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A view of the field hospital at Tacloban Airport, Tacloban, Philippines.

ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

Tentative agreement reached on VA reform

Lawmakers seek \$17B in emergency funding for veterans health care

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers in the House and Senate unveiled an agreement Monday to reform the troubled Department of Veterans Affairs by pumping \$17 billion in emergency funding into expanded access to outside care as well as more doctors, nurses and health care facilities.

The deal was struck during weekend talks between Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., House Veterans Affairs Committee chairman, and his counterpart in the upper chamber, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., after their clash over spending last week threatened to scuttle a month-long effort by Congress to reach a compromise on VA reform.

Veterans have clamored for a speedy overhaul of the department since April, when widespread treatment delays and staff falsification of scheduling records first surfaced in the nationwide system of hospitals and clinics.

SEE VA ON PAGE 2

THEN & NOW

TACLOBAN

Philippine city making progress 8 months after historic typhoon » Page 4



Repairs at Tacloban's airport, all but destroyed in Typhoon Haiyan, are almost complete.

SETH ROSSON/Stars and Stripes



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You wouldn't expect to catch it even if you're sitting next to someone. If they're well enough to get on the plane, they should be well enough not to infect you, probably."

— Ben Neuman, a virologist at the University of Reading in England, discussing the risk of transmission of the Ebola virus to those who flew with an infected Liberian man to Nigeria

See story on Page 9

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COMING SOON

Fitness

Instructor emphasizes workout for health, not looks



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MILITARY

Commander: F-15s needed in Europe to respond to Russia

By ADAM L. MATHIS Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — This is not the time to talk about reducing the number of F-15 fighter jets in Europe, given the situation in Ukraine, according to the new commander of the 48th Fighter Wing, which flies the only F15s in Europe.

"What an exciting time to be in Europe and an exciting time to be at NATO, what an exciting time to be around this wing," said Col. Robert Novotny, an F-15 pilot, who has been on the job for less than a week. "You know we have a lot of challenges, we really do."

U.S. fiscal austerity is squeezing military budgets, and Department of Defense officials are questioning whether Lakenheath should be closed or lose some of its fighter jet inventory, Gen. Philip Breedlove, commander of U.S. European Command and supreme allied commander Europe,

revealed in June that the Defense Department was considering pulling some F-15s from Europe, and Lakenheath is the only F-15 base on the continent.

Novotny agreed reducing the F-15C Eagle fleet makes fiscal sense, although he considers it to be "the world's greatest" fighter at air-to-air combat.

The problem is that the F-15C is a single-purpose plane, which could be replaced by the multi-role F-22 or F-15E, he said. The F-15, which entered Air Force service in 1979, is also starting to find itself outclassed. When Novotny was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in 2012, he flew the F-15 against the new F-22 Raptor and the older plane was unable to match the new one.

"For me, if I'm acting the bad guy, I can't outrun them," Novotny told IEEE Spectrum, a leading technology, engineering and science magazine. The Raptor is "shooting me from a lot farther

away, and I usually never see them."

But Novotny said he agreed with the assessment of Defense Department officials who have advocated the F-15C remain at Lakenheath while the situation in Ukraine remains unstable.

"I think retiring the F-15Cs here at Lakenheath was a prudent decision in light of the fiscal constraints before Russia annexed Crimea and before there was a raging battle on the eastern front of Ukraine," he said.

Lakenheath aircraft have been part of NATO air policing missions over the Baltic states recently. The missions have been ramped up as part of an alliance effort to reassure allies in the east, who fear Russia's intentions toward states once under Soviet domination. Novotny said the base is deploying airmen to Bulgaria next month to train with local forces as part of that continuing effort.



ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

Col. Robert Novotny, assumed command of RAF Lakenheath, England, and the 48th Fighter Wing, last weekend.

However, Novotny described it as a routine training event to work with regional partners.

"I don't think it necessarily signals a response per se" to Russia's intervention in Ukraine. "I think this is the way we do business," Novotny said. "We enjoy working with our partners. I believe our partners enjoy working with us."

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VA: Reform bill might have a tougher time in the Senate

FROM FRONT PAGE

But the Miller-Sanders proposal released Monday still faces major hurdles — it will be approved by a conference committee overseeing the VA reform and passed by floor votes in the House and Senate.

The reform effort will languish through Congress' August recess unless lawmakers can wrangle the needed support and votes by the end of this week.

"This bill makes certain that we address the immediate crisis of veterans being forced onto long wait lines for VA care," Sanders said during a press conference Monday on Capitol Hill.

Of the \$17 billion in emergency spending proposed by Miller and Sanders, \$10 billion could be used to offer private health care access to veterans who have spent months waiting for treatment in the 1,700 nationwide hospitals and clinics run by the VA. The

veterans would be able to request appointments at any facilities that participate in Medicare.

Veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility would also be able to seek treatment from those private providers.

An additional \$5 billion would go to hiring more medical staff and signing 27 leases on new hospitals and clinics in 18 states and Puerto Rico, which Sanders has claimed will be key to relieving the system bottlenecks causing treatment delays.

The most recent statistics published show more than 636,000 veterans have been waiting more than a month to get care from the VA, which runs the largest integrated health care system in the U.S. The system handles about 200,000 vets each day.

Under the Miller-Sanders proposal, the VA secretary would get wider powers to fire senior executives involved in records man-

ipulation and other wrongdoing, targeting what Miller and other lawmakers see as a bureaucratic culture of corruption.

"When the secretary makes the decision to fire someone, they will immediately be fired," Miller said during the press conference.

The senior executives would then have a week to appeal and a review board would be required to make a decision within 21 days, he said. All federal executives are now hired and fired according to an appeals process that can take months to resolve.

Investigations by the VA inspector general found that staff at 70 percent of hospitals around the country gamed the department's computerized scheduling system to mask the long wait times. The falsified records made it appear employees were meeting a VA goal of seeing most veterans within two weeks of an appointment request, which was used as the basis for giving out bonuses

and other monetary awards, according to the IG.

Miller said the deal could pass its first hurdle Monday afternoon with an approval vote by the conference committee.

It must then face tea party conservatives in the House who oppose big-ticket spending, but Miller said he and colleagues hope to win passage.

"We will be able to sell it through our conference," he said. "We will probably not get a unanimous vote."

The legislation could face a tough challenge in the Senate.

The chamber has been gridlocked by partisan rancor between Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Sen. Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky, the GOP minority leader, that has often blocked votes on important issues.

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MIDEAST

Afghan vote audit stalls amid daily bickering

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — More than three months after voters first went to the polls, Afghans began the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr without a new president as a slow-going electoral audit continues to be dogged by controversy.

International and Afghan observers ended their work ahead of the holiday amid mixed news about the unprecedented process that officials hope will resolve the hotly disputed election, which was marked by accusations of widespread fraud.

Petty disagreements between workers as well as more substantial arguments between the two candidates' campaigns have made for a grinding start-and-stop process.

Supporters of former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, who garnered the most votes in the first round but came in second during the runoff, have continued to complain that the process is biased in favor of Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, the former finance minister who emerged as the front-runner, according to preliminary results. On Saturday, Abdullah's supporters staged a walkout, urging the auditors to suspend work for the third time in 10 days.

It is due to start up again on Thursday, after the holiday, when U.S. officials hope the two sides will have calmed down and have had time to resolve their disagreements over procedure.

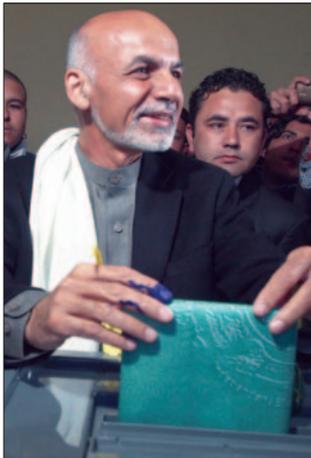
The political wrangling comes amid a Taliban offensive that has seen escalating combat and brazen insurgent attacks such as the raid this month against Kabul's heavily defended international airport. The guerrillas have vowed to intensify attacks on Afghan and international troops ahead of the drawdown of the U.S.-led foreign combat forces at the end of this year.

Over the weekend, United Nations officials who are helping oversee the audit of all 8 million ballots said the two camps finally agreed to criteria for recounting and invalidating ballots, two weeks after Secretary of State John Kerry brokered the deal that led to the effort to re-examine the votes.

"Both candidates indicated to the United Nations that they had their own respective concerns with the proposal, but were prepared to proceed with it as a good faith effort based on international best practice to bridge their positions," the world body said in a statement. "Dr. Abdullah and Dr. Ghani expressed their shared view that it was in the national interest to finalize the regulatory framework of the audit."

Western officials led by Kerry, have said they see a successful election as key to ensuring the stability of Afghanistan and that the international military and civil effort since 2001 has not been in vain.

President Barack Obama spent the better part of an hour on the phone with each candidate Fri-



HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

Left: Afghan presidential hopeful Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai casts his vote in Kabul, Afghanistan, on April 5, the day millions of Afghans went to the polls to elect a new president. Right: Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah displays his ink-stained finger at the polling station.



JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

day, warning them to tone down their rhetoric and to stick to the agreements made when Kerry visited Kabul earlier in July. He also urged them to work out the details of a plan that would allow whoever loses the election to play a part in the new government.

Officials at the U.S. Embassy said that political deal will be

key to making sure that the outcome of the audit is respected. Still, there is no end in sight as overworked observers sift through millions of ballots.

The audit so far has been marred by the fact that much of the process is being made up as it goes along, leading to many disagreements and a sometimes ar-

bitrarily feel to the decisions being made, said several international observers who asked not to be named because of the sensitive political situation.

That's an assessment also shared by some high-ranking American officials, who privately acknowledged that the process began in a rushed manner, while

resources and personnel were still being gathered and while some of the procedures remained undefined. They said they hope some of those problems can be mitigated during the Eid break.

Meanwhile, both campaigns continue to wage a public battle that western officials fear could inflame the situation and lead to another breakdown and, in a

worse-case scenario, violence.

“The two teams agreed earlier that the U.N. would play role of judge during audit. But (Ashraf) Ghani's team wants the election team to do this role. If we trusted the election commission, we would not be having this audit.”

Faizal Rahman Orya
member of Abdullah Abdullah's team

Faizal Rahman Orya, a member of Abdullah's team, said the U.N. needs to be the final arbiter of the auditing process, not the Independent Election Commission, which Abdullah has accused of working in Ghani's favor.

"The two teams agreed earlier that the U.N. would play role of judge during audit," he told *Stripes*.

"But Ghani's team wants the election team to do this role. If we trusted the election commission, we would not be having this audit. The U.N. should make the final decision."

Ghani's spokesman, Faizullah Zaki, denied that his candidate was causing any delays and said they were waiting on the IEC to finalize the technical aspects of the audit process.

U.S. Embassy officials said they are urging each side to focus on the big-picture problems, such as boxes that may contain hundreds of fraudulent ballots, rather than arguing over one or two suspicious votes.

"If what Abdullah says happened has happened, then there will be boxes with millions of invalid votes," said one senior official, speaking on background. "Our experts say the audit process should be able to spot that."

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Karzai says Afghans need new president

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's outgoing President Hamid Karzai said on Monday that his nation needs a new president and urged for a speedy conclusion to the ballot audit that will determine his successor.

In a speech marking the start of the Muslim Eid al-Fitr holiday that follows the fasting month of Ramadan, Karzai said Afghans "want to have an outcome to the election as soon as possible so that this country can have its president soon."

After fraud was alleged by both presidential contenders, all 8 million ballots cast in the second round of the Afghan presidential vote in June are being audited under national and international supervision.

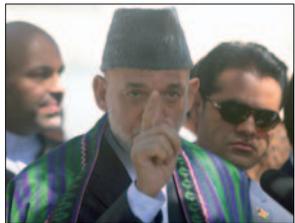
The process is key to ensuring a peaceful transfer of power ahead of the withdrawal of most foreign troops by the end of the year.

In his speech, Karzai also expressed sympathy with the suffering of Gaza Palestinians in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and said the Afghans "remember the people of Palestine in Gaza who get killed brutally, night and day."

Karzai also reiterated calls on the Taliban to join the country's peace process and stop killing other Afghans.

"I call upon the leaders of the Taliban to stop fighting Afghans," Karzai said. "I call on them to live in peace and dignity with their brothers and sisters."

The peace process has been virtually on hold until after the new president is chosen. The two



MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai, center, talks to the media after Eid al-Fitr prayer at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday.

candidates — former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai — are awaiting the results of the audit.

In his own message ahead of the Eid holiday, the reclusive leader of the Taliban, Mullah Mohammad Omar, dealt a blow to the peace prospects last Friday, warning that a bilateral security pact allowing thousands of U.S. troops to stay in Afghanistan beyond the end of this year will mean more fighting.

PACIFIC



ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Left: Typhoon Haiyan destroyed the area surrounding Tacloban Airport in the Philippines, leaving thousands homeless. Right: Repairs at the airport are now almost complete.

Philippine city of Tacloban bouncing back 8 months after devastating Typhoon Haiyan

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

TACLOBAN, Philippines — Typhoon Haiyan nearly wiped Tacloban off the face of the earth eight months ago, leaving behind an apocalyptic wasteland of bodies, collapsed buildings and blocked streets.

Today, the city of 240,000 people in the central Philippines is bouncing back. Streets are full of traffic, children are back in school and tradesmen are hard at work patching up damaged buildings and infrastructure.

Thousands of people who evacuated on U.S. military planes after the storm have scraped up the funds to go home and help rebuild shattered communities.

“Those who saw Tacloban during its worst days are amazed by the transformation.”

“What’s inspired me was people’s attitude and resiliency — their pride in the way they coped — accepting what happened and moving forward,” said Joyce Johnson, of U.S. health service aid group Project Hope.

The biggest change has been the progress in construction, she said.

The airport was a hub for Operation Damayan — a U.S. relief effort involving 13,400 military personnel, 66 aircraft and 12 naval vessels — that delivered vast quantities of emergency supplies and evacuated more than 21,000 survivors of 100 mph winds and a storm surge of rushing seawater that reached the second floor of some buildings.

The flight line — where helicopters buzzed and thousands of frightened people held back by armed Filipino troops threatened to rush evacuation flights — is clear now. The main terminal, reduced to a skeleton by high winds, has a new roof and walls. A building that served as a makeshift operating theater has new windows and fresh paint.

Some of the recovery has been fostered by aid organizations like Johnson’s group and Habitat for Humanity. U.S. forces re-

turned to medical and engineering work earlier this month.

But Tacloban’s people deserve credit for much of the rebound.

Residents’ efforts

In the city center, roads that were blocked by fallen trees and debris are filled with jeepneys and pedicabs. Piles of timber and corrugated iron fill vacant lots, but rebuilding is going on throughout the town. In most streets, workers carry construction materials and the sound of machinery and rapping hammers echoes through neighborhoods.

Tacloban Mayor Alfred Romualdez said officials have recovered 2,800 bodies from city streets, although 800 are still missing. But much work remains: The typhoon damaged 40,000 homes in the city and left 25,000 families homeless, he said.

The city aims to build 14,000 new homes with the help of aid organizations, but 1,000 people are living in tents and an additional 2,000 are in temporary shelters, he said.

As all this construction is going on, the city’s vibrant commercial life has returned. Commuters from outlying villages swell Tacloban’s population to 800,000 during the day, Romualdez said, taking advantage of the trading hub’s 45 banks and numerous small businesses.

‘Like a war’

For downtown businessman Neil Quintero, whose family owns the Rosvenil Hotel, things are returning to normal after months of struggle.

During the typhoon — the most powerful storm to hit the islands — the Quintero family survived a massive storm surge on their home’s second floor, but the aftermath “was like a war,” he said.

“I rode my bicycle downtown and saw looters and people running,” Quintero recalled. “I had to hit a looter with a shovel to keep [him] away from the hotel. There

To see more photos and a video of the progress being made in Tacloban, go to: stripes.com/go/typhoonrecovery



were no army and no police at that time.”

It took the family a month to clear dirt and debris from its property, but overall the disaster has benefited them because the hotel was booked solid for months by people whose homes had been destroyed, Quintero said.

Life in Tacloban is back on track, despite a lack of adequate public transport, he said.

Plenty of western aid workers are still active in the city.

Melissa Schilling, of Project Hope Art in San Francisco, spent part of July painting blackboards and handing out chalk to children living in the Alvarez Tent City. The tent city, which was home to 50 families, closed this month, but some residents are still living inside classrooms at the school next door.

Schilling, who worked in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake, said the efforts in Tacloban are better organized.

“Eight months later, this entire tent city got dismantled, but three years after the Haiti earthquake, there are still people living in tents,” she said.

Busy schools, hospital

Kids in school uniforms are a common sight on the streets; the city hosts several universities and numerous elementary and high schools.

Julia Lucas Lim, principle of Virginia R. Pedere Elementary School in Tacloban, said 5,000 kids are back in class in her district.

Almost all of the schools in the city were damaged by the storm, and one still doesn’t have a roof, but Lucas Lim said her school reopened in June and that students are doing extra work to catch up on missed classes.

School administrator Charlemagne Escobarte said aid has helped get the schools open, but there’s no government help for teachers trying to repair their own homes.

“It’s very difficult for us to return to our usual situation,” she said. “Even our own houses haven’t been repaired yet. We still have tarpsaulin on our roof. We can’t afford materials.”

Teachers can’t afford to pay builders to do repairs. Demand has pushed the cost of a laborer up from about \$8 a day to \$13.75 a day, she said.

Hospitals and health clinics in the city, which provide care to 4 million people from the eastern part of the Philippines, are also back online. In the days after the disaster, some continued to function, despite extensive damage, but they were backed up by tent hospitals and medical ships brought to the area by foreign militaries.

Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center’s acting chief, Aileen Espina, said her hospital was badly damaged. Bodies of people swept out of homes in surrounding neighborhoods were found in the hospital grounds, but all of the patients and staff inside the building survived the storm, she said.

In the days and weeks after the disaster, Filipino troops cleared the facility of mud and debris as doctors, with the help of foreign medical staff, treated storm injuries, infections, breathing problems and high blood pressure likely caused by stress, she said.

“During the disaster response, foreign medical teams were a big help to survivors,” she said. “They really augmented our manpower and supplies since everything was washed away.”

Today, the hospital is busy because other medical facilities in Tacloban remain out of commission. There are plans to move from the 98-year-old facility to a new building in the near future, Espina said.

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ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Left: Typhoon victims ride through the rubble in November 2013, nearly two weeks after the disaster struck their city. Right: Traffic clogs the downtown streets eight months later. Business is booming for tradesmen helping to repair storm-damaged homes and buildings.

MILITARY

2 Gs in Italy under house arrest for alleged rape

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Two Vicenza-based soldiers accused of beating, robbing and raping a pregnant woman earlier this month are being detained in the barracks under house arrest pending proceedings in an Italian court.

One of the men already stands accused of raping a 17-year-old girl last year in a case still winding its way through Italian courts. That soldier was not held in detention after the first rape in November because the judge said he was not likely to commit a similar offense, according to the Vicenza Giornale newspaper.

Both soldiers, with the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, were placed under "house arrest" this month in their barracks

at Caserma Del Din by order of an Italian magistrate, said Maj. Mike Weisman, a unit spokesman.

"The two soldiers are under continuous military supervision and are subject to inspections at any time from Italian law enforcement or judicial authorities," Weisman said.

According to accounts in the Italian press, the two men raped, beat and robbed a 24-year-old Romanian woman, who allegedly sometimes worked as a prostitute, after first agreeing to pay her for sex. According to the accounts, she was six months pregnant.

The two allegedly hit her in the face and stomach and left her naked in a forested area. She reported the license plate number of the car the men were driving to police, according to Italian media. She is recover-

ing at San Bartolo hospital in Vicenza.

U.S. military officials have not confirmed any details in the case, just as the Army has for months declined to provide any information in the November rape case, referring all questions to Italian authorities. The U.S. military also refused to identify the soldiers, as they have not yet been charged.

But Italian suspects are not "charged" until after a preliminary investigation that can take months or even years. The soldier accused of two rapes has still not been "charged" in the November case, Weisman said.

"The two American soldiers will be tried in Italy. There will be no waiver of jurisdiction," Justice Minister Andrea Orlando said on Twitter Friday.

Weisman said Italy also has formally declined to cede jurisdiction in the November

case.

The status of forces agreement between the U.S. and NATO nations generally provides for host nations to prosecute U.S. troops for crimes committed in their countries, if they choose, with the exception of crimes committed while in the course of duty and those committed against other U.S. troops.

But the SOFA also provides for the U.S. military to request that criminal jurisdiction be ceded by a host nation and given to military authorities, who routinely request jurisdiction.

Experts say it is usually granted in lesser crimes. But in felonies such as rape and murder, host nations usually decline to cede jurisdiction, experts say.

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US participating in Pacific Angel typhoon response mission in Tonga

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Service members are routinely called on to deploy to Spartan trouble spots where the locals may try to kill them and entertainment consists of pumping iron or watching DVDs in a plywood shed.

But not every deployment is inherently dangerous or uncomfortable.

This month, 83 U.S. personnel are working on the idyllic South Sea Kingdom of Tonga. Also known as the "Friendly Islands," Tonga is a place where gentle waves lap at white-sand beaches, Polynesian princesses dance for guests and giant, tattooed warriors drink kava long into the night.

The servicemembers are participating in Pacific Angel, a mission that involves 175 military personnel from New Zealand, Australia, France, the Philippines, Indonesia and Tonga. They're helping prepare local officials to respond to a typhoon, tsunami or other disaster.

Lt. Col. Brendan Noone, who was leading a group of military doctors working out of a schoolhouse this week, said the medical personnel were gaining the sort of experience they would need for disaster response.

"Our guys learn how to work out of their comfort zone, seeing things they don't normally see back home," he said of the medical staff, which saw more than 1,200 patients over a two-day period this week.

U.S. personnel have also been helping renovate schools, but the mission isn't all hard work. During down time, they've been relaxing at the beach, snorkeling and learning about the effects of kava.

The mild sedative is a muddying concoction that is widely consumed throughout Polynesia. Prepared in a large wooden bowl, it's an acquired taste — some people say it tastes a bit like wet cement. It mostly affects the body while leaving the mind fairly clear, allowing villagers to sit for hours in

conversation while drinking it.

Hawaii Air National Guard Col. Earl Almeida, Pacific Angel mission commander in Tonga, said kava is popular in his home state, where it's known as "awa."

It's the first time that Pacific Angel, which has sent personnel to the South Pacific for the past seven years, has traveled to Tonga, he said.

The peaceful and relatively isolated monarchy has a very small military — just 600 personnel — known as "His Majesty's Armed Forces," according to Maj. Maama Misi, who is leading the Tongan soldiers participating in Pacific Angel.

Tongan soldiers saw action on the Allies' side in the Solomon Islands during World War II. Tonga also sent personnel to both Iraq and Afghanistan, Misi said.

According to Almeida, a goal of Pacific Angel is building relationships with the Tongans.

That's something that other nations are also keen to do. China has its own program of engage-



RACHELLE COLEMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Tongan Pvt. Benny Kalonihea, left, and U.S. Airman 1st Class Devin Laird replace doors at Neiafu Government Primary School in Neiafu, Vava'u, Tonga.

ment, investment and aid to Tonga. The communist giant, which is trying to build a "blue-water navy" capable of sustained

operations far from home ports, has made port calls to Tonga in recent years, Misi said.

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Changes to TA program aim 'to improve military student success'

BY JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — If servicemembers in the military's Tuition Assistance program don't successfully complete their courses, they will be required to repay the cost once new Defense Department policies go into effect. The program will also no longer cover any fees except tuition.

According to a DOD memorandum dated July 7, troops will have to reimburse TA if they fail to get a "C" grade or higher in an undergraduate course or a "B" grade or higher in a graduate-level course, or if they fail pass/fail courses.

There are also minimums for cumulative grade point averages: 2.0 after 15 semester hours (or the equivalent) in undergraduate studies, and 3.0 after six semester hours (or the equivalent) in gradu-

ate studies.

In an emailed statement to Stars and Stripes, DOD spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen said the stricter minimum grade requirements for troops using TA funds is "part of an overarching strategy to improve military student success." "Tuition dollars and military student time is both limited and valuable, so we want them to maintain focus, and understanding expectation is critical," he said.

Under the new rules, the TA program will now cover only tuition, as submitted by the educational institution. Participating troops are responsible for out-of-pocket payment for "any charge not directly related to course instruction," including:

- room and board;
- equipment and supplies;
- textbooks, reference or instructional materials, e-books,

CDs and DVDs;

- parking and transportation;
- admissions and registration fees;
- and fines.

"The removal of fees (from TA program coverage) directly supports the President's Executive Order requirement to provide meaningful information to students about the financial cost ... at an institution so military students can make informed decisions on where to attend school," Christensen said.

The reductions in fee coverage come at a time when DOD is facing budget constraints. It is unclear exactly how much money DOD will save by instituting the new rules, which apply to courses that begin Sept. 5 or later.

Some servicemembers could be exempted from the new grade requirements, depending on their circumstances.

"Military students are not traditional nor are they full-time students given their military duties and responsibilities. Therefore, on a case-by-case basis, waivers to the Department's policy may be authorized for service members ... with extenuating circumstances, such as deployments, changed duty schedules and other circumstances outside their control," Christensen said.

The TA program is a voluntary benefit program that servicemembers can use to continue their education after they join the military. It pays up to 100 percent of tuition costs for eligible troops who enroll at approved institutions.

Each service manages its own TA program, but the programs generally provide up to \$250 per semester credit hour for troops pursuing associate's, bachelor's or master's degrees. They also pay tuition for classes that service-

members take in pursuit of a high school diploma or GED.

In fiscal 2013, about 278,000 servicemembers were enrolled in post-secondary courses, earning nearly 54,000 college degrees and more than 1,900 certifications and licenses, according to DOD.

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PACIFIC



PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

Above: A sailor takes a "selfie" photograph with Navy Secretary Ray Mabus after an all-hands meeting at Fleet Theater on Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday. Below: Mabus conducts an interview with American Forces Network at the theater.

Eased liberty limits mullied for Japan GIs

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — U.S. military leaders are considering relaxing liberty restrictions in Japan, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said Monday.

The policy requires servicemembers E-5 and below to have a "liberty buddy" with them if they go out between 7 p.m. and midnight and to be back on base or in a private residence or hotel room between midnight and 5 a.m. It is unpopular but has been credited with cutting off-base incidents.

The curfew was imposed after the October 2012 rape of an Okinawan woman by two visiting U.S. sailors.

Asked by a sailor how he would feel about the measure if he were a sailor, Mabus told an all-hands call at Yokosuka Naval Base that the curfew was imposed for the right reasons.

"The leadership here is working on seeing if we can relax that to some extent," he said.

"The people who can get it relaxed are sitting in this room right now," he said, noting that continued good behavior would be the key.

"I'm proud of the way sailors and Marines have responded to the last two years," he said. "I think it is the view of the leadership here that there should be some sort of relaxation."

Japan is a great duty station and sailors are eager to see the country and participate in local culture, he said.

"I understand it is hard in terms of when you are outside the wire," Mabus said, cautioning: "One bad act affects everybody."

Sailors listening to Mabus didn't sound hopeful that things would change soon.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Deandre Westmoreland, 22, said he's heard since last year that the curfew was under review. He doesn't think it's effective in cutting bad behavior.

"I feel like there are more incidents now, with the curfew in effect, than before it was imposed," he said.

Petty Officer 3rd Class David Law, 21, said he preferred the liberty rules that were in place when he arrived at Yokosuka, before the curfew was imposed.

Back then, young sailors could gain more liberty by earning qualifications at work, he said.

Sailors with white cards had to be in by midnight, those with green cards could stay out until 2 a.m. and those with blue cards could stay out all night, he said.

"It made you feel responsible," Law said, adding that he worked hard and qualified for a blue card only to see the system abolished when the curfew was instituted shortly after that.

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Mabus: 'Pivot' seen in ship plans

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy will send new stealth destroyers, littoral combat ships and an amphibious ready group to the Pacific, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said Monday, reiterating the U.S. commitment to its military "pivot" to the region.

"The rebalance to the Pacific is real," Mabus told sailors gathered at Yokosuka's Fleet Theater for an all-hands call.

President Barack Obama announced plans for the Pacific pivot as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were winding down. But conflicts in Syria, Ukraine and Gaza have since heated up, raising questions about the best use of forces amid dwindling military budgets. Obama reassured Pacific allies of his support during a recent visit against a backdrop of Chinese expansionism and North Korean threats.

"We are sending our newest and most modern platforms to the Pacific," Mabus said. "What the Navy and Marine Corps give is presence ... to reassure allies, deter potential adversaries and be ready for whatever comes over the horizon."

The first of three new stealth destroyers — the \$3.3 billion USS Zumwalt — is under construction, and two more ships in its class will follow, Mabus told the sailors. "We don't know exactly where we are going to put them," he said, but added: "at least some of these will come to the Pacific."



Mabus arrived in Japan fresh from a visit last Thursday to the USS Independence, the second littoral combat ship to be commissioned, while it participated in exercises off Hawaii.

The ships, designed to operate in shallow waters, can be configured for a range of missions such as mine clearing, anti-submarine warfare and surface combat.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in February that the Navy would not contract for any more than 32 littoral combat ships, 20 fewer than the Navy planned for. The LCS has come under criticism in recent years for its lighter armament and lower survivability standard than some of the larger ships currently in the fleet.

However, Mabus told the sailors: "The LCS is going to be one of the most crucial ships we have."

Four of the ships will deploy to Singapore, he said, noting that the ships can travel "way faster than 40 knots" and access more places in the Pacific than other vessels.

The \$800 million cost for each of the first experimental versions of the LCS has dropped drastically to about \$350 million each, he said.

"We can afford these and we can buy a lot of them," he said.

The next LCS to deploy to Singapore will be the USS Fort Worth, which is the same type of vessel as the Freedom. It's expected to deploy later this year for 16 months after it completes operational tests, The Associated Press reported.

Mabus said also that the Navy will send an additional amphibious ready group to the Pacific.

There is already one such group in Japan comprised of thousands of sailors and Marines based on Okinawa and at Sasebo Naval Base.

The Navy also plans to add 1,000 more sailors to its ranks of cyberwarriors in the next few years, he said.

"It is the warfare of the future," Mabus said, noting that Russia has conducted cyberattacks in Georgia, Crimea and Ukraine.

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China works to prevent delays to flights during war games

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China has set up alternative flight routes to minimize delays related to military exercises along its southeastern coast that start Tuesday, the Defense Ministry said.

The exercises are part of regularly scheduled drills aiming to improve the

military's ability to operate under simulated war conditions, the ministry said in a statement Monday.

It gave no details about where exactly the drills would take place, but said officers had been dispatched to regional airports to facilitate the shifting of civilian flights to alternative routes to reduce the impact

on travelers. It said the military had also designated corridors of protected airspace to reduce disruptions.

China is the world's second-largest air travel market, but most of its airspace is controlled by the military. Defense-related restrictions are the main reason behind the country having the world's worst re-

cord for on-time departures.

China's Civil Aviation Administration warned last week that flights could be disrupted across eastern China through mid-August. More than 100 flights at Shanghai's two international airports were delayed or canceled on July 14, prompting rumors that war games were the reason.

NATION

1 dead, several injured by Calif. lightning

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A 20-year-old man died after lightning from a rare summer thunderstorm jolted a Southern California beach, injuring or rattling more than a dozen people, authorities said.

Witnesses said they saw a glare of light and heard a tremendous boom as lightning struck the water off Venice Beach around 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Swimmers cooling off on a muggy day, volleyball players on the sand and people strolling the famous boardwalk were jolted.

A 20-year-old man was taken from the beach to a hospital where he died, Los Angeles County coroner's Lt. Larry Dietz said. His identity was not immediately released.

Confirmation of the cause of death was pending an autopsy, Dietz said he also can't confirm whether the man was a swimmer

who was pulled from the water and given CPR.

Twelve other people, including a 15-year-old boy, were examined after they felt the effects of the lightning, ranging from anxiety to a man who needed cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Not all were necessarily actually struck by lightning, said Katherine Main, a city fire spokeswoman.

Nine were taken to hospitals, where one was listed in critical condition. Most of the others were mainly shaken up and expected to recover, fire officials said.

Lightning also struck a 57-year-old man on a golf course on Santa Catalina Island. He's in stable condition.

Stuart Acher said he was shocked while playing volleyball on the beach.

"We went about our game and then all of a sudden, there was a big flash of light and a boom, and

it felt like someone punched me in the back of my head," he told KABC-TV. "It went down my whole side of my right body, and my calves sort of locked up, and I fell over. And I looked up and everything else was, you know, falling over."

Paramedics examined Acher but he felt all right and went back to playing volleyball.

Steve Christensen said his friend had been body-surfing and was sitting on the beach when lifeguards began searching for a missing swimmer.

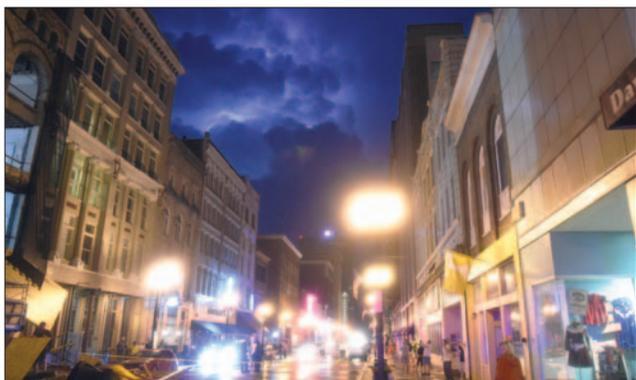
"He (Christensen's friend) went out to the water to find him and walked right into him," Christensen said. "He was face down on the bottom."

Christensen said his friend pulled the man, who appeared to be in his 20s, from the water, and lifeguards began CPR before taking him away.



STEVE CHRISTENSEN/AP

Lifeguards assist a person who was in the water and apparently struck by lightning Sunday in Los Angeles.



SAUL YOUNG, THE KNOXVILLE (TENN.) NEWS SENTINEL/AP

Lightning strikes behind a bank of storm clouds in Knoxville, Tenn., on Sunday.

Storms hit states in eastern US

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Powerful storms that raked across several states in the eastern U.S. on Sunday destroyed at least 10 homes in Tennessee, but there were no immediate reports of any deaths or injuries, authorities said.

Spokeswoman Gina Breeding with the office of emergency management in east Tennessee's Claiborne County told The Associated Press that officers searched ruined homes Sunday night in one particularly hard-hit community, Speedwell. She said the county sheriff and his wife safely took refuge in their basement when storms hit and destroyed their home.

"He and his wife are both OK," Breeding said by telephone, adding that law enforcement officials had set up a command post for operations and a school was opened

for anyone left homeless.

Later Sunday night, she said a second shelter in the area had been opened but that authorities still had no reports of injuries or deaths.

Breeding said the county emergency management and homeland security office hadn't confirmed whether the destruction was the result of a possible tornado, but noted there were high winds, lightning and heavy thunderstorms in the region Sunday.

"There are power lines and trees down," she said by phone. She said 10 homes and a grocery store were destroyed in the Speedwell area.

Dean Flenner of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency in Nashville, said the storms roughed up at least seven of the 36 counties in east Tennessee, dropping trees, power lines and even large hail in spots.

Elsewhere, news photographs showed a covered walkway that had collapsed in the Tennessee City of Knoxville, and there were reports of damage near Kingston and other communities.

"I do know Tennessee has deployed some Tennessee Highway Patrol strike teams in some counties in east Tennessee, closing off roads," Flenner told the AP by phone. "You don't want people wandering into areas with damage."

Terry Getz, a National Weather Service meteorologist in the Morristown, Tenn., office, said forecasters would be trying to determine whether a tornado might have been responsible for the damage near Speedwell, though nothing had been confirmed yet. He said radar showed strong indications of a tornado and that the weather service would survey the area Monday.

N. Calif. wildfires threatening homes

The Associated Press

PLYMOUTH, Calif. — Wildfires burning near Northern California vineyards and in the Yosemite National Park area were threatening hundreds of homes even as crews worked to contain them.

A blaze in the Sierra Nevada foothills east of Sacramento was 50 percent surrounded by firefighters as of late Sunday after burning 13 homes and 38 outbuildings. It has scorched roughly 6 square miles of rugged grassland and timber near wine-growing regions.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said in a statement that about 515 homes remained threatened and under evacuation orders.

The fire started Friday when a vehicle drove over vegetation that is tinder-dry from years of drought.

About 1,900 firefighters, aided by aircraft including a DC-10 fire tanker, were working to control the blaze.

The fire destroyed homes, cabins and a collection of 13 antique cars that a man was restoring in the town of Plymouth, the Sacramento Bee reported.

In Central California, a fire near the popular tourist destination of Yosemite National Park had spread to about 4 square miles and continued to threaten the small town of Foresta, where it destroyed one home.

The park itself, home to such sites as Half Dome mountain, Yosemite Meadows, a grove of Giant Sequoia trees and other wonders, remained open throughout Sunday and authorities said none of its treasures was threatened.

Wildfires also burned in other Western states, including Washington, Oregon, Colorado and Utah.



RANDY PENCH, THE SACRAMENTO (CALIF.) BEE/AP

Bill Cleek, left, embraces Terry Cromwell outside a structure which housed antique cars destroyed by a fire at Rancho Cicada Retreat on Sunday in Plymouth, Calif.

NATION

Police investigate shooting deaths of Maine family of 5

By DAVID SHARP
The Associated Press

SACO, Maine — Neighbors struggled to make sense of the shooting deaths of a family of five in which the father was known to many throughout their apartment complex as a friendly maintenance worker.

Three children were among the victims discovered Sunday in their home along with a long-bared gun believed to have been used in their deaths. A detective said murder-suicide was one of the scenarios being investigated. "I still don't want to believe it," said Heather Nason, who used to babysit the three children. "I love those children like they were my own."

Neighbors identified the family as Joel Smith, a maintenance worker in the apartment complex, along with his wife, Heather, and their three children, ages 12, 7 and 4.

The grisly discovery was made after a family friend contacted an apartment complex worker to express concerns about the family's well-being, investigators said. The worker entered the apartment and discovered one body, then immediately called police.

Police said the bodies were found in three bedrooms. Police described the firearm found in the apartment as a long gun. Shell castings also were recovered.

Neighbors described the father

as well known in the apartment complex along the Saco River because he was one of the maintenance workers.

They described a friendly family with a 4-year-old girl and boys aged 7 and 12 who were part of a group of neighborhood kids who constantly rode their bikes or played tag and other games in a community that residents described as safe. The parents were in their 30s.

"The kids were great. They were just happy kids, and it's just a huge shock," said Nason, who with her husband Dellas placed flowers outside the apartment on Sunday. As for the parents, "they'd take the shirt off their back for you," she said.

Police believe the shootings happened at about 11:30 p.m. Saturday, based on reports from neighbors about loud noises coming from the apartment.

The neighbors didn't contact police.

State and local police, along with the medical examiner, were at the scene Sunday night. Officials said autopsies were scheduled for Monday.

The droves of children who usually circle the complex were all inside Sunday evening, replaced by concerned adults watching the police.

Down the street, Vin Savage watched with a stunned look on his face. "This is a tragedy," he said. "It's mind-boggling."



SARASOTA COUNTY (FLA.) SHERIFF'S OFFICE/AP

Beach stroll turns deadly

Emergency personnel respond to an accident involving a small plane in Caspersen Beach in Venice, Fla. Authorities said a father was killed and his daughter seriously injured while taking a walk when a small plane crash-landed after losing power along Florida's Gulf Coast near Venice Beach. Neither the plane's pilot or passenger were injured, police said.

Judge strikes DC handgun ban

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge struck down the U.S. capital's ban on carrying guns outside of a person's home, concluding it violates constitutional rights.

The ruling from U.S. District Judge Frederick J. Scullin is the latest in a protracted fight over gun laws in Washington. In 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a landmark decision striking down the city's 32-year-old ban on handguns. Since then, the city has rewritten its laws, lawsuits have been filed and even Congress has waded into the fight.

In a decision made public Saturday, Scullin concluded that the Second Amendment gives people the right to carry a gun outside

the home for self-defense. He cited two U.S. Supreme Court cases as important to his ruling — the 2008 opinion striking down the District of Columbia's ban and a 2010 ruling involving Chicago's handgun ban. The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right "to keep and bear Arms."

"There is no longer any basis on which this court can conclude that the District of Columbia's total ban on the public carrying of ready-to-use handguns outside the home is constitutional under any level of scrutiny," wrote Scullin, who was appointed by President George H.W. Bush and is a retired Army colonel.

A city official said Sunday that

officials would ask for a stay and were weighing an appeal.

The city rewrote its rules after the 2008 Supreme Court decision. Residents were required to register their guns and keep them in their homes. Gun owners also have to take a safety class, be photographed and fingerprinted, and re-register their weapons every three years. Those requirements were challenged in court but upheld by a federal judge in May.

The lawsuit before Scullin was filed in 2009 by the Washington state-based Second Amendment Foundation and three District of Columbia residents and a New Hampshire resident who said they wanted to carry guns for protection.

No arrest powers for members of the Texas Guard – yet

By MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE
Los Angeles Times

When Texas Gov. Rick Perry called on President Obama last month to deploy federal troops to help quell the surge of immigrants crossing the border illegally, he urged the president to give the troops "arrest powers to support Border Patrol operations."

Last week, Perry announced that he was activating 1,000 National Guard troops in response to the border crisis in the Rio

Grande Valley.

Because the troops were deployed by Perry and not federal officials, experts said Perry can allow them to make arrests and apprehensions. But will he?

The governor's office says no, at this point, but some local officials in the border region and immigrant advocates expressed concern about the possibility.

Tim Dunn, a sociology professor at Salisbury University, who spent years teaching in Texas and has written several books

about militarization of the border, noted that in 1997 in West Texas, a Marine assigned to work with Border Patrol shot and killed a Latino high school student herding his family's goats.

"The military, including the National Guard, have been reluctant to take a direct enforcement role" on the border, Dunn said, especially making arrests, "because they're not trained to handle that kind of situation."

Guard officials have been tight-lipped about when and where

they're training and deploying, and even they acknowledge that has led to speculation about their mission.

"There's a lot of confusion out there about what our role is," said Lt. Col. Joanne MacGregor, a spokeswoman for the National Guard based in Texas.

MacGregor said she wanted to dispel any misperception that troops will arrive at the border en masse, "locked and loaded like in Iraq."

"People have this idea of con-

voyons driving down in mass formations, and that's not how it will likely work," she said.

She said troops have not been asked to detain suspects so far, but will be prepared to alert other agencies if they witness illegal activity.

"Our role is to look for the criminal element," MacGregor said, adding that, "We are going to have a very thoughtful, thorough training plan so that everyone knows these are your boundaries."



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WORLD

2 US citizens get Ebola as epidemic spreads

SIMON BENNETT AND YINKA IBUKUN
Bloomberg News

LAGOS, Nigeria—Two U.S. citizens are being treated for Ebola in Liberia and the country shut some border crossings, as the worst outbreak of the disease on record spread to Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and largest economy.

Kent Brantly, the medical director of the Samaritan's Purse Ebola center in the Liberian capital Monrovia, is in isolation and receiving treatment, the Boone, N.C.-based charity said in a statement on its website Sunday. Nancy Writebol, who was helping the team treating patients at the center, has also tested positive for Ebola, the group said.

Ebola, which has no known cure or treatment and leads to death in as many as 90 percent of those who get it, has killed more than 660 people in four West African na-

tions since March, the worst outbreak since the virus was first reported in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1976. Nigeria reported its first case last week after an infected Liberian man landed in Lagos, Africa's largest city.

"He could have gone anywhere" on a flight, said Ben Neuman, a virologist at the University of Reading in Britain. "As this epidemic goes on, this sort of thing is eventually probably going to happen."

Still, the chances of the virus spreading by air travel outside of Africa is small, Neuman said.

"If you look at the numbers, there are probably about 300 people who are currently infected with Ebola virus, and most of those would be too ill to sit up or walk," Neuman said by phone Monday. "So the odds are small, but it is something that needs to be watched."

Only one case has ever been reported of an Ebola infection being exported out-

side Africa, according to David Heymann, a professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In 1994, in a 34-year-old Swiss woman was infected in Ivory Coast while performing an autopsy on a dead chimpanzee. She was repatriated to Switzerland and recovered without infecting anyone else.

Liberia shut all minor border crossings to contain the virus, AllAfrica.com reported, citing a government statement.

The country plans to establish testing centers at major entry points that remain open, including Roberts International Airport, James Spriggs Payne Airport, Foya Crossing, Bo Waterside Crossing, and Ganta Crossing, according to AllAfrica.com.

Nigeria's Arik Air is suspending flights to Monrovia in Liberia and the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown because of the Ebola outbreak, ThisDay newspaper reported, citing a statement from the airline.

Ebola virus is transmitted to people through the blood and other secretions of wild animals, such as chimpanzees, gorillas and bats, according to the World Health Organization.

Humans spread it to each other through contact with bodily fluids of infected people. It causes fever, diarrhea and vomiting, and can lead to bleeding from the eyes, ears and nose.

The virus isn't transmitted through the air, and can only be transmitted in sweat by patients who are in the late stages of the disease, so there's no risk the passenger in Nigeria infected other travelers on the plane unless he vomited or they somehow came into contact with his bodily secretions, Neuman said.

"You wouldn't expect to catch it even if you're sitting next to someone," he said. "If they're well enough to get on the plane, they should be well enough not to infect you, probably."



An Egyptian child plays as Muslims pray Eid al-Fitr prayers, marking the end of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan at Al-Azhar mosque in Cairo on Monday.

Muslims mark end of Ramadan

The Associated Press
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Millions of Muslims across the world celebrated the first day of the Eid al-Fitr holiday Monday, which marks the end of the monthlong fast of Ramadan. The three-day-long Eid al-Fitr holiday is a time to celebrate the completion of Ramadan, a month devoted to worship and repentance during which observing Muslims abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset every day.

But the moon was dark for millions of people affected by the Syrian civil war, the Gaza war and the militant advance in Iraq. Many were just too busy trying to survive to observe the holiday.

Beyond the Middle East, the few remaining Muslims in the Central African Republic's capital city ventured out to a mosque under the watchful guard of armed peacekeepers. Others like Aminata Baryn stayed at home,

still too fearful to venture out for fear of attack from Christian militias who drove thousands of Muslims from the capital this year.

In Gaza City, streets were largely deserted, as residents huddled indoors for safety. "All we think about is to stay safe," said Fedaa Abul Atta, a nurse and mother of six. The family was grieving the death of her nephew, killed in an airstrike.

The mood was equally subdued for the more than 1 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

"Eid has no flavor here at all," said Umm Ammar, who fled her country three years ago with her family and now lives in an encampment in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley. "We want to celebrate Eid in Syria, in our homes."

Despite frequent car bombings in Iraq's capital of Baghdad, shoppers packed malls and stores ahead of Eid in anticipation of family gatherings.

Muslims in Indonesia, across the Middle East, parts of Africa, Europe and the U.S. marked Eid on Monday. Millions in Morocco, India and most of Pakistan are still fasting and will likely celebrate Eid on Tuesday. That's because Muslims use a lunar calendar and a moon-sighting methodology that can lead to the month of fasting ending on different days.

In West Africa, Eid prayers were dedicated to the victims of two tragedies in the region — the crash of an Air Algerie plane that killed 118 people and an ongoing Ebola outbreak that has killed more than 670.

Eid celebrations were less extravagant than usual in Malaysia as it tried to come to terms with loss of two Malaysian Airlines flights. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and his Cabinet canceled their celebrations to mourn for the victims.

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WORLD

10 killed in attack on park in Gaza

By Karin Laub and Tia Goldenberg
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — A strike on a Gaza park killed 10 people Monday, nine of them children, as Israeli and Palestinian authorities traded blame over the attack and fighting in the Gaza war raged on despite a major Muslim holiday.

A truce between the sides remained elusive as diplomats sought to end the fighting at the start of the Eid al-Fitr holiday, marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

In Israel, meanwhile, the military said Gaza militants intruded into the country through a tunnel under the Gaza-Israel border and opened fire on soldiers. Israeli media reported that five of the militants were apparently killed in a firefight, but the military did not immediately elaborate.

The Gaza park attack happened as children played on a swing in the Shati refugee camp on the edge of Gaza City, said Ayman Sahabani, head of the emergency room at nearby Shifa Hospital. Sahabani said nine of the 10 killed at the park were children under the age of 12 and that 46 people were



KHALIL HAMRA/AP

Palestinians check a crater caused by an Israeli strike at a cemetery in the Jabalya refugee camp, northern Gaza Strip. Several other attacks took place between the warring sides on Monday, and a truce remains elusive.

wounded.

The strike on the park occurred a few minutes after the hospital's outpatient clinic was hit, leaving several people wounded. Camera crews were prevented from filming the area of impact at Shifa.

Gaza's police operations room, Civil Defense and Sahabani blamed the attacks on Israeli airstrikes.

LI. Col. Peter Lerner, an Israeli army spokesman, denied Israel was involved. "This incident was carried out by Gaza terrorists whose rockets fell short and hit the Shifa Hospital and the Beach (Shati) camp," he said.

Gaza's Interior Ministry spokesman Eyad al-Bozum said he believes that shrapnel found in dead bodies and in the wounded is evidence of Israel's role in the incident.

"The occupation claims that

Palestinian rockets hit the hospital and the park," he said. "This is an attempt to cover their ugly crime against children and civilians, and because of their fear of scandal and international legal prosecution."

In a text message, Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri called the strike on the park a "massacre." The Hamas military wing said that in response to the strike, it fired three rockets toward the Israeli port city of Ashdod.

Israel's military on Monday also ordered residents of parts of northern Gaza to evacuate toward central Gaza City, a sign that Israel may be broadening its assault. The areas warned included Shijaiyah, which saw one of the bloodiest days of fighting last week.

Earlier, Israeli jets struck several sites in Gaza, and rockets con-

tinued to fall on Israel, the Israeli military said, disrupting a relative lull.

Israel says it launched its war on Hamas July 8 to halt incessant rocket fire from Gaza. It later broadened the assault into a ground offensive meant to tackle Hamas' network of tunnels, which Israel sees as a major threat.

The United Nations on Monday called for an "immediate" ceasefire in the fighting that has already killed over 1,040 Palestinians, 43 Israeli soldiers and three civilians on the Israeli side.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon, according to a statement from his office, in which he voiced his dismay with the U.N. announcement. "It does not include a response to Israel's security needs and the demilitarization of the Gaza Strip," he said.

New US help arrives for Syrian rebels

By Liz Sly
The Washington Post

GAZIANTEP, Turkey — A U.S.-backed effort to arm the moderate Syrian opposition is finally ramping up along the Turkey-Syria border, but it may come too late to save the rebels from defeats on two fronts — President Bashar Assad's government and by the extremists seeking to carve out an Islamic state.

Spurred by concerns that the al-Qaida-inspired radicals will continue their relentless march across Iraq and Syria, the United States and its allies have begun accelerating the supply of arms and ammunition to a small number of vetted rebel groups in northern Syria, according to dip-

lomatics and rebels who have been receiving the deliveries.

"Yet even as the fresh support arrives, challenges are mounting for the embattled moderates, who have been pushed out of eastern Syria by extremists, are being encircled in Aleppo by the government and are seeing their ranks eroded by defeats, desertions and infighting."

The outlook for the revolt against Assad's rule is now bleaker than at any time in the past three years, rebel commanders say, diminishing the chances that the opposition will be able to present any meaningful challenge to the regime or even to serve as a counterweight to Islamist radicals, as U.S. policymakers are hoping.

"This is a very critical moment for the Free Syrian Army," said Hussam al-Marie, a spokesman for the rebels in the north. "We are fighting on two fronts, and the situation is growing more urgent every day."

The latest effort to supply the rebels is part of a covert support program, authorized by President Barack Obama last year under which the United States participates alongside Persian Gulf Arab and European allies in sending deliveries of arms, ammunition and money across the Turkish and Jordanian borders. A separate, openly acknowledged program to provide nonlethal aid such as vehicles, food and medicine has also gathered pace in recent months, U.S. officials say.

The covert program, which got off to a sputtering start because of concerns about the rising influence of Islamists, is separate from a far bigger \$500 million proposal to train and equip the rebels requested by Obama last month. That package, framed as part of a broader counterterrorism strategy, marks the first major offer of American support to the rebels.

But the proposal is subject to congressional approval and, if implemented, would be unlikely to get under way until at least the middle of 2015.

By then, there may be few if any moderate rebels left to aid.

Oil depot ablaze amid clashes in Libya capital

By Maamoun Youssef
The Associated Press

CAIRO — A fire at the oil depot for the airport in Libya's capital raged out of control Monday after being struck in the crossfire of warring militias battling for control of the airfield, the latest violence to plague the country as foreigners flee the chaos.

Libya's interim government said in a statement that the fire could trigger a "humanitarian and environmental disaster" in Tripoli, appealing for "international help" to extinguish the inferno. It did not say what it specifically needed.

The blaze had spread to a second depot by Monday afternoon, the government said. It was unclear if there were any injuries from the fire.

The government appeals to all concerned parties to immediately stop firing as the situation has become very grave," the government said.

Libyan television stations called on residents to evacuate areas within a 3-mile radius of the airport. Many Libyan families scrambled to leave. Black smoke



MOHAMMED BEN KHALIFA/AP

Black smoke billows as a fire at the oil depot for the airport rages out of control after being struck in the crossfire of warring militias battling for control of the airfield in Tripoli, Libya, on Monday.

billowed over the Tripoli skyline.

Mohammed al-Harari, the spokesman for the Libyan National Oil Company, said the oil depot had a capacity of 1.6 million liters gallons and that if the fire was not brought under control, it could ig-

nite liquid gas nearby.

Fire trucks from several nearby cities and towns have been deployed to help extinguish the blaze, said a Libyan security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not au-

thorized to talk to journalists.

The battle for control of the airport began two weeks ago when Islamist-led militias — mostly from the western city of Misrata — launched a surprise assault on the airport, which has been under the control of a rival militia from the western mountain town of Zintan. It wasn't clear whose fire started the oil depot blaze.

The Health Ministry said Sunday that the fighting has so far killed 79 people and wounded over 400.

More than three years after dictator Moammar Gadhafi's downfall, Libya is witnessing one of the worst bouts of violence amid growing lawlessness in the country. Libya's interim government, which relies on militias filled with rebels who battled Gadhafi's forces for security, now finds itself unable to rein them in.

The fighting has sparked many to flee the country. German embassy staff in Tripoli were evacuated on Monday. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Sawwan Chebli said in Berlin. They will be sent back "as soon as the security situation allows," she said.

UKRAINE UNREST

Few swayed in Ukraine by downing of airliner

By MICHAEL BIRNBAUM
The Washington Post

HRABOVE, Ukraine — More than a week after Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down in Ukraine, near the Russian border, the catastrophe appears to have done little to change the dynamics on the ground.

Many local residents support the Ukrainian-based pro-Russia separatists who U.S. and Ukrainian officials say launched the missile that downed the plane. And though most locals do care what happened to the civilian airliner, some simply don't believe that the rebels did it.

"It was shot down by Ukrainians. There were two planes behind [the Malaysia flight]. That's what I heard," said Oleg, 50, a resident of the village of Hrabove, where the bulk of the plane's remains came to rest. Oleg, who would not give his last name because he feared for his safety, watched over the debris site one recent day with an 80-year-old rifle.

"This is our help from Russia," he said, shaking the rifle — not advanced anti-aircraft missile systems capable of downing jets at high altitudes.

Nor has the downing of the Boeing 777-200 slowed the pace of combat. Battles continue to rage around rebel-controlled territory in eastern Ukraine. Residential neighborhoods in Donetsk have been shelled from the direction of Ukrainian military positions. U.S. officials said Friday that some 15,000 Russian troops were massing at the border with Ukraine, a fresh sign that Russian President Vladimir Putin, rather than stepping away from his support of the separatists, may be doubling down.

The rebels themselves, who have denied involvement in the attack on the passenger jet, say that they have no intention of backing down anytime soon.

In Torez, a city 13 miles from the border with Russia, Ukrainian intelligence officials say they have evidence that a Buk anti-aircraft missile launcher was being driven down the road several hours before Flight 17 was hit, and they published a photo that they say backs their account.

At the Pitstop Market gas station, where the clearest photo of a Buk launcher appears to have been taken, gas station attendants agree that it looks as if the photograph was shot from their parking lot. But they are far from certain that the image is evidence, as Ukrainian intelligence says it is, that rebels shot down the passenger jet.

"The only thing you can trust is what you see with your own eyes," said Sergei Senchenko, an attendant who was working at the station on July 17 but says he did not see the launcher, although he says he was told about it.

"As far as I know, it was just passing by," Senchenko said.



Smoke from shelling rises over a residential apartment house in Shakhtarsk, in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine on Monday.

PHOTOS BY DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

As fighting picks up, police team again forced from site

By MSTYSLAV CHERNOV
AND PETER LEONARD
The Associated Press

SHAKHTARSK, Ukraine — Heavy fighting raged Monday around the Malaysia Airlines debris field, once again preventing an international police team charged with securing the site from even getting there.

Government troops have stepped up their push to win back territory from pro-Russian separatists in fighting that the United Nations said Monday has killed more than 1,100 people in four months.

The international delegation of Australian and Dutch police and forensic experts stopped Monday in Shakhtarsk, a town about 20 miles from the fields where the Boeing 777 was brought down. Sounds of regular shelling could be heard from Shakhtarsk and residents were seen fleeing town in cars. Associated Press reporters saw a high-rise apartment block in Shakhtarsk being hit by at least two rounds of artillery.

The mandate of the police team is to secure the currently rebel-controlled area so that comprehensive investigations can begin and any remaining bodies can be recovered.

The second cancelled site visit over two days has strained tempers among the observation team.

"There is a job to be done," said Alexander Hug, the deputy head of a monitoring team from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. "We are sick and tired of being interrupted by gunfights, despite the fact that we have agreed that there should be a cease-fire."

Andriy Lyysenko, spokesman for Ukraine's national security council, denied that Ukrainian forces are fighting within the 12-



Refugees flee Shakhtarsk as self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic policemen patrol the road on Monday.

mile radius around the crash site where President Petro Poroshenko last week said there would be a cease-fire to allow investigators to work.

"Ukrainian forces are not conducting combat operations in the area where the plane crashed," he told a briefing. "There is a ban on this." He said, however, that rebels were shelling the area.

The Defense Ministry says Ukrainian troops have entered Shakhtarsk, although checkpoints blocking the western entrance into town remain under rebel control. It also said fighting was taking place in Snizhne, which lies directly south of the crash site,

and in other towns in the east.

Rebels in Donetsk said on Twitter that fighting was ongoing in the village of Rozsypne, where some of the wreckage still lays strewn and uncollected.

A rebel military leader, Igor Ivanov, told Russian state news agency RIA-Novosti that the village had fallen into government hands, but that information could not immediately be confirmed.

Ukraine has accused rebels of tampering with evidence at the plane crash site and trying to cover up their alleged role in bringing the Malaysia Airlines jet down with an anti-aircraft missile, killing 298 people.

US: Russia has fired rockets into Ukraine

By DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Stepping up pressure on Moscow, the U.S. has released satellite images it says show that rockets have been fired from Russia into neighboring eastern Ukraine and that heavy artillery for separatists has crossed the border.

The images, which came from the U.S. Director of National Intelligence and could not be independently verified by The Associated Press, show blast marks where rockets were launched and craters where they landed. Officials said Sunday the images show heavy weapons fired between July 21 and July 26 — after the July 17 downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

The memo is part of the Obama administration's push to hold Russia accountable for its activities in neighboring Ukraine, and the release could help to persuade the United States' European allies to apply harsher sanctions on Russia.

The timing of the memo also could be aimed at dissuading Russia from further military posturing. The Pentagon said just days ago that the movement of Russian heavy-caliber artillery systems across its border into Ukraine was "imminent."

Moscow has angrily denied allegations of Russia's involvement in eastern Ukraine. Russia's foreign ministry over the weekend accused the U.S. of conducting "an unrelenting campaign of slander against Russia, ever more relying on open lies."

Secretary of State John Kerry spoke by phone Sunday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, urging him to stop the flow of heavy weapons and rocket and artillery fire from Russia into Ukraine, said a State Department official. Kerry did not accept Lavrov's denial that heavy weapons from Russia were contributing to the conflict, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of the call.

The U.S. images claim to show multiple rocket launchers fired at Ukrainian forces from within Ukraine and from Russian soil. One image shows dozens of craters around a Ukrainian military unit and one detects what can travel more than seven miles.

The memo said one image provides evidence that Russian forces have "fired across the border at Ukrainian military forces and that Russian-backed separatists have used heavy artillery provided by Russia in attacks on Ukrainian forces from inside Ukraine."

Another satellite image depicted in the memo shows "ground scarring at multiple rocket launch sites on the Russian side of the border oriented in the direction of Ukraine" military units within Ukraine."

Alexander Hug
deputy head, Organization for Security and
Cooperation in Europe monitoring team

“There is a job to be done. We are sick and tired of being interrupted by gunfights, despite the fact that we have agreed that there should be a cease-fire.”

WORLD



Members of the Kenyan and Tanzanian jump-rope teams relax after practice at a sports stadium in Nairobi, Kenya.

Kenyan kids jump around the world

Competitive jump-rope team gives children the opportunity to travel

By KATE LINTHICUM
Los Angeles Times

NAIROBI, Kenya — When she first picked up a jump-rope, at age 11, Beryl Aieno was just another young girl in Kibera, Nairobi's notorious slum. Her horizon didn't extend far past its mud-slick streets and jagged patchwork of rusting rooftops.

Since then, she has appeared in her sky blue uniform in Kenyan newspapers and on television. A couple of years ago, she traveled to the coastal city of Mombasa, where for the first time she saw the sea.

"At school, we had been learning about the Indian Ocean, and had been told that it was salty," she says. She discovered for herself that it actually is.

Now the 14-year-old is standing on the tarmac at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, looking up at the colossal wing of a 747. "Wow," she says, sucking in her breath. "It's so big."

Soon, the jet will take Beryl and several of her closest friends from Kibera to the other side of the world.

All because of a jump-rope.

On a vacant volleyball court with views of Nairobi's modest skyline, Beryl and the rest of Kenya's first — and only — competitive jump-rope team picked up pink-and-white checkered ropes and started skipping.

First they each jumped as fast as they could, counting their hops, for 30 seconds. Then they did it again, this time for three minutes. As one group practiced double Dutch, taking turns in the middle, Beryl worked on her own through a series of tricks,

doing splits, push-ups and even a cartwheel, all while bringing the rope over her head in swift, steady intervals. The only sounds were heavy breathing and plastic whipping the concrete.

The team's coach, a skinny 23-year-old from Kibera named Innocent Nyangori, brought his jumpers to the stadium so they could get used to skipping on the kind of hard surface they would be jumping on in Florida.

In Kibera, they skip on dirt.

Competitive jumping was introduced to Kibera four years ago by an American named Michael Fry.

Fry, who has competed in six world championships and won several gold medals, is what might be called a jump-rope missionary. He believes strongly in its health benefits as well as its potential for social change. The sport is an especially good fit for people who don't have much money, he says, teaching focus and teamwork with no more overhead than a piece of rope.

In 2009, while in his last year at Oberlin College, Fry founded an organization called One World One Rope, aimed at spreading the sport across East Africa. A year later, he was introduced to Carolina for Kibera, a nonprofit that runs youth sports programs and provides other services in the slum. He asked Nyangori, who was working for the organization



PHOTOS BY KATE LINTHICUM, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Beryl Aieno jumps while teammate Christine Juma turns the ropes.

as a soccer referee, to be his first coach.

Together they toured schools. Fry, now 28, would begin each session with a demonstration of technique and then hand ropes to the kids and let them try. He took note of those who were fastest and most enthusiastic and asked them to practice with him after school.

Beryl was one of the first to say yes.

Tall for her age, with high cheekbones and hair shaved close to her head, Beryl has a quiet, intense demeanor. When she speaks, it is softly and thoughtfully.

She had never jumped rope before and was awe-struck by Fry's fancy footwork, especially his execution of a trick called the "mamba," where the jumper lets one side of the rope go, spins it, and then catches it, jumping all the while. She asked Fry whether he could teach her. After a month of practicing, she was doing the mamba herself.

At first, her family didn't understand why she was spending her afternoons jumping up and down with an American.

"I was not interested," says her mother, Grace Anyango. "She did not have time to help me cook or



Aieno practices her freestyle routine.

wash dishes." Anyango, 40, who moved to Kibera from rural Kenya in 1990, braids hair at a beauty salon. She has a rocky relationship with her husband, a mechanic who has children with another woman and isn't always around. "She did not have time to help me cook or

two siblings in a rented one-room shack. Until a few years ago, they had no electricity.

Traveling with the jumping team has opened her eyes to other ways of living. Someday, she says, "I would love to live in a much better place, and maybe get my parents out."

Beryl lives with her mother and

Frazz



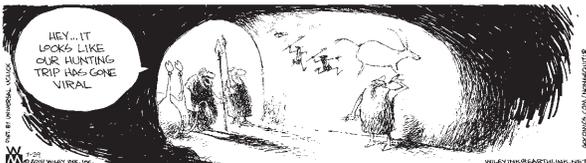
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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51											53

ACROSS

- 1 Venus de Milo's lacker
- 5 Calendar abbr.
- 9 Altar affirmative
- 12 Swag
- 13 Western state
- 14 60 sec.
- 15 Without delay
- 17 PC alternative
- 18 Decays
- 19 Mistreatment
- 21 Tibia's sites
- 24 Dazzle
- 25 Limping
- 26 Supplying the food
- 30 Intent
- 31 Grinding tooth
- 32 Red wine choice, for short
- 33 Breadwinner
- 35 Singer Horne
- 36 React to yeast
- 37 Bathroom fixture
- 38 Microsoft co-founder
- 40 Mop
- 42 "... man - mouse?"
- 43 Ellis Island figure
- 48 Lubricate
- 49 Midday
- 50 Vicinity
- 51 - de deux

ACROSS

- 52 Disco-era adjective
- 53 Stitched

DOWN

- 1 "The Greatest"
- 2 CD -
- 3 Mid-May honoree
- 4 "Tristram Shandy" writer
- 5 Be apropos to
- 6 Greek vowels
- 7 Butter serving
- 8 Movie house
- 9 Vaccinated
- 10 "Buenos -"
- 11 Formerly
- 16 Two, in Tijuana
- 20 Plant prickly
- 21 High-five, really
- 22 Baldy's lack
- 23 Greek and Roman gods
- 24 Celebrity
- 26 "The Da Vinci -"
- 27 Hearty brew
- 28 Ennead
- 29 Summertime pest
- 31 Coste
- 34 Lumpy
- 35 Many autumn births
- 37 Suitcase
- 38 Sticky gunk
- 39 Met melody
- 40 Urban blight
- 41 No teetotaler
- 44 Cattle call?
- 45 Exist
- 46 Fresh
- 47 Bronze

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	E	S	A	F	U	M	C	R	O	P
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B	U	L	G	A	R	I	A	A	S	A
M	A	N	N	A	J	U	D	O		
S	H	O	T	M	A	L	A	R	I	A
G	A	L	C	A	M	P	Y	G	I	N
B	A	V	A	R	T	A	S	O	D	A
E	R	I	E	S	T	R	A	P		
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E	L	I	S	A	V	E	M	A	R	I
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7-29

CRYPTOQUIP

VIDFI PMMKJ VMCYK TQ
 EONMONDELQ PMN KMAELDMA
 LM WMCN FICNFI KDJLNDLF?

MAYW LIQ OENDJI-ETYQJ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ACCLAIMED NOVEL THAT DEPICTS A SIZABLE FAMILY OF VERY NOISY BIRDS: "CHEEPERS BY THE DOZEN."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals O

FACES

A lot love

From wire reports

If Hollywood seemed a tad quieter than normal last weekend, there was a good reason: Like Batman to the Bat Signal, film and television creators, executives and stars were drawn en masse to downtown San Diego in an effort to drum up excitement for their upcoming wares at the annual Comic-Con International pop-culture expo.

The unveiling of the first footage from the highly anticipated superhero mash-up "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" and an extended early glimpse at "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" may have sent the biggest reverberations through the four-day film, television, video-game and comic-book fest. But there was plenty of other news to stir the excitement of the 130,000 or so convention-goers who descended upon the San Diego Convention Center, many decked out in costume, to watch exclusive trailers and first-look footage and engage with stars and filmmakers during panel sessions.

Kicking off the convention with a surprise, director Christopher Nolan and actor Matthew McConaughey made their first Comic-Con appearances July 24 to offer an extended look at Paramount's upcoming sci-fi epic "Interstellar," which opens Nov. 7.

"We thought it would be fun to come down and see what the fuss was all about," Nolan said. "It's an incredible event. There's nothing like it anywhere in the world."

They weren't the only A-listers visiting the convention for the first time: Benedict Cumberbatch of "Sherlock" fame was on hand to promote DreamWorks Animation's "The Penguins of Madagascar" and the final installment in the "Hobbit" trilogy. Meanwhile, Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe, who turned 25 last week, was treated to a round of "Happy Birthday" from the 6,500 fans gathered in the convention's cavernous Hall H, where he talked up his upcoming horror drama "Horns."

"Though Warner Bros. 'Batman v Superman' just started shooting and isn't due in theaters until May 2016, director Zack Snyder showed a brief trailer from the film and brought stars Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill and Gal Gadot — who play Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman, respectively — onto the stage. None of the actors said a word, but given the uproarious applause they received and the amount of press that generated, it seems they didn't need to. Reinforcing the importance of imagery, Snyder also tweeted the first photo of Gadot in costume as Wonder Woman, which instantly went viral.

Warner Bros. stoked the furnace of buzz for director George Miller's long-awaited reboot of his "Mad Max" franchise as well. Early



Actors Robert Downey Jr., left, and Josh Brodin promote "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" during the Marvel panel at Comic-Con International on July 26 in San Diego.

footage from the post-apocalyptic "Mad Max: Fury Road" earned widespread raves after it was screened Saturday morning.

Comedy Central host and self-professed J.R.R. Tolkien nerd Stephen Colbert moderated the panel for December's final installment in the "Hobbit" trilogy, subtitled

"The Battle of the Five Armies" — in costume, no less. Cast members from the "Hobbit" and "Lord of the Rings" films, including Orlando Bloom, Cate Blanchett, and Elijah Wood, joined Peter Jackson on stage in what amounted to a final Comic-Con victory lap for Jackson's phenomenally successful Middle-earth epics.

Out of all of the presentations, though, Marvel Studios' panel might have made the biggest splash — and the most noise. Nearly all of the major cast members from next summer's superhero sequel "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" — including Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo and Liam Hemsworth — gathered on the stage together to introduce a sizzle reel of footage from the film, which was greeted with a thunderous standing ovation. Marvel capped its panel with the announcement that it will release the sequel to its upcoming superhero space

opera "Guardians of the Galaxy" in July 2017, with James Gunn returning to write and direct the film.

In other Comic-Con news:

■ "The Ant-Man" cast is set. Paul Rudd was previously revealed as the tiny title superhero. But at Marvel's Comic-Con panel Saturday, Evangeline Lilly confirmed she'll play Hope Pym. Michael Douglas plays her dad, Dr. Hank Pym. And Corey Stoll is set to play the villain Darren Cross, also known as Yellowjacket.

■ "Sons of Anarchy" is revving up for its final season, but the outlaw motorcycle club will live on in books. Series creator Kurt Sutter revealed the cover art to "Sons of Anarchy: Bratvra" (Titan Books Ltd.) Sunday at Comic-Con. The first of a series about the "Sons" world, "Bratvra" is set in the show's fourth season. It follows Jax (Charlie Hunnam), Opie (Ryan Hurst) and Chibs, played by Tommy Flanagan.

■ Godzilla is coming back. A sequel to the massive-monster film featuring classic creatures from the franchise is in the works. Legendary Pictures chief Thomas Tull made the announcement Saturday before showing teaser footage that revealed the winged Mothra and Rodan and the three-headed Gidorah will face off with the radioactive lizard in the sequel.

'Lucy' tops 'Hercules' at box office

The Associated Press

Luc Besson's "Lucy" proved mind can overpower muscle, topping a remake of "Hercules" by director Brett Ratner at the box office on the weekend.

"Lucy," starring Scarlett Johansson as an accidental psychokinetic, took in \$44 million in North American movie theaters over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Hercules," starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, brought down an estimated \$29 million.

"Lucy," rated R, opens internationally next week.

"Hercules" also brought in \$28.7 million from Russia, Australia, Britain, Malaysia and other countries in Asia.

Another film that opened in wide release over the weekend was the Rob Reiner-directed romantic comedy "And So It Goes," starring Michael Douglas and Diane Keaton, which collected an estimated \$4.6 million, according to distributor Clarus Entertainment.

"Boyshood," a Richard Linklater film that tracks the life of a boy from age 5 to 18, gained traction in its third week of release by distributor IFC Films with \$1.7 million from just 107 locations.

Comic-book convention organizers clash

Organizers of two of the biggest comic-book conventions in the country are clashing over their names. A lawyer for San Diego Comic-Con has issued a cease-and-desist letter to organizers of Utah's Salt Lake Comic Con demanding them to drop "Comic Con" from the name.

"Attendees, exhibitors and fans seeing use of 'Comic Con' in connection with your convention will incorrectly assume that your convention is in some way affiliated with (the San Diego convention)," reads the letter dated Friday.

San Diego holds the nation's biggest comic-book convention while Salt Lake City hosts the third-biggest one.

Other news

■ Authorities say several dozen people were treated for alcohol-related illnesses at a weekend Keith Urban concert in Mansfield, Mass. At least 46 people were treated and 22 taken to local hospitals. Police say more than 50 people were taken into protective custody at the concert, and some could face charges.

■ Sarah Palin has started her own subscription-based online network, The Sarah Palin Channel, which went live on Sunday. Palin bills itself as a "direct connection" for the former Alaska governor and GOP vice presidential candidate with her supporters, bypassing media filters. Palin says she oversees all content posted to the channel. Membership is set at \$9.95 per month or \$99.95 for a year.

More about the actors and surprises at Comic-Con, including photos and TV news, at stripes.com/military-life



Radcliffe goes undercover as Spidey

One of the Spider-Men at Comic-Con was actually Harry Potter: Daniel Radcliffe donned a Spidey mask to covertly mingle with fans.

"I did an American accent for the whole time," the British actor said. "I even took a 'kick-sack, so I look like I'm just coming to Comic-Con. I had a whole look. But it was great... I took lots of pictures with people who did not know that it was me."

From The Associated Press



Fox, Arnett share love for same turtle

For the human stars of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," it's all about Michelangelo.

When asked by a fan which was their favorite, Megan Fox and Will Arnett both picked the nunchaku-wielding member. How-

ever, Fox didn't appreciate Arnett "stealing" Mikey before she had a chance to answer the question.

"I've been saying that for months!" Fox protested. "There's only four of 'em!" Arnett snapped back.

From The Associated Press

Six Degrees of BaCon

Kevin Bacon's "Six Degrees" world got even bigger at Comic-Con.

During a Sunday panel for his Fox show "The Following," a fan brought up the pop culture game known as "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon," whose premise is anyone in Hollywood can be linked to the actor. She wondered if by talking to him she could then be a part of his universe.

Bacon said that technically you need to be in a movie with him to be connected in the "Six Degrees" world.

The actor then stood up and took a video of the 6,500-person crowd.

From The Associated Press



SHIFTING GEARS

Pintos go from beast to beauty at car show

By ZLATI MEYER
AND MIA NORRIS
Detroit Free Press

DEARBORN, Mich. — The Pintos' paint jobs screamed in their 1970s-hued glory. The car owners mingled with one another between the rows of cars, set on the lawn, yards from the more beloved Mustangs, 1940s roadsters and muscle cars. One had leaned a warning sign against a white model, striped with red and blue, which read, "Caution! Pinto owners can be dangerous! Please do not touch! Pintos can be costly!"

An estimated 50 Pinto owners from as far away as California and Pennsylvania showed off their prized cars amid hundreds of Ford's more popular and elegant models at the annual Ford employee car show earlier this month. The lovers of the often-mocked cars and station wagons were participating in the fourth annual Pinto Stampede, a three-day celebration of the vehicles, held for the first time in the state where the auto industry was born.

"They're cute. They're unique. They're sexy. They're a breed all their own," said Jim Smutek, who was showing off his orange 1976 Pinto coupe, which he bought recently for \$8,700. "They're an attention-getter. I get stopped by people, because they have a Pinto story."

The 48-year-old had collected 1965-66 Mustangs, but then decided to embrace the ugly ducking of the auto world.

"It's always been in the back of my mind to get into the Pinto stuff," he said.

Cary Simmerman, 50, drove from Kalamazoo, Mich., in the blue 1977 Pinto his mother bought in 1977 with 477 miles on it; it now has about 434,000 miles. He estimated that he's invested only \$2,000 in the car in the 30 years since she gave it to him — and that includes oil changes.

He explained why he owns three of them now: "It's irritating, like me. Everyone hates it."

The lack of love directed at what now seems to be a Ford stepchild stems from its less-than-stellar history. The Dearborn automaker recalled 1.5 million Pintos in 1978 after more than two dozen people were killed in rear-end collisions that resulted in gas tanks behind the solid rear axles exploding.



PHOTOS BY MANDI WRIGHT, DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

Above: Employees at the Ford Product Development Center check out vintage Pintos in Dearborn, Mich., on July 18. An estimated 50 Pinto owners from as far away as California and Pennsylvania showed off their prized cars amid hundreds of Ford's more popular and elegant models at the annual Ford employee car show. Below: Dave Kawa, 56, of Janesville Wis., with his 1978 Pinto Cruising Wagon. Bottom left: Chris Auger, 49, of Huntington Woods, Mich., sits on the bumper of his 1976 Pinto. Bottom right: A customize Pinto hot rod.

"They're cute. They're unique. They're sexy. They're a breed all their own, They're an attention-getter. I get stopped by people, because they have a Pinto story."

Jim Smutek
Pinto owner

The Pinto Stampede is the brainchild of Norm Bagi, 45, of New York City, who got the idea after noticing how gaga people get about Mustangs, the iconic car celebrating it's 50th birthday this year.

He refuses to let people's Pinto ribbing get to him.

"We have a tough skin and we

mostly see it as ignorance," Bagi said. "It's people making comments who don't know a lot about the car. They know the myth of what it was."

"The car was not as dangerous as they portrayed it to be. It was a good story to sell, so it sold. Most cars of the day had a design with the gas tank (at) the rear."



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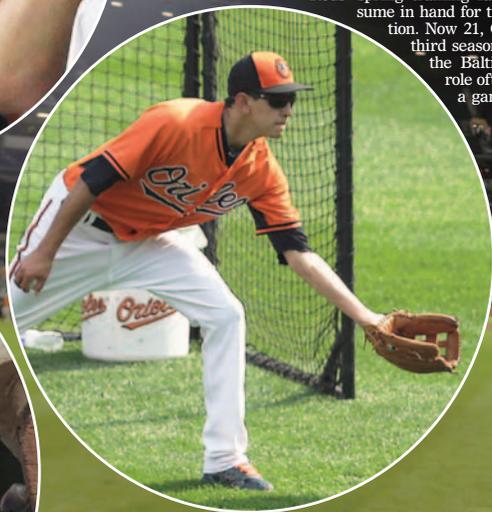
Fielding h

Orioles' 21-year-old h shagging balls for

By PATRICK SEMANSKY
The Associated Press

A BALTIMORE Andrew Guinart knew early on that he wouldn't make it as a professional baseball player.

So at age 14 and yearning for a path to the big leagues, he walked into the Cincinnati Reds' spring training facility with a resume in hand for their batboy position. Now 21, Guinart is in his third season as a batboy for the Baltimore Orioles, a role often overlooked in a game known for its



Batboy Andrew Guinart, 21, is in his third year with the Baltimore Orioles, and has no plans to stop an

PHOTOS BY PATRICK SEMANSKY

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Dollar Tree to purchase its rival

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dollar Tree is buying rival discount store Family Dollar in a cash-and-stock deal valued at about \$8.5 billion.

Stockholders of Family Dollar Stores will receive \$59.60 in cash and the equivalent of \$14.90 in shares of Dollar Tree for each share they own.

The companies put the value of the transaction at \$74.50 per share, which is an approximately 23 percent premium to Family Dollar's Friday closing price of \$60.66.

Family Dollar stockholders will own somewhere between 12.7 percent and 15.1 percent of Dollar Tree's outstanding common shares after closing.

Core customers for bargain stores and major retailers like Wal-Mart have been among the hardest hit by the recession and its aftermath because of job instability.

Family Dollar has struggled and has attempted to reinvigorate sales by lowering prices on almost 1,000 basic items. It's cut some jobs and shuttered underperforming stores.

The company had been conducting a strategic review since the winter, and investor Carl Icahn urged Family Dollar last month to put itself up for sale.

Dollar Tree CEO Bob Sasser said Monday that the deal will give Dollar Tree more than 13,000 stores in the U.S. and Canada. That is nearly three times as many stores as Wal-Mart Stores Inc., though Wal-Mart's square footage is still greater.

The combined Dollar Tree-Family Dollar chain will have sales of more than \$18 billion and Sasser said the transaction will create a more diverse company with an enhanced geographic reach.

Dollar Tree will continue to operate under the existing Dollar Tree, Deals, and Dollar Tree Canada store signs. It will keep the Family Dollar brand as well.

Family Dollar Chairman and CEO Howard Levine will still lead those stores and report to Sasser. He will join Dollar Tree's board.

The boards of both companies have unanimously approved the deal, which is expected to close by early next year. It still needs approval from Family Dollar shareholders.

Shares of Family Dollar Stores Inc., based in Charlotte, N.C., surged more than 21 percent before the opening bell. Shares of Dollar Tree Inc., based in Chesapeake, Va., are up more than 3 percent.



Shoppers leave a Dollar Tree store in Barre, Vt. Dollar Tree is buying rival discount store Family Dollar in a deal that will give Dollar Tree nearly three times as many stores as Wal-Mart.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro (costs July 29)	\$1.3795
Dollar buys (July 29)	€0.7249
British pound (July 29)	\$1.74
Japanese yen (July 29)	¥99.00
South Korean won (July 29)	₩998.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.6892
Canada (Dollar)	1.0812
China (Yuan)	6.1877
Denmark (Krone)	5.4680
Egypt (Pound)	7.1506
Euro	\$1.3438/7.441
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7501
Hungary (Forint)	229.59
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4295
Japan (Yen)	101.79
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2829
Norway (Krone)	6.2155
Philippines (Peso)	43.37
Poland (Zloty)	3.508
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2418
South Korea (Won)	1,026.67
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9041
Thailand (Bath)	31.81
Turkey (Lira)	2,1007

(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 British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.24

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Tuesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr									
Ablene, Texas	93	72	Cldy	Chattanooga	81	59	Cir	Fort Wayne	74	56	PCldy	Louisville	78	62	Cldy	Pocatello	87	59	Cldy	Sioux City	79	54	PCldy	
Akron, Ohio	70	54	Cldy	Cheyenne	75	57	Cldy	Fresno	102	73	PCldy	Lubbock	90	70	Cldy	Portland, Maine	75	57	PCldy	Sioux Falls	78	54	PCldy	
Albany, N.Y.	76	55	PCldy	Chicago	78	61	PCldy	Goodland	77	60	Rain	Macon	90	63	Cir	Portland, Ore.	88	60	Cir	South Bend	74	59	PCldy	
Albuquerque	85	68	Cldy	Cincinnati	74	56	PCldy	Grand Junction	85	63	Rain	Madison	78	57	PCldy	Providence	78	62	Cir	Spokane	99	69	Cir	
Allentown, Pa.	78	54	Cldy	Cleveland	71	58	Cldy	Grand Rapids	73	58	PCldy	Meaford	98	66	PCldy	Pueblo	81	59	Rain	Springfield, Ill.	78	58	PCldy	
Anchorage	66	52	Cldy	Colorado Springs	77	56	Rain	Great Falls	90	60	Cir	Memphis	85	63	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	83	61	PCldy	Springfield, Mo.	79	62	PCldy	
Ashville	83	64	Cldy	Denver	89	67	Cir	Green Bay	76	55	Rain	Miami Beach	91	78	PCldy	Rapid City	81	56	Cir	St. Paul	89	60	PCldy	
Atlanta	84	65	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	89	67	Rain	Greensboro, N.C.	81	60	PCldy	Midland-Odessa	97	73	PCldy	Reno	91	66	Cldy	Tallahassee	95	66	PCldy	
Atlantic City	81	58	PCldy	Dayton	73	53	PCldy	Hartford Springfield	77	58	PCldy	Mobile	96	58	PCldy	Richmond	82	60	PCldy	Tampa	91	78	Rain	
Austin	78	72	Cldy	Daytona Beach	84	74	Cldy	Helena	91	60	Cir	Missoula	79	58	Cir	Rochester	73	56	PCldy	Topeka	84	62	PCldy	
Baltimore	79	59	PCldy	Denver	81	58	Rain	Honolulu	88	77	Cir	Montgomery	88	63	Cir	Rockford	79	58	PCldy	Tucson	101	77	PCldy	
Baton Rouge	91	69	PCldy	Detroit	73	58	Rain	Houston	95	76	Cldy	Nashville	80	58	Cir	St. Louis	82	63	PCldy	Tulsa	74	56	PCldy	
Birmingham	89	60	PCldy	Duluth	76	55	PCldy	Indianapolis	75	59	PCldy	New Orleans	90	74	PCldy	St. Petersburg	89	80	Cir	Tupelo	85	60	Cir	
Bismarck	83	60	PCldy	El Paso	95	76	PCldy	Jacksonville	89	63	PCldy	New York City	77	63	PCldy	St. Thomas	89	78	PCldy	Waco	92	73	Cldy	
Boise	95	70	PCldy	Fort Smith	88	67	PCldy	Jacksonville	89	63	PCldy	Newark	80	62	PCldy	Salem, Ore.	81	60	PCldy	Wilmington, Del.	81	59	PCldy	
Boston	77	62	Cir	Fort Worth	89	67	PCldy	Jacksonville	89	63	PCldy	Norfolk, Va.	80	65	PCldy	Salt Lake City	85	67	PCldy	Youngstown	70	53	Cldy	
Brownsville	96	79	PCldy	Fort Worth	89	67	PCldy	Kansas City	81	62	PCldy	North Platte	80	58	Cir	San Antonio	96	72	PCldy					
Buffalo	71	59	Cldy	Fort Worth	89	67	PCldy	Key West	91	62	PCldy	Oklahoma City	87	67	Cir	San Diego	92	68	75	PCldy				
Burlington, Vt.	74	54	PCldy	Fort Worth	89	67	PCldy	Key West	91	62	PCldy	Oklahoma City	87	67	Cir	San Diego	92	68	75	PCldy				
Caribou, Maine	72	53	Rain	Fort Worth	89	67	PCldy	Key West	91	62	PCldy	Oklahoma City	87	67	Cir	San Diego	92	68	75	PCldy				
Charleston, S.C.	89	69	Cir	Fort Worth	89	67	PCldy	Key West	91	62	PCldy	Oklahoma City	87	67	Cir	San Diego	92	68	75	PCldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	85	65	PCldy	Fort Worth	89	67	PCldy	Key West	91	62	PCldy	Oklahoma City	87	67	Cir	San Diego	92	68	75	PCldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	81	63	PCldy	Fort Worth	89	67	PCldy	Key West	91	62	PCldy	Oklahoma City	87	67	Cir	San Diego	92	68	75	PCldy				

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OPINION

Preventing slaughter in N. Korea's gulags

By ROBERTA COHEN

Since the U.N. Commission of Inquiry issued its report on North Korea in February, U.N. bodies, human rights organizations, governments and think tanks have been working to respond to the crimes against humanity it documented, including the systematic abuse of prisoners and food policies that lead to starvation. But the report's most chilling section rarely gets discussed: standing orders at North Korea's political prison camps (the kwansillo) to kill all prisoners in the event of armed conflict or revolution.

The regime of Kim Jong Un holds an estimated 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners in four labor camps in North and South Hamgyong provinces in the mountains of the north and in South Pyongan province. These facilities have been pinpointed thanks to satellite images and testimony from defectors. Most of the prisoners in the camps are not held as a trial, but are incarcerated for life and are denied any contact with the outside world. The isolation and brutality inflicted upon them are punishments for their perceived disloyalty, following such "crimes" as criticizing the Kim family and its policies, trying to defect, organizing Christian services or getting caught up in factional political disputes. Guilt by association leads to entire families, including grandchildren and grandparents, being locked away.

It was Kim Il Sung, North Korea's founder, who gave the kill-all order. His son Kim Jong Il reaffirmed it. Ahn Myong Chol, a former guard, testified before the U.N. commission that, in the event of upheaval,

the guards are "to wipe out" all inmates so as "to eliminate any evidence." He said that drills have even been held "on how to kill large numbers of prisoners in a short period of time." Guards in other camps, as well as former prison officials, have confirmed this account.

Can anything be done to prevent such massacres? It is impossible to know, but taking some steps now could make a difference.

First, North Korea's government must be shown that its abuse of political prisoners has costs. The Commission of Inquiry recommended targeted sanctions. For starters, this would require nine out of 15 Security Council members to agree to place North Korea's human rights abuses on the council's agenda. Targeted sanctions could then be brought up for discussion. The voice of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon should be heard, too. Because Ban is Korean, he is often excused from taking the lead on human rights issues in North Korea, but when crimes against humanity are found and atrocities warned, he should be expected to use every tool at his disposal.

Additionally, in the United States, a bill before Congress that would impose financial sanctions on North Korea for its human rights transgressions and nuclear provocations should be passed and signed by President Barack Obama. Further, the Atomic Proliferation Board established by the Obama administration in 2012 should place the risk to North Korean prisoners on its agenda. It is also time for leading institutions such as the U.S. Institute of Peace and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to take up this issue as part of their early-

warning and prevention programs.

Finally, and perhaps most important, the Kim regime must be made to understand that the world is watching. North Korea has threatened prison guards, former inmates and nearby communities with severe punishment if they disclose information on the camps. Governments and international organizations can counter the regime's denial and misinformation by using high-precision satellite imagery to monitor the camps and lend support to nongovernmental organizations reporting on their activities. And the testimony of defectors should be used to gather names of prison guards and officials for future trials. Guards might think twice about carrying out an order to commit a massacre if they know they will be held accountable.

Bringing the prisoners to safety must be part and parcel of any strategy developed to respond to a collapse in North Korea. While protecting civilians and securing nuclear weapons will appropriately be uppermost concerns in a time of chaos, it is in the camps that the most acute cases of hunger, disease and ill-treatment will be found. It is essential that humanitarian organizations and military forces focus now on how to rescue survivors.

North Korea's camps have long been one of the main tools employed by the Kim regime to hold on to power. One day, their dismantling will give rise to a new Korea in which monuments will be erected not to the Kim family but to its victims, which have been abandoned by the international community for too long.

Roberta Cohen is co-chair of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

The Russian people live in an alternate reality

By MARK ADOMANS

MOSCOW
 Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 has already shined a spotlight on the Russian public's somewhat, ah, unique views. Russian media are running with conspiracy theories: that Flight 17 was shot down by NATO to spark a conflict with Russia, that Flight 17 wasn't full of innocent civilians but week-old corpses, or that Flight 17 was shot down because it was mistaken for Vladimir Putin's personal jet (as if anti-aircraft missiles weren't aimed with radar but with a really large pair of binoculars). The only theory missing is the right one: that Russian-backed separatists accidentally shot down the plane when they mistook it for a Ukrainian military transport.

This may seem like the entertaining sideshow to a tragedy, but actually it's just a window into a hugely dangerous problem. I recently moved to Moscow, and it's hard to miss the extent to which Russian society exists in an alternate universe. Even well-educated, sophisticated people who have traveled widely in Europe and North America will frequently voice opinions that, in an American context, would place them alongside people wearing tin-foil hats. Russia is not living in the reality-based community.

One particularly easy and glaring example is Russian TV reporters, filing from Eastern Ukraine, who say they are reporting from the "Lugansk People's Republic" or the "Donetsk People's Republic." Regardless of your views on the worsening civil war in Ukraine, which is not a neat story of blacks and whites or right and wrong, it is obvious that the republics are almost entirely fictitious and that their

"territory" is largely confined to a handful of government buildings. Despite their extremely dubious claims to legitimacy, the non-existent states are treated with deadly earnestness by both the state media and large numbers of ordinary Russians. (Ukraine has been a problem for Russian media ever since protests there began at the end of 2013.)

On almost any other issue you can think of, Russian views differ radically from the consensus in America. Russians have extremely different opinions about the conflict in Syria, viewing the war in that unlikely country not as a brave struggle for freedom but as a chaotic war of all against all. They have different views about the war in Libya, where they see the overthrow of Moammar Gadhafi not as a new beginning but as the start of chaos and disorder. They have different views about 9/11, with shockingly large numbers of Russians supporting "alternate" explanations of one of history's most carefully studied and well-documented terrorist attacks. Even something as seemingly straightforward and nonpolitical as a meteor strike attracted a range of bizarre theories and pseudo-scientific "explanations" like the onset of an alien invasion or the testing of a new American super weapon. These wacky ideas ("The aliens are attacking Siberia!" "The Grand Masons are responsible for 9/11!") would be extremely funny if they didn't represent such a tragic deficit of reason.

I've asked people about these notions. Particularly if they're a bit bashful about the position they're about to advocate, Russian will often highlight their country's long track record of superstition and its history as a rural, peasant society. I've lost

count of the number of times I've heard "we're a superstitious people" as an explanation for some kind of seemingly nonsensical position. In contrast to Western Europe, Russia really did urbanize and become literate much later. This delayed urbanization has left a lasting impression on popular consciousness and public attitudes.

But while there is clearly some truth to the idea that Russia's distinct cultural history renders it susceptible to conspiracies, explanations centered on the "Russian soul" strike me as a cop-out. Far more important than the legacy of peasant life or any kind of natural penchant for mystery and inscrutability is the Soviet legacy of propaganda. The older generations here all grew up in an environment in which the government systematically manipulated information on a scale that is hard to fathom. Although you might expect that this would engender a healthy skepticism, it appears to have created an unhealthy over-reaction. Russians don't just doubt the "official line." Several experts here, like me, have observed that they seem to doubt everything.

Like many Americans, I used to think that these differences would recede with time, and that, as they traveled the world, got jobs and got rich, Russians would eventually start to think more and more like us. After Ukraine and the Malaysia Airlines crash, I'm a lot less optimistic. Despite ditching communism and its call to world revolution, Russia appears to be becoming more, not less, different from the United States. It doesn't just have its own system; it now has its own facts.

Mark Adomans specializes in Russian economics and demographics. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

Dig deep, and IRS doings don't look pretty

By JEFF BERGMER

No one likes to receive a letter from the Internal Revenue Service. If you do, here are a few facts that paint a picture of the agency you will be dealing with.

The computer hard drive of former IRS employee Lois Lerner — she who refused to testify so as not to incriminate herself about targeting conservative political groups — crashed. IRS employees, too, that the IRS has no way to retrieve her email exchanges with other governmental entities (though it could ask these entities for cooperation) because there is no backup system.

When I served in the federal government several years back, my technology officer told me repeatedly that every email I wrote — including those that were deleted — could be recovered.

Less well known is that apparently six other IRS computer hard drives crashed in exactly the same time frame. Every one of these belonged to an IRS employee in Cincinnati's tax-exempt office or at headquarters in Washington, D.C. Each of these six other employees played a role in targeting tea party groups. Try that kind of selective loss of records at your next audit.

One of the missing computer hard drives belonged to Neil Fink, chief of staff to the then-commissioner of the IRS. Flax, by the way, visited the White House no fewer than 31 times during the period the tea party was targeted between 2010 and 2012.

The picture gets more depressing. IRS employees are represented by the National Treasury Employees Union. Most Americans are not aware that union representatives working at the IRS are not paid through union dues, but by the taxpayer. More than 200 IRS employees — yes, 200 — are paid government salaries (some in

excess of \$100,000 per year) to do union work. In a perfectly Orwellian formulation, this union work is called "official time."

The cost of this taxpayer-subsidized union work, which amounted to 573,319 hours in 2013, was \$23.5 million. Here is a good place to look for funds for a new IRS computer backup system.

What do these union workers do? They are essentially paid to lobby the very government for which they work. In order to combat the apparently permanent federal employee problem of "low morale" — well earned in the case of the IRS — they lobby for higher salaries, more extensive benefits, better working conditions and un-touchable job security.

Among the activities of the NTEU is lobbying for outrageous, unearned government bonuses. At the time the IRS was under investigation for illegal political targeting in 2013, the IRS paid \$70 million in bonuses to its employees as a result of a previously negotiated contract with the NTEU. By the way, Lerner — who has ungraciously declined to offer any information that might be helpful — received \$110,035 in bonus payments between 2006 and 2012. Not bad for government work.

The NTEU also makes political contributions through its political action committee, TEPAC, as part of its lobbying activities. These contributions do not come directly from union dues, but from voluntary contributions to TEPAC from union members. In the case of the IRS, they come largely out of salaries that taxpayers are paying to IRS employees to do union work, not government work. TEPAC's political contributions go? In the 2012 election cycle, TEPAC gave a total of \$583,912 to federal candidates. A full 94 percent of these contributions went to Democrats, 4 percent to Republicans.



Lois Lerner's Document Dump

The current president of the NTEU is Colleen Kelley, a vocal opponent of the tea party. Kelley has visited the White House no fewer than 11 times during the Obama administration, the most recent of which included an event with President Barack Obama on March 31, 2010. On the following two days, the IRS developed its guidance to treat tea party applications for tax-exempt status differently than other requests. Kelley was earlier nominated by Obama to the Federal Salary Council, no doubt to share her wisdom about raising employees' morale more widely across the federal government.

About all this Obama says there is not a "smidgen" of corruption. This from a former candidate who promised the most open and transparent federal government

ever.

We are well beyond the issue of political targeting by a powerful but supposedly neutral government agency. We are into a political cover-up, which hints strongly at destruction of records and obstruction of justice. It is no wonder the American public's confidence in government is at an all-time low. This might also explain why many Americans are concerned about the IRS playing a lead role in administering health care, as it is required to do by Obamacare. It is long past time for the appointment of a special prosecutor to bring some accountability to the out-of-control, self-serving agency that is the IRS.

Jeff Bergmer served in the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. This column first appeared in *The Virginian-Pilot*.

The House has a solid case should it sue Obama

By DAVID B. RIVKIN JR. AND ELIZABETH PRICE FOLEY

The Constitution states that it's Congress' job to make the laws and the president's to faithfully execute them. It does not permit a president to suspend a law or grant special dispensations from its requirements. But President Barack Obama has done just these things on numerous occasions, and only the federal courts can preserve the constitutionally mandated separation of powers by definitively rebuffing his illegal actions.

Separation-of-powers lawsuits are generally straightforward: A private party, injured by some unconstitutional government action, sues for relief. Last month, the Supreme Court decided *Nolan v. NLRB*, a suit brought by a bottling company adversely affected by a National Labor Relations Board decision. The court unanimously concluded that the president's appointment to the board, which had been made without Senate confirmation, violated the Constitution.

When a president suspends a law, however, private parties often lack "standing" to sue, because the act of not enforcing a statute doesn't injure them in any individualized way. But such suspensions undoubtedly injure Congress. By arrogating to himself a power to rewrite laws, a president violates his duty of faithful execution and infringes on Congress' lawmaking prerogatives. A suspension nullifies the law suspended and diminishes Congress' power.

Such acts trigger a genuine constitutional crisis and undermine our democ-

cracy. Federal courts are well equipped to resolve such crises, as Alexander Hamilton explained in *Federalist No. 78*: "The interpretation of the laws is the proper and peculiar province of the courts. A constitution is, in fact, and must be regarded by the judges, as a fundamental law. It therefore belongs to them to ascertain its meaning."

Last week, the House Rules Committee approved a resolution authorizing a lawsuit challenging Obama's Affordable Care Act suspensions. Skeptics of the lawsuit, which is expected to be authorized by the full House this week, argue that such congressional lawsuits — to date, mostly initiated by Democrats — usually fail because of a lack of standing.

However, there is a simple reason most of these suits have failed: To assert an institutional injury to the House or Senate, courts want proof that the chamber, as an institution — and not a rump group of legislators — believes it has been injured. For example, in its 1997 ruling in *Raines vs. Byrd*, the Supreme Court denied standing to six congressmen who sued President Bill Clinton over the Line Item Veto Act, for three reasons:

First, the injury the lawmakers alleged — a dilution of their voting power caused by future exercises of the line-item veto — was conjectural, since no president had yet exercised that veto. Second, private plaintiffs (for example, those who would have personally benefited from federal largess but for a presidential line-item veto) would be readily available to challenge the act, so there was no need to resort to legislative standing. Indeed, in the *Raines* case, a private plaintiff sued, and the court ruled the act unconstitutional.

Finally, the court denied the legislators' standing because they weren't litigating on behalf of their colleagues. In the words of the court, the six "simply lost [the] vote" on the act, declaring, "We attach some importance to the fact that [the six] have not been authorized to represent their respective Houses of Congress in this action, and indeed both Houses actively oppose their suit."

When legislators do represent their institution's views, however, courts have granted standing. In 1939's *Coleman vs. Miller*, the Supreme Court granted standing to 21 Kansas senators who had sued the state's lieutenant governor over his tie-breaking vote in support of a constitutional amendment, which the senators argued nullified the legislative will of the Senate. The court agreed that the Senate had suffered an institutional injury. Significantly, the senators — a majority of the chamber — unequivocally represented their chamber's institutional position.

A few days ago, in the case of *Kerr vs. Hickenlooper*, the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit held that five Democratic Colorado legislators had standing on facts far less compelling than those of the House lawsuit. The legislators challenged their governor's execution of a state constitutional amendment, asserting that the amendment nullified their power to raise taxes. Standing was granted despite the absence of an explicit institutional authorization for the lawsuit by their colleagues.

In numerous other cases, federal courts have recognized a single chamber's standing to assert institutional injury caused by the executive's refusal to comply with con-

gressional subpoenas. In these cases, the chamber passed a resolution authorizing litigation to vindicate its institutional injury, which was described as a nullification of chamber's investigatory power.

As the Supreme Court made clear in *Eastland vs. U.S. Servicemen's Fund* in 1975, subpoenas are "inherent in the power to make laws" and an "integral part of the lawmaking process." A failure to comply with a chamber's subpoena, in other words, is an injury to the lawmaking power of the chamber itself. The institutional injury caused by executive nullification of a subpoena is far less than that caused by executive nullification of a law. If ignoring a congressional subpoena is sufficient to establish legislative standing, ignoring a law should be more than sufficient as well.

The House lawsuit isn't a stunt, and it isn't frivolous. Precedent fully recognizes legislative standing to vindicate the nullification injury inherent in a president's suspension of law. And while impeachment and cutting appropriations are useful political options to consider, neither can force the faithful execution of the law, much less prevent future presidents from continuing the destruction of separation of powers. For a tailored and proportionate legal declaration of the proper dividing line between Congress and the president courts — and courts alone — are the appropriate venue.

David B. Rivkin Jr., a partner at the firm Baker Hosteler LLP, served in the Justice Department and the White House Counsel's Office in the George W. Bush administration. Elizabeth Price Foley is a constitutional law professor at Florida International University. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

NASCAR



AJ Mast/AP

Jeff Gordon celebrates after winning the NASCAR Brickyard 400 auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sunday.

By the numbers

23

Gordon's age when he picked up his second career victory at the inaugural Brickyard 400 in 1994.

42

Gordon's age on Sunday when he won the Brickyard 400 for the fifth time in his storied career.

90

Career victories for Gordon, third on the career list behind only Richard Petty (200) & David Pearson (105).

SOURCE: The Associated Press; Racing-reference.info

Indy: Gordon had 'restart of (his) life' en route to victory

FROM BACK PAGE

"God, I finally had the restart of my life," Gordon screamed on his radio. He'd botched one earlier in the race, and the four-time NASCAR champion has struggled with restarts for some years.

So when a late caution gave Gordon one last shot at Kahne, who dominated and led a race-high 70 laps, Gordon and his No. 24 team knew the driver was in control of his own destiny.

Crew chief Alan Gustafson talked fuel mileage with the driver — Gordon had enough to get to the finish, and Kahne was cutting it close — but Gustafson said nothing about the pressure looming over the final restart.

"The restart is going to be the race, really," Gustafson conceded in a television interview moments before the field went green.

Nobody had any reason to worry as Gordon nailed it when he needed it most.

"I'm not very good on restarts and wasn't very good today, and I finally made the restart of my life when it counted most," Gordon said in Victory Lane. "I knew we had a great race car, we just needed to get out front."

Kahne plummeted to fifth after the restart, then ran out of gas on the final lap and had to nurse his car home to a sixth-place finish. He said he erred in picking the inside line for the restart.

"I should have chosen the top (lane), obviously," he said. "I pretty much let Jeff control that last restart. I thought I made the right decision."

Kyle Busch finished second, 2.325 seconds behind Gordon, and was followed by Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Denny Hamlin and Matt Kenseth.

"It is just a small victory, we're still just inching our way there," Hamlin said about JGR's strong run.

Joey Logano was fifth in the highest-finishing car from Team Penske, which brought Juan Pablo Montoya to the race in an effort to get the win. Roger Penske has won a record 15 Indianapolis 500s, but is useless in the Brickyard. Montoya was never a factor and finished 23rd.

Kyle Larson, who grew up a Gordon fan, finished seventh and likened Gordon's win on Sunday to Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s season-opening win in the Daytona 500.

"To see Jeff Gordon win is pretty special — it's kind of like Junior winning the 500 this year," Larson said.

Kevin Harvick, the pole-sitter and the driver with the car most everyone thought would be tough to beat, was eighth and followed by Earnhardt and rookie Austin Dillon.

Carl Edwards finished 15th hours after

Roush-Fenway Racing finally confirmed he was leaving the team at the end of the season.

Gordon, who won NASCAR's first race at storied Indy in 1994, also won the Brickyard in 1998, 2001 and 2004. There had been a lot of fanfare leading up to this race, though, as speedway officials celebrated Gordon's 20th anniversary win, who was 23 when he picked up just his second career victory. Eight days short of his 43rd birthday and the father of two young children, Gordon has 90 victories, third on the career list.

A tinge of gray at his temples, and his hat on backward, Gordon said it took extreme focus over the final 10 laps not to prematurely celebrate and cough away the win. It meant tuning out the crowd, which was on its feet and cheering him to the finish.

"I was trying not to let it get to me and not think about it too much," he said. "And yet you can't help it. It's such a big place and such an important victory and a crucial moment in the season and the championship, and those emotions take over."

"This one is for all those fans throughout the years and all weekend long — they're saying 'We believe you can get (championship) number five.' We got (Brickyard) No. 5!"



AJ Mast/AP

Danica Patrick's day was spoiled by a broken rear axle during Lap 67 of Sunday's Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

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Autos for Sale - Korea 148

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Rocky Ridge Conversion VAN, Passenger, Like Brand New, V8, AC, All Leather, Deluxe Wood Interior, Power Door-Locks, Windows, Mirrors, Side Air & Heat 10 inch LCD TV with 1000 power 200 - Stereo w Bluetooth FM and iPod docking 3D view camera w backup sensors, HD BlackBox Wireless headset, P25 Game console, Philips LCD DVD, Three row seat can be flat bed Can drive on highway while 3100000000 010-9924-8332 010-9924-8332

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Hyundai, Sonata, 2005 95500.00 Super clean inside and out 2005 Hyundai Sonata with English GPS \$6,500 OBO! low owned 11 for just over a year and departing back to USA so low selling 11 for at a great 2500 miles/202000 kilometers. Hyundai had any problems and runs great. Recently had the AC recharged tune up and oil change. Upgrades include 17in wheels, E9001 GPS, DVD MP3 Stereo, tint 1 use behind Ocean All work at USA! Humphreys and can meet anywhere in 010-9924-8332 010-9924-8332 mu rhybe777@yahoo.com

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SCOREBOARD

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Tennis

BB&T Atlanta Open

A's U.S. Open series event
Sunday
At Atlantic Station
Atlanta
Purse: \$647,000 (W7250)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Championship
 John Isner (1), United States, def. Dudi Sesta (1), Italy, 6-3, 6-4
Doubles
 Vasek Pospisil, Canada, and Jack Sock (1), United States, def. Steve Johnson and Sam Querrey, United States, 6-3, 7-10, 5-7.

Croatia Open

Sunday
At TRC Stella Maris
Imbros, Croatia
Purse: \$656,900 (W7250)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Semifinals
 Tommy Robredo (2), Spain, def. Marin Cilic (3), Croatia, 7-10, 6-3.
Doubles
 Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, def. Fabio Fognini (1), Italy, 6-3, 6-4.
Championship
 Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, def. Tommy Robredo (2), Spain, 6-3, 6-4.
Doubles
Championship
 Frantisek Cermak and Lukas Rosol (4), Czech Republic, def. Nenad Piskic, Serbia, and Franko Skugor, Croatia, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

Swiss Open

Sunday
At Roy Emerson Arena
Basel, Switzerland
Purse: \$656,900 (W7250)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Championship
 Pablo Andujar, Spain, def. Juan Monaco, Argentina, 6-3, 7-5.
Doubles
Semifinals
 Rameez Junaid, Australia, and Michal Mertanec, Slovakia, def. Pablo Andujar, Spain, and Juan Monaco, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.
Championship
 Andre Begemann, Germany, and Rob-Hin Haase (3), Netherlands, def. Rameez Junaid, Australia, and Michal Mertanec, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-4.

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Deals

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
HOUSTON ASTROS — Recalled RHP Paul Clemens from Atlanta City (PCL).
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Reinstated INF Abelardo Castillo from the 15-day DL. Reinstated 1B Nate Freiman to Sacramento (PCL).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Activated OF Nolan Reimold from the 15-day DL. Designated RHP Emmi Roggen to Buffalo (IL).
CINCINNATI REDS — Activated INF Jack Hannahan from the 15-day DL. Reinstated RHP Curt Pritch to Louisville (IL).
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Reinstated INF Enrique Irujo from the DL and optioned him to Rancho Cucamonga (CAL).
FOOTBALL
National Football League
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed RB Duane Whitaker and S Tom Nelson.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed RB Fuzzy Mackey and S Tom Nelson.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Named Adam Zorn director of performance nutrition.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Re-signed RB Devin Mettett. Placed LB Aaron Morgan on injured reserve.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed TE Kyle Rudolph to a 5-year contract.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Released WR Greg Oton. Signed WR Brian Tyms and RB Stephen Gostkowski.
NEW YORK JETS — Activated G Willie Colon from the active/PUP list.

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NEW YORK JETS — Activated G Willie Colon from the active/PUP list.
National Hockey League
BUFFALO SABRES — Signed RW Luke Adam to a one-year contract.
COLLEGE
SAM HOUSTON STATE — Named Jason Small football operations coordinator.

AP spotlight

July 29

1751 — The first international World Title Fight takes place in London, Norfolk, England. The champion, Jack Slack of England, beats the challenger, M. Petit of France, in 25 minutes.
1924 — Paul Runyan, beats Craig Wood 1 up in 30 holes to become the first to capture the PGA championship.
1930 — Paul Runyan beats Craig Wood on the 38th hole to win the PGA Championship at Park Country Club in Williamsport, Pa.

1956 — Cathy Cornelius wins a playoff over Barbara McIntyre to win the U.S. Women's Open.

1957 — At the Polo Grounds in New York, Floyd Patterson stops Tommy Jackson at 1:52 of the 10th round to retain the heavyweight title.

1979 — Arny Alcott shoots a 7-under 285 to beat Nancy Lopez in the Peter Jackson Classic, later named the Tom Maurier Classic. The Tom Maurier is one of the PGA Tour's major championships from 1979-2000.

1990 — Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz of Poland sets an Olympic record in the pole vault with a vault of 18-11 in Moscow.

1991 — The U.S. Olympic team wins and loses its lawsuit against the NFL. The jury finds that the NFL violated antitrust laws, as the USFL claimed, but awards the USFL only \$1 in damages.

1992 — The U.S. Olympic team becomes the first person to jump high 8 feet, setting a world record at the Caribbean Championship in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Sotomayor held the record at 7-11.

1990 — Beth Daniel shoots a 66 to overcome a 5-shot deficit and win the U.S. Open Championship. She holds the title in 12 years on the tour. Daniel beats winners by one stroke. Her pockets \$150,000, the largest in LPGA Tour history.

1991 — Jack Nicklaus shoots a 5-under 65 to beat Chi Chi Rodriguez by four strokes in the U.S. Senior Open.

1992 — The U.S. 400-meter freestyle relay team wins the gold medal, with Matt Bondi and Tom Jarag becoming the first U.S. male swimmers to win golds in three Olympics.

1996 — Michael Johnson sets an Olympic 400-meter record of 49.82 seconds while Carl Lewis leaps into history at the Atlanta Games. Lewis' long jump of 7.67, 10 inches gives him his ninth gold medal, equalling the American mark held by Sumner Redstone.

2001 — Lance Armstrong becomes the first person to win the Tour de France three times in a row. In 2012, the three titles are stripped for doping.

2002 — Jason Stajkovic becomes the first player in major league history to score three home runs in a game. He plays in a game and connects for three homers in a 1-4 win at Texas.

2003 — The Australian women's skeleton team wins the gold medal, the second narrowest in the U.S.'s 104-year Olympic history.

2008 — Disgraced ex-NBA official Tim Donaghy is sentenced to 15 months behind bars for a gambling scandal.

2012 — Kimberly Rhode wins the Olympic gold medal in women's skeleton shooting, making her the first American to take an individual sport medal in five consecutive Olympics.

2012 — Dana Volinmer of the United States sets a world record on the women's pole vault butterfly at the London Olympics. Volinmer, three at the turn, hits the wall in 15.25 seconds to shatter off the mark set by Sarah Sjöström of Sweden at the 2008 Olympics.

2013 — Lithuanian's Ruta Meilute, 16, sets the first world record on the world's largest roller coaster at the amusement park in Lithuania. She is timed in 1:04.35 in the 100-meter race.

Pro soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference					
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Sporting KC	10	5	4	34	29
D.C. United	10	6	4	34	20
Toronto FC	10	6	4	34	20
Columbus	9	6	5	33	31
New York Red Bulls	9	6	5	33	31
Philadelphia Union	9	6	5	33	31
Chicago Fire	9	6	5	33	31
Houston	9	6	5	33	31
Montreal Impact	9	11	4	24	40

Western Conference					
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle Sounders	14	4	8	32	26
Real Salt Lake	12	8	3	31	26
Colorado Rapids	12	8	3	31	26
FC Dallas	8	7	6	30	34
San Jose	8	7	6	30	34
New England Revolution	4	10	2	19	31
Portland Timbers	6	6	9	27	35
San Diego	5	8	5	20	20

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games

Sporting Kansas City v. Toronto FC 1
 Columbus v. New England 1
 Chicago v. Montreal 2

Sunday's games

Vancouver v. FC Dallas 2
 Portland v. Montreal 2
Monday's game
 Los Angeles at Real Salt Lake

Wednesday's games

Toronto FC at D.C. United
 New England Revolution at Portland
 Vancouver at Chicago
 New York at Real Salt Lake

Sunday

FC Dallas 2, Whitesaps 2

1-1 — **1-2**
First half — 1, Vancouver, Matkoks 5 (penalty kick), 2, FC Dallas, Porec 1.
Second half — 1, Vancouver, Morales 7 (penalty kick), 5, FC Dallas, Raul Fernandez 1.
Yellow Cards — Camara, Montreal, 59th.
A — 21,000 (13,034)

Timbers 3, Impact 2

1-3 — **1-3**
First half — 1, Montreal, Romero 5 (penalty), 2, Portland, Urut 8 (Napge), 34th, 3, Portland, Johnson 6 (penalty), 40th, 4, Montreal, Tissot 6 (Bernier), 44th, 4, Portland, 59th.
Second half — 5, Portland, Valeri 5, 59th.
Goals — Portland, Donovan Ricketts; Montreal, David Laroche.
Yellow Cards — Camara, Montreal, 59th.
A — 14,715 (13,034)

NWSL

Eastern Conference					
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	11	5	4	37	26
FC Kansas City	11	5	4	37	26
Portland	8	6	3	30	37
Washington Spirit	8	8	2	31	39
Chicago Red Stars	4	24	2	23	29
San Jose	4	8	7	19	34
Bay Area	4	13	2	14	35

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's game

Chicago v. Houston 0
Sunday's games
 FC Kansas City v. Portland 0
 Seattle v. San Jose 0
 FC Kansas City at Washington Spirit
 FC Kansas City at Houston

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Atlanta	9	5	0.25		
Washington	13	3	0		
Orlando	8	8	0.50		
New York	10	4	0.5		
Connecticut	10	5	0.5		
Chicago	10	6	0.38		

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	21	8	0.75
Los Angeles	12	14	0.46
San Antonio	9	17	0.35
Utah	9	16	0.36
Tulsa	9	16	0.36
Boston	4	13	0.24
San Diego	4	13	0.24

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Auto racing

John Wayne Wadding 400

NASCAR Sprint Cup
Sunday
At Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Indianapolis, Ind.
Lead Lap: 2.5 miles
(Starts in 15 minutes)
1 (2) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 160 laps, 134.4, 1:29.139, 154.275.
2 (12) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 116.8, 42, 3:37.871.
4 (12) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 160, 104.4, 42, 3:30.280.
8 (23) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 160, 83.2, 35, 1:39.215, Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 160, 89, 1:35, 1:22.891.
11 (4) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 160, 88, 1:35, 1:22.891.
13 (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 160, 85.3, 32, 3:18.288.
13 (19) Greg Biffle, Ford, 71.9, 31, 2:09.330.
15 (11) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 160, 91.9, 30, 1:21.691.
15 (18) Carl Edwards, Ford, 79, 29, 2, 1:53.855.
16 (11) Clint Bowyer, Toyota, 160, 87.9, 29, 1:01.066.
17 (6) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 160, 81.7, 31, 2:09.330.
18 (36) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 160, 62.7, 26, 1:57.131.
19 (15) Danica Patrick, Ford, 90.3, 25, 2:01.355.
20 (7) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 160, 73.5, 24, 1:56.144.
21 (36) Aric Almiranding, Chevrolet, 160, 62.7, 26, 1:57.131.
22 (22) Marcos Ambrose, Ford, 160, 62.7, 26, 1:57.131.
23 (8) Juan Pablo Montoya, Ford, 160, 58, 2, 1:53.855.
24 (21) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 160, 66.7, 20, 1:53.030.
25 (25) Brian Tracy, Jr., Chevrolet, 160, 66.7, 19, 1:54.013.
26 (11) Matt McDowell, Ford, 160, 51.8, 18, 3:11.855.
27 (3) Justin Ross, Chevrolet, 160, 66.7, 19, 1:54.013.
28 (7) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 159, 67.7, 18, 3:11.855.
29 (30) Josh Wise, Chevrolet, 159, 44.2, 15, 1:51.555.
30 (2) Brandon Cassill, Chevrolet, 158, 41.1, 15, 1:52.805.
31 (1) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 158, 48.5, 14, 1:54.813.
32 (1) Kyle Whitt, Toyota, 158, 35.5, 12, 1:50.155.
33 (26) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 158, 44, 11, 1:57.094.
34 (29) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 158, 47, 11, 1:57.094.
35 (38) David Ragan, Ford, 158, 36.9, 9, 1:56.177.
36 (4) David Gilliland, Ford, 157, 40.9, 8, 1:54.530.
37 (4) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 157, 34.5, 7, 1:44.613.
38 (42) Reid Sorenson, Chevrolet, 156, 29, 1:59.400.
39 (40) Travis Kvapil, Ford, 156, 26.9, 5, 1:58.450.
40 (35) Alex Bowman, Toyota, 156, 24, 5, 1:59.400.
41 (32) Ryan Truex, Toyota, 149, 34.2, 3, 1:52.450.
42 (14) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, rear 94.1, 147, 2, 1:31.725.
43 (1) Kyle Busch, Toyota, Ford, accident.
44 (50) Kyle Busch, Toyota, Ford, accident.

Auto racing

Margin of Victory: 2.325 seconds.
Lead Changes: 15 among 9 drivers.
Lead Changes by Lap: 1, Matt Kenseth; 2, J. Lo; 3, K. Busch; 4, J. Lo; 5, K. Busch; 6, J. Lo; 7, K. Busch; 8, J. Lo; 9, K. Busch; 10, J. Lo; 11, K. Busch; 12, J. Lo; 13, K. Busch; 14, J. Lo; 15, K. Busch; 16, J. Lo; 17, K. Busch; 18, J. Lo; 19, K. Busch; 20, J. Lo; 21, K. Busch; 22, J. Lo; 23, K. Busch; 24, J. Lo; 25, K. Busch; 26, J. Lo; 27, K. Busch; 28, J. Lo; 29, K. Busch; 30, J. Lo; 31, K. Busch; 32, J. Lo; 33, K. Busch; 34, J. Lo; 35, K. Busch; 36, J. Lo; 37, K. Busch; 38, J. Lo; 39, K. Busch; 40, J. Lo; 41, K. Busch; 42, J. Lo; 43, K. Busch; 44, J. Lo; 45, K. Busch; 46, J. Lo; 47, K. Busch; 48, J. Lo; 49, K. Busch; 50, J. Lo; 51, K. Busch; 52, J. Lo; 53, K. Busch; 54, J. Lo; 55, K. Busch; 56, J. Lo; 57, K. Busch; 58, J. Lo; 59, K. Busch; 60, J. Lo; 61, K. Busch; 62, J. Lo; 63, K. Busch; 64, J. Lo; 65, K. Busch; 66, J. Lo; 67, K. Busch; 68, J. Lo; 69, K. Busch; 70, J. Lo; 71, K. Busch; 72, J. Lo; 73, K. Busch; 74, J. Lo; 75, K. Busch; 76, J. Lo; 77, K. Busch; 78, J. Lo; 79, K. Busch; 80, J. Lo; 81, K. Busch; 82, J. Lo; 83, K. Busch; 84, J. Lo; 85, K. Busch; 86, J. Lo; 87, K. Busch; 88, J. Lo; 89, K. Busch; 90, J. Lo; 91, K. Busch; 92, J. Lo; 93, K. Busch; 94, J. Lo; 95, K. Busch; 96, J. Lo; 97, K. Busch; 98, J. Lo; 99, K. Busch; 100, J. Lo; 101, K. Busch; 102, J. Lo; 103, K. Busch; 104, J. Lo; 105, K. Busch; 106, J. Lo; 107, K. Busch; 108, J. Lo; 109, K. Busch; 110, J. Lo; 111, K. Busch; 112, J. Lo; 113, K. Busch; 114, J. Lo; 115, K. Busch; 116, J. Lo; 117, K. Busch; 118, J. Lo; 119, K. Busch; 120, J. Lo; 121, K. Busch; 122, J. Lo; 123, K. Busch; 124, J. Lo; 125, K. Busch; 126, J. Lo; 127, K. Busch; 128, J. Lo; 129, K. Busch; 130, J. Lo; 131, K. Busch; 132, J. Lo; 133, K. Busch; 134, J. Lo; 135, K. Busch; 136, J. Lo; 137, K. Busch; 138, J. Lo; 139, K. Busch; 140, J. Lo; 141, K. Busch; 142, J. Lo; 143, K. Busch; 144, J. Lo; 145, K. Busch; 146, J. Lo; 147, K. Busch; 148, J. Lo; 149, K. Busch; 150, J. Lo; 151, K. Busch; 152, J. Lo; 153, K. Busch; 154, J. Lo; 155, K. Busch; 156, J. Lo; 157, K. Busch; 158, J. Lo; 159, K. Busch; 160, J. Lo.

Auto racing

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SPORTS BRIEFS/TOUR DE FRANCE

Briefly

Team mum, but Scott says he's LA's coach

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Lakers have waited nearly three months to hire a new coach, and they're apparently making Byron Scott wait a few more days.

Scott, who won three NBA titles as a shooting guard for the Lakers, told a Los Angeles television station this weekend that he has been hired by the team, which hasn't had a coach since Mike D'Antoni resigned April 30.

"I feels fantastic," he told KCBS. "This is a dream come true. I always wanted to coach the Lakers, especially when I got to coaching. It's so unreal."

Yet Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak and owners Jeanie and Jim Buss remained quiet Sunday, extending their strange coach-less summer to the final days of July.

Sports website ESPN.com first reported Scott would take over the Lakers with a four-year, \$17 million contract.

Scott has been a head coach with New Jersey, New Orleans and Cleveland. He was Kobe Bryant's teammate during Bryant's rookie year with the Lakers in 1996-97, and the superstar endorsed Scott for the job earlier this month.

"He was my rookie mentor when I first came in the league, so I had to do things like get him doughnuts and run errands for him, things like that," said Bryant, who played just six games during an injury-marred 2013-14 season. "We've had a tremendously close relationship throughout the years."

Scott will be the Lakers' fifth head coach in just over three years, starting with Phil Jackson's departure after the 2010-11 season. D'Antoni, who replaced Mike Brown and interim coach Bernie Bickerstaff, resigned after going 67-87 in less than two seasons.

Vikings give TE Rudolph five-year extension

MINNEAPOLIS — Kyle Rudolph hasn't put up the biggest numbers over the first three years of his career, which is due

as much to the Minnesota Vikings' revolving door at quarterback as anything else.

The Vikings have known all along what they have in Rudolph, a big, field-stretching tight end who can be a difference-maker in the right offense with the right quarterback. So now they're paying him like one.

Rudolph signed a five-year contract extension with the Vikings on Sunday night, a sign that the team has big plans for Rudolph in new offensive coordinator Norv Turner's offense. The deal, which was first reported by Fox Sports, is worth \$36.5 million with \$19.4 million guaranteed. Incentives can push the deal to \$40 million.

In other NFL news: ■ The Carolina Panthers have sent wide receiver Kelvin Benjamin for an MRI on his left knee after the first-round draft pick bumped knees with another player during practice Sunday.

Benjamin has been working with the starters and is having an outstanding camp. He has been catching everything in sight and trying to adapt to quarterback Cam Newton, who is coming off an ankle injury.

Langer dominates Senior British Open

BRIDGEND, Wales — Bernhard Langer ran away with the Senior British Open for his fourth senior major title, finishing a Champions Tour-record 13 strokes ahead of Scotland's Colin Montgomerie.

The 56-year-old German closed with a 4-under 67 at sunny Royal Portcawl to finish at 18-under 266.

Langer broke the Champions Tour record for margin of victory of 12 set by Hale Irwin in the 1997 Senior PGA, and matched the tournament record for relation to par set by Tom Watson at Turnberry in 2003.

In other golf news: ■ Tim Clark rallied to win the Canadian Open on Sunday, birdieing five of the last eight holes for a one-stroke victory over Jim Furyk.



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Tour de France winner Vincenzo Nibali pulls a wheeler during the team parade in Paris on Sunday.

Nibali wraps up Tour win

First Italian in 16 years to prevail in cycling's premier race

BY JAMEY KEATEN
The Associated Press

PARIS — Vincenzo Nibali won the Tour de France on Sunday, becoming the first Italian in 16 years to triumph in cycling's greatest race by chiseling a lead over his main rivals a few seconds at a time and dominating them in the mountains.

The 29-year-old Sicilian, who called himself "a flag-bearer of anti-doping" during the race, finished in a bunch behind Marcel Kittel, who won the 21st stage in a sprint finish.

Nibali's victory comes after

the pre-race favorites — 2013 champion Chris Froome and two-time winner Alberto Contador — crashed out with injuries in the first half of this year's Tour.

Astana team leader Nibali is only the sixth rider to win all three Grand Tours — France, Italy and Spain. The last Italian to win the Tour de France was Marco Pantani in 1998.

After cruising in 24 seconds after Kittel — a German who got his fourth stage win — Nibali received pats on the back, kissed his wife and infant daughter, and was mobbed by cameras as race orga-

nizers hustled him away to prepare for the awards ceremony.

Nibali won four stages — a feat not equaled by a Tour winner since Lance Armstrong won five a decade ago. The Italian wore the yellow jersey for all but two stages since Stage 1. His 7 minute, 37 second margin over runner-up Jean-Christophe Peraud equals that of Armstrong over Swiss rider Alex Zülle in 1999 — a result nullified for doping. Before that, the biggest margin was that of Germany's Jan Ullrich: He beat second-placed Richard Virenque by just over 9 minutes in 1997.

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NFL

'Give me 200 Strahans'

Sack leader to join other Giants' greats in Hall

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

Michael Strahan had one objective in mind when he came to the New York Giants as a second-round draft pick in 1993 out of Texas Southern.

"My goal when I first started was just to make a little money so I didn't have to move back to my parents' house," he said. "I didn't want to disappoint my parents. So that was my goal, to kind of just make my parents proud, make them happy, play as hard and just do the best I could do."

The best he could do was pretty good: Strahan will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday night.

Strahan was the leader of a defense that stunned the undefeated Patriots in the 2008 Super Bowl. He holds the single-season mark for sacks with 22½ in 2001 — a year, we know all about Brett Favre's "dive" for the record-setting sack. He retired with 141½ sacks, seven Pro Bowl appearances and four All-Pro team selections.

And while he was a game-changer on the field, he was making his mark elsewhere with his gregarious personality, gap-toothed smile and willingness to step out of his comfort zone. He became a regular in commercials, most notably for Subway.

Strahan easily moved from the field to the television studio after retirement, and now is co-host of the "Live! With Kelly and Michael" morning show.

But he's going into the Canton shrine because of his on-field achievements in 15 seasons, all with the Giants. Playing for one team, joining former teammates Harry Carson and Lawrence Taylor in the hall, means plenty to the 42-year-old Strahan.

"Just so much history on the side of the Giants," Strahan said, "and the fact that you can see we all spent our career all in one place, which just goes to show that it's a family."

Not that a spot in Canton was on Strahan's mind when he wore No. 92 for the Giants.

"I think, when you once start thinking like that, you're setting yourself for failure," he said. "So I just went out and played every year for 15 as hard as I could and just — at the end of it all, it took me years before I looked back on my career and said, 'Man, I did have a pretty good career.'"

Strahan had a sack in that game, the final one of his career. He became eligible for the hall in 2013 and was elected this year.

Seeing his former teammate and mentor selected for the hall reminds current Giants defensive end Mathias Kiwanuka of Strahan's refusal to come off the field. Strahan started 205 of his 216 career games and was no situational player.

"I remember him specifically saying, 'That's just a chance for somebody to take your spot,'" Kiwanuka said. "He'd say, 'I'm never going to come off the field, they're going to have to drag me off the field.'"

It takes more than determination, good health and some good fortune to achieve that. Giants general manager Jerry Reese recognizes that.

"Michael would get recognized most of the time as a pass rusher, and he was a great one," Reese said. "But he could also play the run as well as anybody at that position. He was great

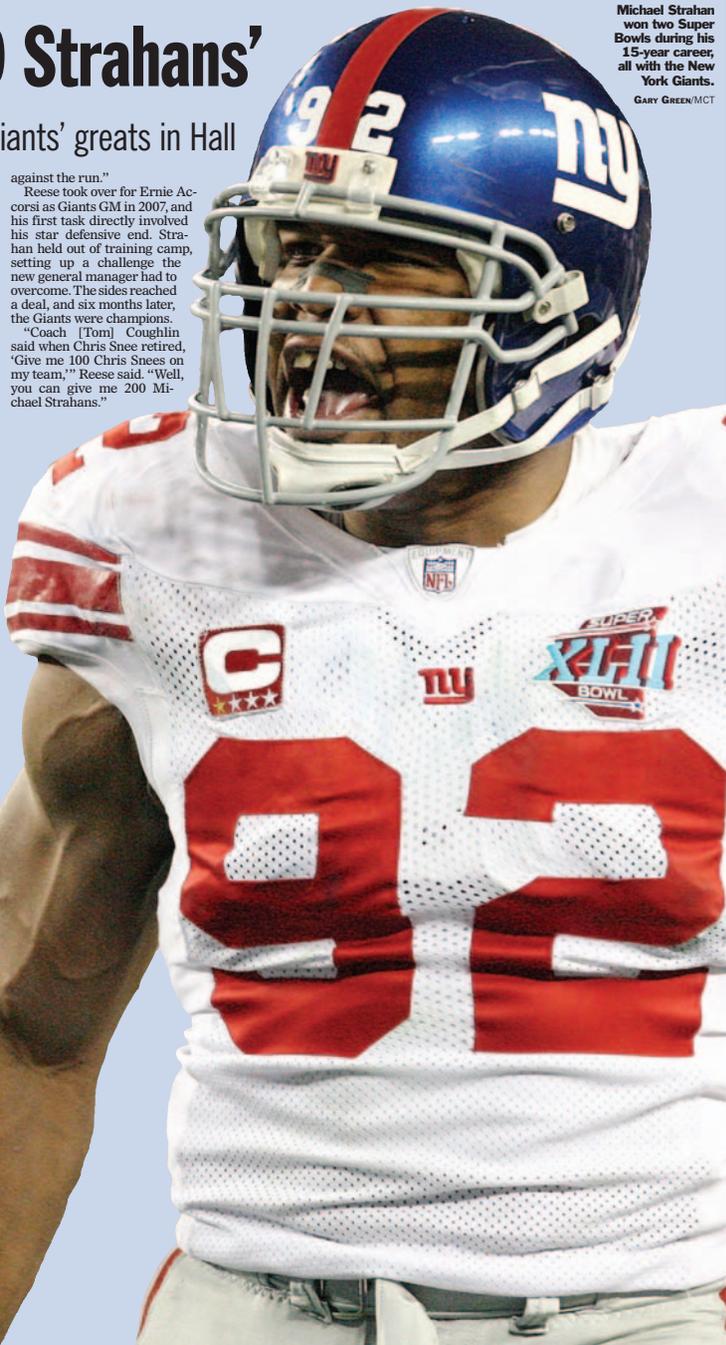
against the run."

Reese took over for Ernie Accorsi as Giants GM in 2007, and his first task directly involved his star defensive end. Strahan held out of training camp, setting up a challenge the new general manager had to overcome. The sides reached a deal, and six months later, the Giants were champions.

"Coach [Tom] Coughlin said when Chris Sneer retired, 'Give me 100 Chris Snees on my team,'" Reese said. "Well, you can give me 200 Michael Strahans."

Michael Strahan won two Super Bowls during his 15-year career, all with the New York Giants.

GARY GREEN/MCT



NFL

Elder statesman among Cowboys WRs?

Bryant seems to have matured into more of a leader, but he insists 'I'm not the old guy'

By SCHUYLER DIXON
The Associated Press

DEZ BRYANT, Calif. OXNARD, Calif. Bryant quickly turned his head toward a reporter who asked him about being the elder statesman among Dallas receivers.

"I'm not the old guy!" the 25-year-old said, raising his voice before flashing a smile. "I'm not. I'm still one of the youngest."

But Bryant is one of the oldest in the receiving group for the Cowboys, and by far the most accomplished.

He's going into the final season of his rookie contract with the potential of a big payday looming. And his answers on that topic sound more like a leader than the troubled rookie who didn't pay his jewelry bills four years ago.

"There is no need for me to be stressed out or worried about it," Bryant said. "I really can't have my mind focused on that because I have guys here who are counting on me and I can't be selfish."

Bryant has carried that label in the minds of many outside the Dallas locker room since he refused to carry Roy Williams' shoulder pads in his first training camp in 2010. That was around the same time he was sued by a jeweler and caused a stir by wearing sagging pants in an upscale Dallas mall.

The most serious issue for Bryant away from the field came two years later when he was accused of hitting his mom in a do-

mestic disturbance.

"Really, truthfully, trying to be honest, a lot of stuff I didn't understand then, was really asking myself what was going on," Bryant said in one of several candid moments during the offseason. "Like I said, just had to figure out what it was and get on the right track and remain on the right track. I honestly feel like that's what I've been doing."

Now Bryant is the one declaring there will be no hazing of rookies at camp in California.

He might not want to be called "old," but he also knows what the release of eight-year veteran Miles Austin meant for his role.



Forget the intangibles. Just take the numbers. The other 10 receivers on the Dallas camp roster have combined for barely half of Bryant's 4,104 career yards. Bryant has 34 touchdowns in the past three seasons — twice that of the other receivers. He has 40 scores in four years.

"Because of the experience, yeah, but other than that nothing has changed," Bryant said. "Everybody, in the wide receiver group, looks at each other as the same and that's how I want it and that's how they want it and that's how we're going to keep it."

Defenses won't look at it that way, which is why quarterback Tony Romo talks to Bryant about new ways of making himself better.

"He's already good but now he can dig in and find those little things that only he knows," Romo said. "You can try to help him see it as a quarterback or a coach but he knows something he can perfect and be better at and the people would never see it naturally but he can take it and go practice it."

Bryant made more negative headlines last season with sideline antics in losses to Detroit and Green Bay that forced him and others to try to explain his behavior. He never lost the backing of Romo and tight end Jason Witten, and still stands by a passionate approach that he says fueled those emotional moments.

"I feel like I'm still rising," Bryant said. "To me, it's almost kind of scary just because of the fact of how much I love the game, not only myself, I want my teammates to be great. The way I feel, I don't hesitate to share that with my teammates."

He also hasn't lost the backing of coach Jason Garrett, Bryant's frequent pass-and-catch partner in practice and on game days.

"I can't begin to tell in so many different ways how he's gotten better," Garrett said. "He's gotten much more mature as a person. He handles the game in a much more professional manner than he did when he got here. It shows up in his play."

Even though Bryant insists it doesn't show up in his age.

'I really can't have my mind focused on [the contract] because I have guys here who are counting on me and I can't be selfish.'

Dez Bryant
Cowboys receiver

Gus Ruelas/AP

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MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

	East Division		Central Division	
	W	Pct	W	Pct
Baltimore	58	.466	53	.510
Toronto	50	.396	51	.495
New York	54	.509	54	.519
Tampa Bay	51	.484	48	.463
Boston	48	.457	48	.463

	West Division	
	W	Pct
Oakland	65	.625
Seattle	54	.514
Houston	54	.514
Los Angeles	41	.390

National League

	East Division		West Division	
	W	Pct	W	Pct
Washington	56	.488	57	.557
Atlanta	57	.488	58	.557
Philadelphia	50	.476	49	.476

Sunday's Games

Toronto at Tampa Bay
 Minnesota, S. Yankees, Yankees
 Toronto, S. Yankees, Chicago White Sox
 Cleveland, L.A. Angels, Texas
 L.A. Angels, S. Yankees, Oakland, R. Sox
 Washington, C. Cincinnati
 Miami, Houston
 St. Louis, C. Cincinnati
 Philadelphia, C. Cincinnati
 Atlanta, S. Yankees
 L.A. Dodgers, S. Yankees

Monday's Games

Milwaukee at Tampa Bay
 Toronto at Boston
 N.Y. Yankees at Texas
 Oakland at Houston
 San Diego at Atlanta
 A.S. Sanchez W-1.0
 Janssen 5-16-18

Tuesday's Games

Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets
 Philadelphia at Miami
 Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs
 Pittsburgh at San Francisco
 L.A. Angels (Weaver 1-1) at Baltimore
 Seattle (Iwakuma 8-5) at Cleveland
 Boston at Tampa Bay
 Detroit (An Sanchez 4-7) at Texas
 L.A. Dodgers (Strahan 6-2) at Boston (R.D. La Rosa 3-5)
 McCarty (2-0) at Texas (N.Martinez 1-6)
 Colorado (Swarzak 2-0) at Kansas City (Shields 5-9)
 Philadelphia (Cahill 2-1) at Houston (Feliciano 3-1)
 Arizona (Samardzija 1) at Cincinnati (Kemp 3-7)
 Milwaukee (Garza 7-7) at Tampa Bay
 Philadelphia (Hameis 5-4) at N.Y. Mets
 Washington (Strasburg 7-8) at Miami (Alvarez 5-7)
 Colorado (De La Rosa 11-6) at Cincinnati (Eaton 5-7)
 Kansas City (Lynch 5-11) at Texas (Beckett 6-5)
 Houston (Lester 11-7) at San Diego (Potts 9-10)
 Pittsburgh (Llano 2-7) at San Francisco (Lincecum 8-7)

Sunday Nationals 4, Reds 2

Washington	Cincinnati
Span of 1	1
Rendon 3b	4
Werth rf	4
LaRoche 2b	4
Smidss 5c	4
Harp Jr. 4c	4
Loatson c	4
Clayton p	4
Clayton p	4
Barrett p	4
Rosipri 0	0

Totals 31 4 5
 Washington 000 000
 Cincinnati 002-2

2B—Laird (2-4), at Cincinnati
 2B—Laird (2-4), at Cincinnati
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 2B—Laird (2-4), at Cincinnati

PH—H. R. ER BB SO
 Washington 7 3 0 0 1 5
 Cincinnati 2 2 2 0 0 0

R.Sandoz 5-28
 1 1 0 0 0 1

Cincinnati
 Latus L2-3 6 3 3 3 4 6
 JuDaz 1 1 0 0 0 0
 LeCun 2-1 1 0 0 0 0 0

PH—Batt pitched to 2 batters in the 9th.
 HR—by Latus (London), PB—Mesoraco.
 T—319, A—31,982 (42,319).

Nationals 4, Yankees 2

Washington	Cincinnati
Span of 1	1
Rendon 3b	4
Werth rf	4
LaRoche 2b	4
Smidss 5c	4
Harp Jr. 4c	4
Loatson c	4
Clayton p	4
Clayton p	4
Barrett p	4
Rosipri 0	0

Totals 31 4 5
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 R.Sandoz 5-28 1 1 0 0 0 1

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 JuDaz 1 1 0 0 0 0
 LeCun 2-1 1 0 0 0 0

PH—Batt pitched to 2 batters in the 9th.
 HR—by Latus (London), PB—Mesoraco.
 T—319, A—31,982 (42,319).

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 Phipps R2-8 2 2 2 0 0 0
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Phillies 4, Diamondbacks 2

Arizona	Philadelphia
Inciart cf	4
DPerrit 4c	4
Stanton 3b	4
MMwtr c	4
Byrrt 5c	4
GPerra rf	3
Alhmed ss	3
Nunp p	2
Evans ph	0
Delap p	0
Totals	30 2 6 2

MLB

Santana hits 2 HRs in Indians' victory

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Hall of Famers Reggie Jackson and Jim Rice didn't do it. Neither did Mark McGwire, Albert Pujols, Jim Thome, Barry Bonds nor any other opposing slugger who played at Kansas City.

Carlos Santana hit five home runs in a series at spacious Kauffman Stadium, connecting for two more shots Sunday and leading the Cleveland Indians over the Royals 10-3.

Santana tied a team record for homers in a series, finishing off this four-game set with a pair of two-run shots. He has homered in three straight games, and has hit six home runs in six games.

"I know I'm hot, but I'm taking the same approach," Santana said. "This can happen in this game when a player gets focused. It's a help to the team."

Santana and the Indians ended a four-game losing skid and stopped the Royals' five-game winning streak.

Santana went 3-for-3 and reached base in all five plate appearances, including drawing his major league-leading 72nd walk. The switch-hitter homered in a four-run fifth inning and hit another drive in the ninth for his fifth career multihomer game and his second of the series.

"It was pretty impressive to watch," teammate Mike Aviles said. "Everybody knows how big he can be. He was able to drive some balls out of the park consistently from both sides."

"Watching him all season, he has an unbelievable eye. I know his average isn't where he wants it to be, but he got off to a slow start. But even through his struggles early in the year, he was able to find ways to get on base. You know with a guy like him it was only a matter of time before he got back on pace."

In his past six games, Santana is 14-for-23, including three doubles and 10 RBIs.

"He's hot as a firecracker," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "He's hitting home runs right-handed. He's hitting home runs left-handed."

Ryan Raburn and Yan Gomes also homered for the Indians, who had lost six straight at Kauffman Stadium.



COLIN E. BRALEY/AP

Cleveland Indians' Carlos Santana rounds the bases after hitting a two-run home run in the ninth inning against the Kansas City Royals at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., on Sunday. Santana hit two HRs as the Indians won 10-3.

Danny Salazar (3-4) gave up three runs and seven hits over seven innings. He walked none and struck out seven.

Bruce Chen (2-3) allowed up six runs and eight hits in five-plus innings.

Nick Swisher hit an RBI single in the Indians seventh to end an 0-for-21 streak.

Billy Butler had three hits for the Royals, including an RBI double. He had homered in his previous two games, but Santana equaled Butler's season home run total in the series.

"Santana has got a lot of pop," Butler said. "He's in one of those zones. A lot of guys get hot, but don't hit four homers in a series. Five, sorry, I missed one. It just shows you how impressive it is. He's very talented, a very strong guy."

Santana is the first player to hit five home runs in a series since Hunter Pence for San Francisco against the Dodgers last September.

Santana tied an Indians record for most home runs in a series. The others were Hal Trosky (1934), Joe Carter (1989), Albert Belle (1995), Matt Williams (1997) and Travis Hafner (2004). Hafner did it in two-game series against the Angels.



COLIN E. BRALEY/AP

Cleveland Indians' Jose Ramirez, right, is safe at third as Kansas City Royals third baseman Mike Moustakas, left, is late with the tag in the fifth inning of Sunday's game.



TED S. WARREN/AP

Baltimore Orioles' Manny Machado hits an RBI-single in the eighth inning of Sunday's game against the Seattle Mariners in Seattle. The AL East-leading Orioles won 3-2 in 10 innings.

Roundup

Machado, Orioles work overtime to top Mariners

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Manny Machado and the Baltimore Orioles are working extra hard for their wins lately.

Machado lifted a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the 10th inning and the Orioles beat the Seattle Mariners 3-2 Sunday.

The Orioles took three of four in the series, twice winning in extra innings. Baltimore is 11-3 in extras this season, including six straight wins.

Manager Buck Showalter said Machado had a "stick-your-nose-over-the-plate-and-get-it-done" at-bat.

Adam Jones opened the 10th with a double into the left-field corner off Yoervis Medina (4-2). Nelson Cruz and Chris Davis walked to load the bases.

After J.J. Hardy popped out, Machado hit a flyball to deep center.

"He was challenging me. His best pitch is his fastball," Machado said. "He started with a strike. Then he comes up and in. So I'm down 0-2 real quick. He tried to get me out with a fastball down and in, and I got it up and put it in play."

Mariners manager Lloyd McClendon didn't like what Medina threw Machado.

"It wasn't a good pitch, it was a strike," McClendon said. "He was trying to get a groundout. He went at him with his best stuff. It just

didn't work."

Machado also singled and scored in the third inning and had an RBI single in the eighth.

T.J. McFarland (4-2) worked one inning for the victory. His effort came on a day when his grandmother passed away in Chicago. He plans to leave the team beginning Monday for at least three days to attend her funeral.

Zach Britton struck out the side in the 10th for his 20th save in 23 opportunities.

Dustin Ackley had three hits for the Mariners and is batting .375 in 21 games this month.

"They got runners on at the end and they were able to get the sac fly, which was huge," Ackley said. "We just didn't take advantage and they did."

Mariners reliever Brandon Maurer had not allowed an earned run in 10 previous relief appearances, a span of 15 innings, before Baltimore took a 2-1 lead in the eighth.

Blue Jays 5, Yankees 4: Dioner Navarro hit a go-ahead single with two outs in the ninth as visiting Toronto rallied after wasting three leads for its first series win in the Bronx since Aug. 27-29, 2012.

Athletics 9, Rangers 3: John Jaso drove in three runs as Oakland downed host Texas.

Marlins 4, Astros 2: Garrett Jones and Marcell Ozuna homered for Miami, which completed a three game sweep of host Houston.

Twins 4, White Sox 3: Sam Fuld hit a tiebreaking, two-run single off Javy Guerra in a three-run seventh inning as host Minnesota avoided a four-game sweep by Chicago.

Phillies 4, Diamondbacks 2: Ryan Howard homered in his second game since a three-game benching and scored the go-ahead run on an overturned call at the plate as host Philadelphia beat Arizona.

Nationals 4, Reds 2: Doug Fister (10-2) allowed three hits in seven shutout innings and Adam LaRoche drove in two runs and Anthony Rendon added an RBI single in the ninth as visiting Washington beat Cincinnati.

Mets 2, Brewers 0: New York's Lucas Duda hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Jimmy Nelson (1-2). Duda's third homer in four days, as the Mets beat host Milwaukee.

Cardinals 1, Cubs 0: Adam Wainwright (13-5) allowed five hits in seven innings and Matt Holliday homered in the first off rookie Kyle Hendricks (1-1) as visiting St. Louis held off Chicago.

Braves 8, Padres 3: Chris Johnson and Ryan Doumit each drove in two runs during Atlanta's six-run third inning as the Braves beat visiting San Diego.

Pirates 7, Rockies 5: Josh Harrison had four hits, including an eighth-inning homer on the first pitch by Rex Brothers (3-5) that broke a 5 tie as Pittsburgh got by host Colorado.

MLB

Dodgers finish sweep of Giants

BY JANIE McCAULEY
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Manager Don Mattingly hardly considers a late-July sweep in San Francisco a turning point to put his Dodgers in the driver's seat atop the NL West.

Yet coming off consecutive series losses at St. Louis and Pittsburgh, Los Angeles needed some sort of spark as August approaches. The Dodgers found it in the ballpark of the biggest rival, and left the Bay Area in first place following an emphatic three-game swing.

Carl Crawford hit an RBI triple to back Hyun-Jin Ryu's third straight victory, and division-leading Los Angeles beat the Giants 4-3 Sunday night to establish some momentum behind their pitching and offense.

"You make enough of a statement by winning three games," Mattingly said. "Obviously it's something. That's all it is at that point because you have a lot of baseball to play. We're going to see these guys again. They're not going anywhere."

Matt Kemp singled twice and the Dodgers leave the Bay Area with a 1½-game division lead after outscoring the Giants 17-4.

"Getting offense for three days is kind of like when you don't get it for three days, you don't really know where it's going to continue to go," Mattingly said. "It's a chance to build momentum, it's a confidence builder for your club to be able to come into a tough environment and play well."

Ryu (12-5) moved within two wins of his rookie total last year and improved to 4-1 in five outings at AT&T Park, where in one dominant weekend the Dodgers made quite a statement to take over the NL West's top spot.

"It was great. To come out here with a 1½-game lead, especially coming into it with a 1½-game deficit, obviously best-case scenario," first baseman Adrian Gonzalez said. "After the first leg of this road trip where we lost both series, this kind of made everything great, winning a series, winning a road trip and going home on a great note."

In his Giants debut, Jake Peavy threw a pair of wild pitches in the fifth as the Dodgers went ahead on Hanley Ramirez's RBI single ahead of Crawford's triple to the corner in deep right field.

San Francisco suffered its first three-game sweep in the rivalry since June 24-26, 2013, at Dodger Stadium. The last Dodgers sweep



BEN MARROTT/AP

The Dodgers' Hanley Ramirez, left, scores past Giants catcher Buster Posey in the fifth inning on Sunday night in San Francisco. Ramirez scored on a triple by Carl Crawford as Los Angeles won 4-3 to sweep its NL West division rivals.

at AT&T Park came July 27-29, 2012.

Buster Posey hit a solo home run in the fifth for San Francisco's first extra-base hit since Hunter Pence doubled in the ninth inning Wednesday at Philadelphia — the Giants' first three-game stretch without an extra-base hit since May 30-June 1, 2002.

Ryu struck out seven in six innings and improved to 8-2 in 11 road starts. Kenley Jansen followed scoreless innings by J.P. Howell and Brian Wilson for his 30th save.

Peavy (0-1) pitched a day after being traded from the Boston

Red Sox to the Giants for a pair of minor league pitchers, reuniting him with former manager Bruce Bochy. Peavy pitched for Bochy and the Padres in 2005-06.

Bochy stuck with the right-hander to get through the sixth after he allowed a leadoff walk to Juan Uribe. Peavy drew regular roars from a lively sellout crowd at AT&T Park as fans found plenty to cheer for after a frustrating few days.

He allowed six hits and four runs — three earned — struck out five and walked two in six innings.

Peavy dropped to 14-3 with a 2.28 ERA in 26 starts against Los

Angeles, including a three-hitter last Aug. 25 at Dodger Stadium in which he struck out five and walked one.

Second baseman Dan Uggla committed two errors, including one that helped tie it early after he scored the game's first run in the bottom of the third. Uggla's fielding error leading off the top of the fourth allowed Ramirez to reach and Uribe later singled in the tying run.

The Giants lost for the 19th time in their last 25 home games.

"It's going to be important to put it behind us," Bochy said. "We have to regroup."

Ortiz, BoSox snap five-game skid

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Rays didn't like the way David Ortiz acted after he helped beat them with a three-run homer, and now it's back on between the teams at the bottom of the AL East.

Ortiz's shot off Chris Archer lifted the Boston Red Sox to a 3-2 victory Sunday that ended their five-game losing streak and also stopped the Rays' nine-game winning string.

Archer (6-6) made a point of saying he didn't appreciate Ortiz staring him down and flipping his bat before beginning his home run trot.

"He's not the right guy to be saying that. I don't think," Ortiz said. "He's got two days in the league," the slugger added, adding a couple of expletives.

Ortiz's 25th home run came after a walk and Dustin Pedroia's infield single in the third inning, giving Boston a 3-0 lead. It was his fifth homer in seven games and his 29th at Tropicana Field, most among visiting players.

"I don't know what makes him think that he can showboat the way he does, and then nobody retaliates," Archer said. "Nobody looks at him in a funny way or punches him inside. I don't know why he feels like that, but obviously he feels the way David (Price) said he does — he feels like he's bigger than the game. He feels like the show is all about him."

Price and Ortiz began feuding after Big Papi homered off the former AL Cy Young winner last fall in the AL championship series. Price hit Ortiz with a fastball earlier this season, leading to more verbal sparring.

"He played it up pretty good," Rays manager Joe Maddon said of Ortiz's homer. "The man has meant so much for the game and also back in his country (the Dominican Republic), but there's those moments that occur like that. I'm not saying that by my respect diminished, it's just something that makes you a little more aware."

After hitting his 456th career homer, the 38-year-old Ortiz had the last word. For now, anyway.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Boston Red Sox DH David Ortiz watches his three-run home run in front of Tampa Bay catcher Curt Casali in the third inning of Sunday's game in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"Maybe they get too sensitive about things, just leave it like that," he said. "I think (Archer) is a good pitcher. I think he's got great stuff. He's a guy that I think he's going to be pretty good, but it's going to take some time to get to that level."

The teams next meet in late August at Tampa Bay. Desmond Jennings drove in both of the Rays runs with a double off Allen Webster in the third.

Webster (1-0) pitched 5½ innings in his first game this year in the majors, giving up two runs on three hits and five walks while striking out four.

Webster left after Jackie Bradley caught Evan Longoria's 400-foot line drive before crashing into the center-field wall in the sixth.

Koji Uehara pitched the ninth for his 21st save, striking out the last three batters.

The win was the first of the season for the Red Sox at Tropicana Field, where they had lost five straight. Pedroia and Daniel Nava had two hits each for the Red Sox, who did not have a hit over the last five innings.

The Rays' nine-game winning streak was their longest in 10 years and the second-longest in franchise history.

Angels top Tigers on Freese's HR

BY GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — After a weekend filled with mostly miserable swings, David Freese surprised his teammates, the Angel Stadium fireworks crew and even himself when he hit a tiebreaking homer.

Nobody was stunned when another dominant pitching performance from the Los Angeles Angels kept them near the top of the majors.

Freese homered off Joba Chamberlain in the eighth inning, and the Angels beat the Detroit Tigers 2-1 Sunday for their third straight victory.

Freese's sixth homer of the season helped to finish a tense, pitching-dominated series between teams with two of the majors' top three records. Los Angeles took three of four in the series despite scoring just eight runs in its victories.

After the previous five batters struck out, Freese delivered one of the biggest hits in his up-and-down debut season with the Angels, driving a one-out pitch from Chamberlain (1-4) to the fake rock pile beyond the center field fence.

"I've taken some wonderful hacks over the last three games or so — just some terrible swings," said Freese, who had been 5-for-31 on the Angels' home stand. "I put a good one on that. I guess they call them slumps because you always get out of them."

Hector Santiago and three Angels relievers combined on a three hitter as Detroit managed just one hit in its final 25 at-bats, getting just one baserunner after the first inning.

Joe Smith (4-0) pitched the eighth for Los Angeles, which got nine innings of scoreless, two-hit relief pitching in its three straight wins over Detroit.

Huston Street pitched the ninth for his third save in four appearances with his new club.

MLB

Hall class pays special tribute to families

By JOHN KERIS
The Associated Press

FCOOPERSTOWN, N.Y. Frank Thomas choked back tears, Joe Torre apologized for leaving people out of his speech and Tony La Russa said he felt uneasy.

Being enshrined in the Hall of Fame can have those effects, even on the greats.

Thomas, pitchers Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux, and managers Bobby Cox, Torre and La Russa were inducted into the baseball shrine Sunday, and all paid special tribute to their families before an adoring crowd of nearly 50,000.

"I'm speechless. Thanks for having me in your club," Thomas said, getting emotional as he remembered his late father. "Frank Sr., I know you're watching. Without you, I know 100 percent I wouldn't be here in Cooperstown today. You always preached to me, 'You can be someone special if you really work at it.' I took that to heart, Pop."

"Mom, I thank you for all the motherly love and support. I know it wasn't easy."

The 46-year-old Thomas, the first player elected to the Hall who spent more than half of his time as a designated hitter, batted .301 with 521 home runs and 1,704 RBIs in a 19-year career mostly with the Chicago White Sox. He's the only player in major league history to log seven straight seasons with a .300 average, 20 homers, 100 RBIs and 100 walks.

Ever the diplomat as a manager, Torre somehow managed to assuage the most demanding of owners in George Steinbrenner, maintaining his coolness amid all the Bronx craziness while keeping all those egos in check after taking over in 1996. The result: 10 division titles, six AL pennants and four World Series triumphs in 12 years as he helped restore the luster to baseball's most successful franchise and resurrected his own career after three firings.

Torre, the only man to amass more than 2,000 hits (2,342) and win more than 2,000 games as a manager, was last to speak, and in closing delivered a familiar message.

"Baseball is a game of life. It's not perfect, but it feels like it is," said the 74-year-old Torre, who apologized afterward for forgetting to include the Steinbrenner family in his speech. "That's the message I've responded to for the rest of my life, and it respects and deserves. Our sport is part of the American soul, and it's ours to borrow — just for a while."

"If all of us who love baseball and are doing our jobs, then those who get the game from us will be as proud to be a part of it as we give. And we are. This game is a gift, and I am humbled, very humbled, to accept its greatest honor."

The day was a reunion of sorts for the city of Atlanta. Glavine, Maddux and Cox were part of a remarkable run of success by the Braves. They won an unprecedented 14 straight division titles



MIKE GROLL/AP

National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees, from left, Bobby Cox, Tony La Russa, Tom Glavine, Frank Thomas, Greg Maddux and Joe Torre hold their plaques after an induction ceremony at the Clark Sports Center in Cooperstown, N.Y., on Sunday.



TIM ROSKE/AP

National Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Frank Thomas wipes away tears as he speaks during his induction.

and made 15 playoff appearances, winning the city's lone major professional sports title.

"I'm truly humbled to stand here before you," Cox said. "To Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux, and I have to mention the third member of the big three — John Smoltz — I can honestly say I would not be standing here if it weren't for you guys."

Smoltz, part of the MLB Network telecast of the event and eligible for induction next year, flashed a smile in return for the compliment.

Glavine started when the Braves won Game 6 to clinch the 1995 World Series, pitching one-hit ball over eight innings in a 1-0 victory over Cleveland. And the slender lefty was one of those rare athletes, drafted by the Braves and the Los Angeles Kings of the National Hockey League.

"I had a difficult choice to make, and as a left-handed pitcher I thought that was the thing that would set me apart and make

baseball the smartest decision," Glavine said. "Of course, I always wondered what would have happened had I taken up hockey."

"In my mind, since I was drafted ahead of two Hall of Famers in Luc Robitaille and Brett Hull, that obviously means I would have been a Hall of Famer in hockey, too," Glavine chuckled as the crowd cheered. "But I'm positive I made the right choice."

The 48-year-old Maddux went 355-227 with a career ERA of 3.16 in 23 seasons with the Braves, Cubs, Padres and Dodgers and ranks eighth on the career wins list. He won four straight Cy Young Awards in the 1990s and won 15 or more games for 17 straight seasons with his pinpoint control.

"I spent 12 years in Chicago, 11 in Atlanta, and both places are very special," Maddux said. "Without the experiences in both cities, I would not be standing here today."

La Russa, who ranks third in career victories as a manager with



MARK DIORIO, OBSERVER-DISPATCH/AP

Former Major League Baseball player and manager Joe Torre waves to the crowd as he enters the stage during the Hall of Fame Weekend Induction Ceremony on Sunday in Cooperstown, N.Y.

2,728, behind only Connie Mack and John McGraw, was chosen manager of the year four times and won 12 division titles, six pennants and three World Series titles in stints with the White Sox, Oakland A's and St. Louis Cardinals.

La Russa spoke from the heart. There was no written speech.

"It's uncomfortable because I didn't make it as a player. Not even close," said La Russa, who made his big league debut as a teenage infielder with the 1963 Kansas City Athletics and appeared in just 132 games over six seasons, hitting .199 with no home runs.

"Since December, I have not been comfortable with it. There's no way to mention everybody, and that bothers me."

"From managing parts of two years in the minor leagues, after thinking about all the other young managers who paid a lot of dues in the minor leagues and I get a chance and then I go into the big leagues with three organizations," he said. "All that equates to me is I'm very, very fortunate. I've never put my arms around the fact that being really lucky is a Hall of Fame credential."

SPORTS

A day in the life of O's 21-year-old batboy
Page 16

NASCAR



ROBERT BAKER/AP

Jeff Gordon celebrates winning the Brickyard 400 by kissing the yard of bricks at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sunday. It was Gordon's fifth victory at Indy.

'Jeff Gordon Day' at Indy

Fifth Brickyard 400 victory comes on 20th anniversary of first win

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — With a fifth Brickyard 400 victory on the line Sunday, Jeff Gordon looked like the driver he was 20 years ago.

Gordon nailed the final restart of the race — no given, because restarts have been his Achilles heel — to pass Hendrick Motorsports teammate Kasey Kahne with 17 laps remaining at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

His power move from the outside lane past Kahne put Gordon out front for good,

and he kicked it into cruise control for a NASCAR-record fifth victory at historic Indy. The win came on the 20th anniversary celebration of Gordon's win in the inaugural Brickyard 400, and on "Jeff Gordon Day" as declared by the Mayor of Indianapolis.

"I told him this morning that this was his day," said team owner Rick Hendrick.

The win moved Gordon into a tie with Michael Schumacher, whose five Formula One victories at Indy had been the gold standard.

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Jeff Gordon drives through Turn 1 on Sunday.
Tom Stratman AP

Big names inducted at Cooperstown
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Strahan to join other Giants greats in Hall
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