Wright 3b	1 1 1	Syrfr lf	1	0	0
Duda lf	4 0 0	Hawthorn lb	3	0	0
Learys cf	1 1 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
dnkrkr lf	3 1 1	Rf Jr	2	1	2
Flores 5b	0 0 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Carlyle p	0 0 0	ABianc 2b	4	0	1
Famili 0b	0 0 0	Asche 3b	1	0	0
Reich c	4 1 1	DeBri p	1	0	0
Niese p	3 0 1	DBwn ph	0	0	0
Tejus 2b	0 0 0	Bastardo p	0	0	0
Totals	34 5 7 5	Totals	34 5 7 5		

Dodgers 6, Braves 2

Los Angeles	Atlanta	R	H	E	
DGordn 2b	5 1 1	Bnfrs 5b	2b	1	0
Puig cf	5 1 0	LSest 2b	1	0	0
Arndtz lf	5 2 0	Penas 3b	1	0	0
Kemp 1b	5 1 0	FFrm 1b	3	1	2
Cwrdlf lf	3 1 3	Jupton if	3	0	0
JWrtpr 3b	3 0 0	Hwyrd lf	4	0	0
ALiis c	3 0 0	Gattis c	0	1	1
Rojas 2b	4 0 0	Chhn 3b	4	0	0
Correa p	1 0 0	Bupton cf	3	0	0
BWlln p	0 0 0	Russell p	0	0	0
Etter ph	0 0 0	Terney p	0	0	0
Wright p	0 0 0	Doimil ph	0	0	0
Clims ph	0 0 0	Vorp 2b	0	0	0
Totals	36 61 5	Totals	32 6 2		

Tuesday's games

Boston (Workman) at Cincinnati (Bailey 9)
 Chicago White Sox (Quintana 6-8) at San Francisco (Perez 4)
 Arizona (Nuno 0-3) at Cleveland (Bauer 4)
 N.Y. Yankees (Pineda 2-2) at Baltimore (Tilman 9-5)
 Oakland (Morley 5-1) at Detroit (Farmer 0-4)
 Tampa Bay (Archer 7-6) at Texas (Mink 1-4)
 Oakland (Kazmir 13-4) at Kansas City (Vazquez 10-1)
 Philadelphia (A.Burnett 6-12) at L.A. Angels (Weaver 12-7)
 Los Angeles (Clayton 1-1) at Seattle (Iwakuma 10-6)
 Philadelphia (Metcalf 2-7) at San Diego (Kennedy 10-8)
 L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 13-5) at Atlanta (Cain 6-6)
 St. Louis (Masterson 1-1) at Miami (Eovaldi)
 Washington (Zimmerman 7-5) at N.Y. Mets (Belt 10-11-9)
 Philadelphia (Lohse 11-6) at Chicago Cubs (Wada 1-1)

Brewers 3, Cubs 1

Milwaukee	Chicago	R	H	E	
Gomez cf	4 0 1	Coghlin if	4	0	1
Lutyro c	4 0 0	ABaz 2b	2	0	2
Braun rf	4 0 1	Rizzo 2b	4	0	0
ArfM 2b	4 0 0	Arteta p	0	0	0
Gennett 2b	4 2 1	Vallen 3b	4	0	0
KDavis if	4 0 0	Alcivar cf	1	0	0
FRipr p	0 0 0	Ruppr p	3	1	1
Mrfyn lf	3 1 1	Castillo c	3	0	1
Sejras 3b	0 0 0	Arteta p	0	0	0
Gallard p	2 0 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Overly ph	0 0 0	Wahlb ph	0	0	0
WSmith p	0 0 0	Grimm p	0	0	0
Ortiz lf	0 0 0	Grimm p	0	0	0
Totals	32 7 3	Totals	33 1 7		

Rays 7, Rangers 0

Tampa Bay	Rangers	R	H	E	
Dnrrs if	5 1 1	Choo rf	4	0	0
Zobist 2b	4 1 2	Andrus 3b	3	0	0
Longor 3b	5 2 1	Addi ph	1	0	0
Longor 3b	5 2 1	Beltre 2b	2	0	0
CFigr 2b	4 2 1	Rosales 3b	3	0	0
Yates 3b	4 0 0	Carph ph	0	0	0
Casali c	4 1 0	Lmtrn cf	3	0	0
Kiemrr lf	2 1 0	Chirns c	4	0	0
Gayer lf	1 0 0	Olor 2b	2	0	0
Totals	36 71 0	Totals	21 0 1		

Calendar

Aug. 12-14 — Owners' meetings, Baltimore.
Sept. 1 — Active rosters expand to 40 players.
Sept. 30 — Postseason begins.
Oct. 22 — World Series begins, city of American League champion.
November TBA — Deadline for teams to submit injury reports for their eligible former players who became free agents, fifth day after World Series.
December TBA — Deadline for free agents to accept qualifying offers, 12th day after World Series.

Twins 4, Astros 2

New York	Houston	R	H	E	
DaSnTr 5	1 3 0	Grsnmr if	5	0	0
Brach 5b	3 0 0	Dove 2b	2	0	0
Mauer lf	4 0 2	Carth 3b	3	1	1
Spring 1b	3 0 0	Miller 2b	1	0	0
Flaherty 2b	4 0 1	JCastro c	4	0	0
Keszec c	4 0 0	DoSnTr if	4	0	0
Schall 3b	3 1 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Edwards 2b	3 1 2	Mrfnc of	4	0	0
Yates 1b	3 0 0	Vorp 2b	0	0	0
Tom Hunter	3 0 0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Canabano 7	3 4 1	34,018 (45,971)			

Mariners 11, Jays 1

Toronto	Seattle	R	H	E	
KawSkw 5	4 0 0	AJcksn cf	4	1	0
McCrdr 4b	4 0 0	Ackley if	5	1	2
St. Louis	2	0	0	0	
Reimhr ph	2 0 0	CTaylr 3b	1	0	0
St. Louis	2	0	0	0	
Dnmlcr					

MLB

Royals top A's to grab lead in AL Central

By DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Alcides Escobar pumped his fist. Jarrod Dyson did a backflip. And for the first time in more than a decade, the Kansas City Royals were in first place in mid-August.

Yordano Ventura outpitched Sonny Gray in a matchup of talented young starters Monday night, and Escobar drove in the go-ahead run as Kansas City beat the Oakland Athletics 3-2 to take over the AL Central lead from Detroit with its eighth straight victory.

"You want to be in first place. Our goal was to get back to first place," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "Now our goal is to stay in first place."

The Royals trailed the Tigers by eight games on July 21, but a 16-3 mark wiped away the deficit and gave them the lead at the latest point in a season since 2003.

"We're playing great," said Escobar, who drove in a run in the second inning before his single off Gray (12-6) in the seventh gave Kansas City the lead for good.

Ventura lasted through six innings before giving way to Kelvin Herrera (3-2), who tossed a spotless seventh. Wade Davis breezed through the eighth and Greg Holland worked the ninth for his 35th

Did you know

The Kansas City Royals are in first place this late in the season for the first time since 2003.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

save, though it didn't come without a little drama.

Josh Donaldson led off the ninth with a single, the first hit by the Athletics since the second inning, and Brandon Moss drew a walk. But after a brief conference on the mound, Holland got Derek Norris to bounce into a double play and Stephen Vogt to fly out.

"He has the ability to focus pitch to pitch, which good closers can do," Yost said. "You get first and second with his stuff, you just have a feeling he's going to get out of it."
Kansas City put pressure on right from the start, when Dyson and Omar Infante opened the game with back-to-back singles. Gray might have escaped the jam, though, if right fielder Josh

Reddick hadn't flubbed a routine throw to the infield after Infante's hit. It allowed Dyson to reach third base easily, and he scored on Salvador Perez's double-play groundout.

"It's pretty embarrassing," Reddick said, "especially since it cost us a run. And we end up losing by one run, so it doesn't make you feel any better."

After Escobar made it 2-0 in the second, Oakland answered with some help from Ventura, who worked to overcome command problems most of the night. John Jaso led off with a single, Coco Crisp worked a walk and Donaldson earned another free pass to load the bases with two outs.

Moss hit a full-count pitch up the middle to score both runners and knotted the game.

Yost pulled Ventura after a double play got the rookie right-hander through the sixth. And when Gray faltered in the seventh and Kansas City took the lead, one of the stingiest bullpens in baseball made sure the smallest of margins was enough.

"Those three guys at the end are as good as you get," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "They don't worry about righty-lefty. They feel when they get to the seventh inning with a lead, they feel pretty good about it."



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

The Royals' Jarrod Dyson runs past Oakland Athletics catcher Derek Norris to score in the first inning of Monday's game in Kansas City, Mo. The Royals won 3-2 to take the lead in the AL Central.

Roundup

Snider blasts 2 HRs as Pirates rough up Tigers

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Pirates already had a four-run lead over an ailing Justin Verlander when Travis Snider threw out a runner at the plate in the second for an inning-ending double play.

"It very well could've been one of those things you talk about as a momentum-changer," manager Clint Hurdle said.

Snider not only saved runs, he created them. Snider hit a pair of home runs and drove in four, Starling Marte added three RBIs and the Pirates coasted to an 11-6 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Monday night.

Gregory Polanco also threw out a runner at the plate, when Rajai Davis tried to score from second on Miguel Cabrera's single in the eighth. Even with a five-run lead at the time, the game could've become much closer.

"They left as many men on base as we did," Hurdle said. "They were a swing of the bat from being right back in the game three times tonight."

Verlander (10-11) gave up five runs on four hits and walked two before he was removed after pitching one inning with right shoulder soreness.

"Just didn't feel great," Verlander said, "and disappointing on a night that the team really needed me."

The loss, coupled with Kansas City's 3-2 win over Oakland, dropped the Tigers a half-game behind the now first-place Royals in the AL Central Division.

Pittsburgh loaded the bases against Verlander with one out in the first inning, and Marte cleared them with a triple down the left-field line. Snider drove Marte home when his grounder to first took an odd hop, and Victor Martinez couldn't glove it.

Verlander threw 40 pitches and bunted in the second before he was removed. He is scheduled to undergo an MRI in Detroit on Tuesday.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little nervous," Verlander said. "I've never been through this before."

Verlander added there was no sharp pain in his shoulder, but manager Brad Ausmus removed him from the game to risk any further injury.

Snider knocked in two more in the eighth inning off Phil Coke with his eighth homer, a two-run, opposite-field shot.

Martin hit his sixth home run of the year in the sixth inning, and Ike Davis followed with his eighth.

Snider was 3-for-5 and scored three runs.

"Just another day," Snider said. "For me, it's nice to contribute offensively, and defensively, and help this team win."



KEITH SRANO/CAP

The Pirates' Starling Marte drives in three runs with a bases-loaded triple off Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Justin Verlander in the first inning of Monday's game in Pittsburgh.

Detroit scored three runs in the sixth to get within 8-4 and knock Pittsburgh starter Jeff Locke out of the game.

Cabrera, Martinez and Torii Hunter started the inning with consecutive hits, and Cabrera scored on Hunter's double. Alex Avila drove Martinez home with a single, and Hunter scored when Don Kelly hit into a fielder's choice.

Locke (4-3) was responsible for four runs, eight hits and four walks in five-plus innings.

Minnesota Twins on Saturday, outpitching All-Star Julio Teheran and leading Los Angeles over slumping Atlanta.

Los Angeles has won four of six to increase its NL West lead to five games over idle San Francisco. The Braves have dropped 10 of 12 and fallen four games behind NL East-leading Washington.

Marlins 6, Cardinals 5: Giancarlo Stanton hit two home runs and made a spectacular diving catch in right field to help host Miami beat St. Louis.

Mets 5, Phillies 3: Slumping Anthony Recker hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer and Jonathon Niese (6-8) pitched seven sharp innings to earn his first win since June 28 as visiting New York beat Philadelphia.

Twins 4, Astros 2: Joe Mauer had two hits in his return from the disabled list, including a go-ahead RBI single in the ninth inning, to help visiting Minnesota to a win over Houston.

Marlins 11, Blue Jays 1: Felix Hernandez allowed one run in seven strong innings and Robinson Cano helped provide him with a jolt of run support as host Seattle romped over Toronto.

Padres 4, Rockies 3: Yanger-vis Solarte hit a go-ahead, two-run home run in the seventh inning and host San Diego beat last-place Colorado for its ninth win in 12 games.

Rays 7, Rangers 0: Drew Smyly allowed three hits and struck out nine in 7 1/3 innings for his first win since the David Price trade and Matt Joyce had a two-run single as visiting Tampa Bay beat Texas.

Brewers 3, Cubs 1: Yovani Gallardo pitched seven sparkling innings and Khris Davis had a tiebreaking RBI double, leading visiting Milwaukee over Chicago.

Dodgers 6, Braves 2: Kevin Correia won in his debut with the Dodgers after a trade from the

NBA/GOLF

Wiggins deflects talk about trade

Top pick says he 'can play anywhere'

By IAN HARRISON
The Associated Press

TORONTO — When training camp begins in October, he'll be trying to block and deflect shots in the NBA. On Monday, No. 1 overall draft pick Andrew Wiggins was deflecting questions about precisely where he'll be playing.

Last week, Cleveland reportedly reached an agreement in principle to send Wiggins, Anthony Bennett and a first-round pick to Minnesota for All-Star forward Kevin Love, who will join LeBron James and Kyrie Irving to form a new "Big 3" with the Cavaliers.

That deal, which cannot be officially completed until Aug. 23, when Wiggins becomes eligible to be traded, would leave the rookie swingman playing for a rebuilding squad in the Western Conference, rather than alongside LeBron on a presumed title contender in Cleveland.

Speaking publicly for the first time since the reported deal was agreed to, Wiggins refused to be drawn in to any trade talk.

"Whatever happens is out of my control," he said. "I'm not worrying about it right now."

Surrounded by more than a dozen reporters and nine televi-

sion cameras at a promotional event at his former grade school in suburban Toronto, Wiggins acknowledged that life as a first overall pick has brought him extra attention.

"There's more eyes on me, more criticizing, stuff like that," he said.

So far, at least, the glare of the spotlight hasn't been too hard to handle.

"Going to Kansas University kind of prepares you for moments like this," he said, "because at Kansas they treat the basketball players like rock stars."

After Wiggins attended Jayhawks coach Bill Self's basketball camp Sunday, Self said Wiggins told him he'd welcome the trade to Minnesota, where he could be the face of the franchise, rather than playing in the shadow of LeBron.

"Even though in a weird way everybody would love the opportunity to play with LeBron because you're guaranteed winning, for the longevity of his career, he needs to develop that mindset to be the guy, for him to be great, and I think being Minnesota will help him do that," Self said Sunday.

Wiggins wouldn't bite when asked Monday for a response to



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

NBA rookie Andrew Wiggins interacts with kids Monday while filming a commercial at his former school in Concord, Ontario. Wiggins deflected questions about where he'll be playing this season amid rumors that Cleveland traded the No. 1 draft pick to Minnesota for All-Star Kevin Love.

Self's comments.

"Anywhere, any team," he said. "I can play anywhere."

Wiggins, who set numerous freshman records during his lone season with the Jayhawks, appears to be a good fit for the Timberwolves. While his defense is already NBA-caliber, Wiggins will be able to develop his offense alongside point guard Ricky Rubio in an up-tempo system.

The reported trade would break up Cleveland's trio of Canadian youngsters, with only fourth-year forward Tristan Thompson expected to remain with the East-

ern Conference's new presumed power.

Wiggins said he's kept in touch with both Bennett and Thompson as the NBA rumor mill churned this summer.

"We're all close friends," Wiggins said. "We're all from Toronto so I talk to them."

No matter where he starts his career, Toronto fans are already hoping that Wiggins might one day suit up for the Raptors. The young forward refused to say much about that, either, but didn't shoot down the idea.

"The hometown love will al-

ways be there, no matter what," Wiggins said. "I try and do good for this city and I know this city tries to do good for me."

On that front, Wiggins was asked how he'd cast a ballot in Toronto's October mayoral vote, where controversial candidate Rob Ford, an acknowledged crack user who recently returned to work following a stint in rehab, is running for re-election. Even there, however, the basketball star refused to be pinned down.

"Not too sure," Wiggins said with a chuckle.

McIlroy proves he can win major title using grit

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Anyone could see Rory McIlroy had the gifts to be the next big thing in golf.

His victory in the PGA Championship was more about grit.

That might be more impressive than some of the numbers associated with his latest major. McIlroy has won his four majors at a combined 62-under par. The only other players in the last century to win four majors 25 or younger were Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Jones. It had been six years since anyone won two straight majors (Padraig Harrington) or three straight tournaments (Woods).

"It's beginning to look a little Tigeresque, I supposed," Graeme McDowell said. "I said to the boys at The Open I didn't think we were going to see the new Tiger era just yet. I'm not eating my words, but I'm certainly starting to chew on them right now."

The comparisons with Woods are becoming inevitable.

Even though the circumstances were slightly different, McIlroy had his own Valhalla moment. The last two PGA Championships at Valhalla were all about guts.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Rory McIlroy can make majors look easy, but he had to dig himself out of a hole on Sunday to win the PGA Championship.

and Bob May missed a 4-footer for birdie. Woods caught him two holes later with a birdie set up by a 355-yard drive on a hole where he couldn't afford to miss. He forced a playoff with a 6-foot birdie on the last hole that Woods still calls the most important putt he ever made.

That was three majors in a row for Woods, and he went on to an unprecedented sweep of the majors.

McIlroy is not there yet. The next step is Augusta National — the Masters starts in 241 days — and a shot at his third straight major and the career Grand Slam. What he

carries with him is the belief that he can battle back just as easily as he can blow away a field.

McIlroy can make the game look easy, even in the majors. He was eight shots ahead at Congressional going into the last day and he set the U.S. Open scoring record on a rain-softened course in 2011. He was three ahead at Kiawah Island going into the last round of the 2012 PGA Championship when he won by a record eight shots. And he had a six-shot lead on Sunday when he polished off that wire-to-wire win at the British Open last month.

So he was in foreign territory standing in the 10th fairway at Valhalla on Sunday. He watched from 280 yards away as Rickie Fowler poured in a 30-foot birdie putt that put McIlroy three shots behind with nine holes to play.

"I knew I needed to do something, and I needed to play catch-up and I needed to make some birdies," McIlroy said. "That 10th hole was huge."

The 3-wood he struck — a little lower than he planned, a little more left than he wanted — rolled up the left side of the fairway and onto the green just 7 feet left of the cup, and the eagle putt is what got him back in the game.

McIlroy still had plenty of work left. He made a 10-foot birdie on the 13th hole to share the lead. He went back ahead by one shot when the A-list of challengers — Fowler, Phil Mickelson, Henrik Stenson — all

made a mistakes. And then he sealed it with a 9-iron from a fairway bunker on the 17th hole to 10 feet.

This was the most satisfying major for McIlroy because he had to work the hardest. The 25-year-old was developing a stereotype as a player who would only win in soft conditions with a comfortable lead.

There was nothing comfortable about the final two hours at Valhalla.

Mickelson found that out with a chip that flew too strong at the cup at the 16th hole and led to bogey. Fowler missed the 14th green badly to the right and made bogey. Stenson missed a 3-foot par putt on the same hole and never caught up. McIlroy didn't flinch and wound up winning by one shot over Mickelson.

Why was it so satisfying?

"It means that I know that I can do it. I know that I can come from behind," McIlroy said. "Phil Mickelson, the second-best player in this era, to be able to beat him on the back nine Sunday, it's great to have in the memory bank and great to have going forward."

McIlroy posted a photo on Twitter in the early hours of Monday showing him holding the claret jug and the Wanamaker Trophy from the last two majors. "The summer of 2014 is one I'll never forget!!" he wrote.

Maybe it will get even better. Whatever happens, McIlroy should now be equipped for just about anything.

AUTO RACING/SPORTS BRIEFS

Deadly race car collision

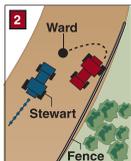
Questions remain about how Tony Stewart's sprint car came to strike and kill another driver in a race Saturday and what prompted the other driver to stand on the track

Here is a look at what transpired on Saturday.

Canandaigua Motorsports Park



1 On the 14th lap, Ward and Stewart were racing side-by-side for position. When they exited the turn, the rear tire of Stewart's car appeared to clip the front tire of Ward's car. Ward spun into the fence blowing out a tire.



2 Ward got out of his car, walked toward the center of the track, gestured at Stewart as he came back around, and was caught underneath Stewart's rear tire.

Sprint car racing at a glance

Sprint cars are a form of speedway racing. Twenty 850hp, V8-powered open wheel cars race on dirt at over 100 mph. The massive wings produce downforce, which allows the cars to take corners at very high speeds.



Many of today's NASCAR stars started out by racing Sprint cars.

- 1** Wings
- 2** Chassis
- 3** Tires
- 4** Cockpit
- 5** Engine
- 6** Torsion bars

SOURCES: AP, World Sprintcar Guide

Eric Good/MCT

Ward crafted reputation as wheelman before death

BY DAN GELSTON AND DAVID KLEPPER
The Associated Press

KPORT LEYDEN, N.Y. — Even if Kevin Ward Jr. was crafting a reputation as a wheelman, the kind of driver who could race vehicles on any track without fear.

He'd sit up on his seat, floor it, and zip his way through a maze of cars straight toward the front of the pack.

For points. For fun. Often for little money.

"He would go to tracks that a lot of other drivers wouldn't go to," Chuck Miller, the race director and president for the Empire Super Sprints circuit, said Monday. "If we had co-sanctioned races with other organizations where we really weren't giving points or anything, but it was a deal where you wanted to see how you stacked up against the other competition, the Wards were willing to go and do that and see where they were at."

Ward began racing go-karts in 1998 at age 4. In 2010, he moved on to sprint cars and was Empire Super Sprint racing rookie of the year in 2012. The 20-year-old raced mostly on dirt tracks a few hours from his home in Port Leyden, a village of 700 in New York.

Ward was killed Saturday night about 140 miles away at a clay track in Canandaigua. NASCAR champion Tony Stewart was the big name in the field, racing with the young guys while he was in the area for a Sprint Cup race at Watkins Glen the next day.

Ward and Stewart tangled and Ward hit the wall. Ward then walked on the track apparently to confront Stewart and was struck when Stewart's vehicle seemed to fishtail.

On Monday, several cars were



EMPIRE SUPER SPRINTS, INC./AP

Sprint car driver Kevin Ward Jr. was killed Saturday at the Canandaigua Motorsports Park in Central Square, N.Y., when the car being driven by Tony Stewart struck the 20-year-old who had climbed from his crashed car and was on the darkened dirt track to confront Stewart following a bump with him a lap earlier.

parked in front of the Ward home in Port Leyden. A police officer stood across the street, politely asking reporters not to park on the road's shoulder.

Helen McHale has lived across the street for 30 years and remembers hearing the noise when Ward raced go-carts. Kevin Ward Sr. runs a successful painting business and locals thought his son might make it big in the racing world.

"His dad goes to every race," she said. "He's a good kid, polite, big smile, and they're a good family."

Stewart and Ward shared a love of racing sprint cars: high-powered, winged cars built for running on short oval or circular dirt

and paved tracks. Drivers have to hit the gas to turn, not necessarily use the wheel.

After the crash, Ward was standing to the right of Stewart's familiar No. 14 car on the dimly lit track. According to video and witness accounts, Ward was struck by the right rear tire and hurtled through the air.

Ontario County Sheriff Philip Povero said Ward's autopsy was completed Monday and found Ward died of blunt force trauma.

Stewart said Sunday "there aren't words" to describe his sadness over Ward's death. He hasn't announced whether he'll drive in this weekend's NASCAR race at Michigan International Speedway, but his short track "hobby" is on hold. He won't appear Saturday in a race in Warsaw, Ind.

Driver Matt Tanner, a friend of Ward's, was a few cars back from the collision. Ward had been a good friend for years, a member of a small, tight group of drivers who traveled to various races around New York state, parts of Canada and Pennsylvania.

"I saw his car sitting there and when the ambulances pulled up I realized what was happening," said Tanner, who hasn't watched the video and doesn't plan to.

"Your emotions are running so high Stewart's known for being competitive, and Kevin was just as competitive," Tanner said.

So competitive that he'd take his life into his own hands by stepping into traffic in a black firesuit on a dark track?

No one will know for sure why Ward made the treacherous decision to stalk Stewart.

"I don't want Kevin Ward to be remembered as a victim in a Tony Stewart accident," driver Cory Sparks said. "He definitely had a future in this sport. He was a very aggressive driver. He was one hell of a wheelman."

Briefly

Cowboys CB Scandrick gets 4-game ban for substance abuse

The Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. — Dallas Cowboys cornerback Orlando Scandrick is getting a four-game suspension for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

Team owner Jerry Jones told reporters at a media party in Malibu, Calif., on Monday night that Scandrick tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs and lost an appeal on the ban.

Scandrick will be eligible to return Oct. 5 against Houston.

In other NFL news: ■ Brady Quinn signed with the Miami Dolphins on Tuesday and is expected to compete with Matt Moore for the backup job behind Ryan Tannehill. ■ The Cleveland Browns have

signed unrestricted free-agent quarterback Rex Grossman and waived quarterback Tyler Thigpen. The 33-year-old Grossman is entering his 12th year in the NFL and joins a team where Brian Hoyer and Johnny Manziel are vying for the starting job.

■ The New York Jets signed defensive back LeQuan Lewis and waived linebacker Tim Puffer on Tuesday. Cornerback De Milliner is nursing a sprained ankle, Dexter McDougle is out for the year with a torn knee ligament and Dimitri Patterson has been hampered by leg and foot ailments.

■ Jacksonville Jaguars running back Tony Gerhart has returned to practice after missing nearly two weeks with a hip flexor injury.

NBA fines Raptors for Drake's pitch to Durant

NEW YORK — The NBA has fined the Toronto Raptors for tampering after rapper Drake let Kevin Durant know he was wanted in Canada.

Drake is a "global ambassador" for Canada's NBA club. He was performing at a concert that Durant attended last week in Toronto when he shouted to the crowd to show the league's MVP what it would be like if he came to play for the Raptors, causing a loud ovation.

An NBA spokesman confirmed the fine, which ESPN.com reported Monday was for \$25,000. Durant can become a free agent

after the 2015-16 season. He has spent his entire seven-year career with the Oklahoma City Thunder franchise.

In other NBA news: ■ Brooklyn Nets rookie Markel Brown has a broken bone in his right hand that will keep him from basketball activities for four to six weeks.

Oregon T Johnstone out for year with torn ACL

EUGENE, Ore. — Oregon starting left tackle Tyler Johnstone has re-torn the ACL in his right knee and won't play this season, according to a published report.

In other college football news: ■ Duke linebacker Kelby

Brown will have an MRI after injuring his left knee during pre-season camp.

Kings to retire Blake's No. 4 jersey on Jan. 17

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Kings will retire Hall of Fame defenseman Rob Blake's No. 4 jersey on Jan. 17.

Blake played 14 of his 20 NHL seasons with the Kings, including six seasons as their captain, and is now the club's assistant general manager.

The seven-time All-Star won the franchise's first Norris Trophy in 1996 and became the club leader in games played, goals and assists by a defenseman.

SPORTS



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Positive test sidelines Cowboys'
Scandrick | **Sports briefs, Page 31**

NFL

Back in action

Some of league's biggest stars aiming for bigger comebacks

By **DENNIS WASZAK JR.**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK

Broken bones. Torn ligaments. Subpar performances.

They all combined to sideline some of the NFL's biggest stars a year ago, a lost season for several players who spent most of the year in the trainers' room.

Rob Gronkowski, Percy Harvin, Julio Jones, Robert Griffin III and Sam Bradford know all about that. So do guys such as Arian Foster, Doug Martin, Jeremy Maclin, Reggie Wayne, Malcom Floyd, Brian Cushing and Geno Atkins.

"I was rehabbing every day and it was miserable," said Gronkowski, the New England tight end who is still working his way back from a vicious two-year stretch in which he has had four forearm surgeries, a back injury and torn knee ligaments.

"Hopefully that never happens again," Gronkowski added. "And I don't wish anything on anyone like I had these past few years."

Harvin got a jumpstart on his comeback in February on the NFL's biggest stage. After missing most of the regular season and the playoffs with a surgically repaired hip and then a concussion, Harvin returned the opening kickoff of the second half of the Super Bowl for a touchdown in helping Seattle beat Denver.

"I don't know if any football player can say they're fully healthy playing football, but this is the best I've felt in a long, long time," Harvin said as the Seahawks opened training camp.

Philadelphia's Maclin tore a knee ligament in training camp last year and missed the entire season.

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New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski is coming off multiple surgeries over the past two seasons.

AP photo

