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ONE LAST HOOAH IN AFGHANISTAN



US paratroopers hope to deal a few final blows against Taliban

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Sgt. Adam Letnom says he is pessimistic about the future of Afghanistan as U.S. troops draw down. "I don't think there was ever a strong hope for change in Afghanistan," he said.

ERNESTO LONDONO/The Washington Post

Montel Williams, headless chicken join VA health care fray

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Ask Montel Williams about the Department of Veterans Affairs and you are likely to hear the story of Mike the Headless Chicken.

Williams is best known as a daytime talk

show host, but he is building a reputation in Washington as an unlikely and fiery critic of the VA.

The White House has been getting — but not taking — his phone calls, and his online petition to fix the deeply troubled VA recently fizzled. But Williams, who served in the Marine Corps and Navy, has not been

deterred and managed to elbow his way into an already crowded public debate over dangerously long patient wait times and staff misconduct.

That is where Mike the Headless Chicken comes in.

On Wednesday, Williams recounted his go-to allegory for the troubled agency

while giving the keynote address at a large gathering of veteran groups.

As the story goes, a Colorado farmer chopped the head off a rooster for his family's dinner in 1945 but the chicken did not die, that day or the next.

SEE WILLIAMS ON PAGE 9

NFL

Lions quarterback Stafford looking to bounce back

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MIDEAST

Watchdog: At \$104B, Afghanistan will cost more than Marshall Plan

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FACES

A&E's 'Duck Dynasty' audience ebbs even as Phil controversy fades

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Military: Stowaway in C-130 at Ramstein likely suffocated » Page 7

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you need to dispose of anything you shouldn't have, we suggest you flush it now."

— Flight attendant warning passengers about drug-sniffing dogs at the Sydney airport

See story on Page 15

MILITARY

Afghan, WWII recovery costs weighed

SIGAR: Repairs to require more spending than on Marshall Plan

By **JOSH SMITH**
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — By the time its combat troops depart at the end of the year, the United States will have appropriated more money trying to fix Afghanistan than it did on the Marshall Plan that helped Europe recover economically after World War II, according to an analysis by a government watchdog.

The comparison in the latest quarterly report of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction draws attention to the mixed results of U.S. investments in Afghanistan — \$104 billion appropriated since 2002 — versus the success of the Marshall Plan, which is credited with helping to spur the economic revival of Western Europe.

The Marshall Plan cost about \$13.3 billion at the time, but dollars during the 1950s could purchase much more than today's dollars. Adjusting for inflation and stated in today's dollars, the Marshall Plan investment would be equal to \$103.4 billion, SIGAR concluded. Using the same adjustments, the SIGAR report calculated that the actual investment in Afghanistan equals more than \$109 billion.

The intent and focus of the two programs — one launched in the midst of war and the other after peace was restored — differ significantly, making comparisons difficult. Although the U.S. investment in Afghanistan has not brought extensive change, there have been improvements that should be maintained, analysts say. Such goals will require continued commitment by the U.S. and other countries, even after combat troops withdraw.

Much of the Marshall Plan funding was spent on imports such as food, machinery, fertilizer and other items needed in the post-war reconstruction of Europe. By the early 1950s, economic output in most West European nations had surpassed pre-war levels.

What the billions of dollars spent in Afghanistan have achieved remains an open question.

The Taliban insurgency is still entrenched and many reports indicate it is making gains as international combat troops depart. Civilian casualties are rising to record levels, and Afghanistan is regularly listed as one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

The American aid effort has been regularly criticized by SIGAR and others.

"The 30 audits, inspections, special projects, and other reports SIGAR issued this quarter examined programs and projects worth approximately \$18.2 billion," the watchdog noted in its report, released Wednesday. "Unfortunately, most uncovered poor planning, shoddy construction, mechanical failures, and inadequate oversight."

Support among Americans for the U.S. effort in Afghanistan is at an all-time low. According



First Lt. Jon Walatkiewicz, an adviser with the 101st Airborne Division Security Force Assistance Team, helps Afghan National Army soldier Haykhan during training at Forward Operating Base Joyce in eastern Afghanistan.

Josh Smith/Stars and Stripes

‘There are limits to the comparison ... but there’s no question we’ve made a huge commitment and no question that the return on that investment might be less than we hoped for.’

Scott Smith

United States Institute of Peace

Smith said.

SIGAR, however, warns that its ability to make sure aid money is going where it's needed will be drastically lessened as NATO withdraws its troops.

"Large areas of the country — larger even than SIGAR anticipated last year — will soon be off limits to U.S. personnel due to base closures and troop withdrawals," the report said.

Michael Kugelman, of the Woodrow Wilson Center, said that gains have been made with the help of U.S. aid, but he worries that they are now at risk.

"Conventional wisdom is rooted in a bird's-eye view that's actually quite misleading," he said. "Take a closer look, and you'll see the tremendous advances in women's education, public health and minority rights — not to mention in Afghanistan's security forces. These are success stories that U.S. assistance has played a part in bringing about."

But uncertainty remains over Afghanistan's presidential election, the future of U.S. troops in the country and the political will among donor countries to sustain aid for Afghanistan.

"Our reconstruction aid is essentially a lifeline for Afghanistan's economy," Kugelman said. "If it's withdrawn, or significantly reduced, the implications could be deeply troubling."

"This means that despite the horror show that U.S. aid projects in Afghanistan have sometimes become — the new facility that's never used, the tracking program that's unable to track — we have a responsibility to maintain our investment in Afghanistan."

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5. Whistleblower files suit against Georgia National Guard

COMING SOON



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Tom Petty releases 13th album

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MIDEAST

Last chance to tip the scales

US paratroops take final swipes at Taliban as drawdown looms

By ERNESTO LONDONO
The Washington Post

SHINKAI, Afghanistan — It was a homecoming of sorts for Lt. Col. Paul Larson, returning to this remote corner of southern Afghanistan at the twilight of America's longest war. He was back to take stock of a slice of the battlefield that seemed brimming with possibility when he last led soldiers here a decade ago.

In 2005, Larson was zealous about counterinsurgency, convinced that irrigation projects, agrarian reform initiatives and new schools would plant the seeds of peace, rendering this mountainous, barren area inhospitable to an insurgency that appeared on the brink of defeat.

As he flew to his former outpost late last month, commanding the last U.S. battalion conducting fixed-wing combat operations in Afghanistan, Larson's mission was narrower, less ambitious and without altruistic impulses.

"It's a pleasure to be here to help you finish off the last little pockets of Taliban," the American officer told Lt. Gada Mohammed Dost, the Afghan commander who for the past two years has muddled through in this contested sector of southeastern Afghanistan with virtually no American help.

The 82nd Airborne Division paratroops under Larson's command have been tasked with dropping into contested areas to examine how Afghan troops are faring as U.S. forces have thinned out and to deal a few final blows to militants that have withstood nearly 13 years of U.S. firepower.

War vantage point

The mission has given them a rich vantage point on the state of a war the United States will largely disengage from by year's end — and the soldiers have divergent outlooks about the odds that this nation, stymied by a rocky political transition, a stubborn insurgency and an anemic economy, will somehow stabilize.

As the conflict's final lethal act, Larson's been tasked with tipping the scales, even if just slightly.

Civilians have been killed and maimed at a growing rate this year as insurgents have sought to make inroads in populated areas where foreign troops have left, according to figures compiled by the U.N. mission in Kabul.

The lion's share of the fighting is being done by Afghan forces, who have struggled to hold key terrain in recent weeks in southwestern Helmand province as well as a few key districts and roads. Larson's men have been relatively

little fighting on this deployment, which leads some to believe that Taliban factions are less inclined to fight the Americans.

"If I was an insurgent, I would wait until the Americans left and try my luck with the ANSF," said Capt. Michael Wallace, 29, who is on his third Afghan deployment. "When we're with them, they can make us have bad days, but they're never going to win."

Strength a mystery

Just how strong the Taliban remains is somewhat of a mystery. Senior American commanders say the group, like much in this country, finds itself at a crossroads. Some of its international funding sources have dried up as jihadist movements in Syria and Iraq have shown more promise to those who underwrite Sunni insurgencies, U.S. military intelligence officials say.

After the Taliban failed to make good on its threat to foil this past spring's presidential election through violence, several leaders were ousted or sidelined, most significantly Capt. Ruyk McCuan, 31, the battalion's intelligence officer. "A fighter on the ground knows he has been loyal to a certain individual in a position of authority, and now there is confusion about whose guidance they should be following."

The group is militarily weaker than it has been in several years due to the headway Afghan forces have made in securing urban areas and major transportation routes, Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, the U.S. commander in Helmand, said in an interview. They remain a potent threat in the south, as displayed by the intense fighting this summer in Helmand, where numbers of U.S. troops have been reduced most dramatically.

Returning to his old base, Larson said he was struck by the professionalism and discipline of the Afghan soldiers there. "What we have seen is that the Afghan security forces are holding their ground," he said. "As the American team sought to make the most of its short stay in



ERNESTO LONDONO/The Washington Post

Lt. Col. Paul Larson, left, watches as Maj. William Canada coordinates the response to a parachute unit under attack in Zabul Province, Afghanistan. Larson commands the 2nd Battalion, 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division, which is deployed in southern Afghanistan.

Zabul province, Larson leaned on the Afghans for actionable intelligence on senior insurgents.

"Attention in the TOC!" Maj. William Canada bellowed, silencing the couple of dozen soldiers crammed into the makeshift tactical operations center they established within one of the few concrete buildings of a former American site called Forward Operating Base Sweeney.

A platoon from the battalion had just gotten into a firefight with a band of suspected Taliban fighters during their first patrol in Zabul, Canada, the battalion's operations officer, was working the phones and hammering away on his dusty laptop looking for intelligence and options.

Surveillance drones transmitted grainy, live black-and-white video of the platoon's position, along with footage of suspected militants nearby. Signals intelligence analysts relayed intercepted communications.

"They just did another call-up," one analyst said. "They reported that they saw infidels along the wall."

'Strike him. Smite him.'

There was palpable excitement in the room when radio intercepts confirmed that the Taliban commander leading the fight was a fairly senior fighter on the Americans' target list. Known only by his alias, this was a man the Americans very much wanted to kill.

"Strike him," Canada said, as his team worked to ensure that an airstrike on the man complied with rules that require a finding of "hostile intent" and assurances that bystanders wouldn't be hurt. "Smite him."

The suspected Taliban leader was spared because he was traveling with two other men who didn't meet the hostile-intent criteria. A similar frantic effort began the following day when the infantrymen at Sweeney spotted a man traveling on a motorcycle carrying a rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

The soldiers spent hours monitoring his movements on the screen. They called Afghan offi-

cials in the area to rule out that he could have been a policeman. In the end, they again refrained from ordering a hit.

"He lives to ride his motorcycle another day," Canada said.

Without drones and increasingly infrequent American air support, the experience of the Afghan soldiers under the command of Dost, the Afghan colonel Larson's men came to help, offers an instructive window into what happens to contested areas once the Americans leave. A couple of years ago, the Afghan officer said, Taliban fighters in the area threatened to take over his base.

"When the Americans left, the Taliban fought us very strongly," Dost said.

His men fought exceptionally hard, Dost said, and he made peace with some former Taliban members or supporters who live close to the base, which has kept the immediate vicinity relatively safe.

Over time, the Taliban changed strategy. Instead of fighting for control of urban areas or trying to overrun the base, the group focused on maintaining access to smuggling routes used to ferry fighters, bombs and weapons from Pakistan. To keep Afghan soldiers at bay, Dost said, the Taliban has heavily mined areas around Afghan army bases and the routes their trucks must use to travel, leaving them largely constrained.

"The big problem has become IEDs," he said, referring to improvised explosive devices. Lacking the sophisticated equipment the U.S. military uses to spot and defuse roadside bombs, Dost's men must rely on eyesight and instinct to find them and bullets to blow them up. "If I'm going from one district to another, I find 50 or 55 IEDs along the route," Dost said.

Of the smuggling routes Dost's men are unable to shut down, a corridor in the Dawazagai Pass near the Pakistani border remains a major concern to U.S. military officials. Larson dispatched 100 paratroops aboard Chinook helicopters there on a recent morning hoping to shut it down — if only for a few days.

Walking silently in single file, the American infantrymen were near the peak of a winding mountain stretch when the first ominous sighting of the day brought the formation to a halt. An Afghan soldier thought he had spotted a white cloth fluttering from a hill-top as the first hints of daylight revealed the valley's stunning lunar landscape. "The ANA say they see a Taliban flag," one of the Americans said.

The flag sighting turned out to be a mirage. As morning gave way to a smoldering afternoon, the soldiers perched on the peak of a range overlooking two tiny villages but found few signs of enemy activity — except, possibly, for three men who sped away in motorcycles.

'Waiting us out'

"They're waiting us out," Sgt. Adam Letrom, 28, said as he looked down the valley, where a lone shepherd was tending goats. "They know we're leaving, and they'll start back up. Since there's been so much focus on the pullout, it's probably just smarter to wait."

Sitting nearby, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Ventrice, 34, who served three tours in Iraq and is on his second Afghan deployment, said he had come to terms with the prospect that the Afghan War will be lost.

"I'm going to fall a lot faster than Iraq did," Ventrice said. "Nobody fights like the Taliban."

A few feet away, an Afghan soldier, Staff Sgt. Jam Shid, appeared dejected as he agreed with those conclusions. Afghan security forces will start losing ground as more American military resources vanish, he predicted, and could quickly lose control. As his comrades nodded in agreement, Shid said he feels strongly that the American withdrawal time frame is premature.

"If we become weak, all the world will say America failed in Afghanistan," he said. "If we become strong, all the world will say America succeeded in Afghanistan. One way or another, it will be a good lesson for the enemies of America and Afghanistan."

MILITARY

House panel condemns Obama for prisoner swap

By DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bitterly divided House panel on Tuesday voted to condemn President Barack Obama for the swap of five Taliban leaders for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was held prisoner in Afghanistan for five years.

The Republican-led Armed Services Committee backed a nonbinding resolution that disapproves of the exchange and faults Obama for failing to notify Congress 30 days in advance of the swap, as required by law. The vote was 34-25 with two Democrats — Reps. Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, and Mike McIntyre, of North Carolina — joining Republicans in support of the measure.

The resolution raises national security concerns about the transfer of the five Taliban, who had been held at the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for more than a decade, and the “repercussions of negotiating with terrorists.” The measure also expresses relief that Bergdahl has returned safely to the United States.

The full House is expected to consider the measure in the fall, just a few weeks before the midterm elections.

The Obama administration has come under harsh criticism from many in Congress, especially Republicans, who have said Bergdahl was a deserter and the United States gave up too much for his freedom. Several lawmakers have cited intelligence suggesting the high-level Taliban officials could return to the Afghanistan battlefield.

Five senior Taliban were released from detention at Guantanamo in exchange for

General likely to question Bergdahl next week

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The two-star general looking into the 2009 disappearance of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl may soon question the soldier held by the Taliban for nearly five years, Bergdahl’s attorney said.

“I anticipate he’ll be interviewed next week, although a precise time hasn’t been pinned down,” said Eugene Fidell, who teaches military law at Yale University and is representing Bergdahl on a pro bono basis.

Bergdahl has been introduced to the investigator, Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dahl, in a brief meeting. No questions were asked about why Bergdahl, then a private first class, went missing from a remote out-

post in Afghanistan’s Paktika province.

Bergdahl was released May 31 in exchange for five prominent Taliban prisoners held at the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba. The Obama administration move sparked anger among Republicans in Congress, and Fidell said Bergdahl has since become “a political chew toy.”

Members of Bergdahl’s former unit have also taken aim at the former prisoner, saying he left his base voluntarily and that other soldiers were killed and wounded in searches and other related operations.

A 2009 Army investigation found that Bergdahl voluntarily left the outpost. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, however, has told Congress that he’s seen

no evidence to support the claims of harm to other soldiers resulting from the disappearance.

If Dahl finds that Bergdahl intentionally deserted or went absent without leave, the sergeant could face administrative punishment or criminal prosecution, and could lose hundreds of thousands in back pay and prisoner of war benefits, as well as face incarceration.

On July 14, Bergdahl reported for administrative duty in a new unit with U.S. Army North, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas — the same base where Bergdahl underwent outpatient treatment to help him transition from captivity.

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Bergdahl, who had disappeared from his post in Paktika province in eastern Afghanistan on June 30, 2009. The five Taliban are to remain in Qatar for a year.

The administration has defended the swap and its decision to keep Congress in the dark, saying concern about Bergdahl’s health and safety required speedy action.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff has unanimously supported the exchange, insisting that the United States has a sacred commitment to

men and women who serve that it will never leave anyone behind on the battlefield. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said the swap in May was “likely our last, best opportunity” to free Bergdahl.

During the hearing, Republicans on the Armed Services panel accused Obama of breaking the law, with Rep. Trent Franks, of Arizona, referring to a “lawless presidency.” Rep. Howard “Buck” McKeon, R-

Calif., chairman of the committee, said the five Taliban were not eligible for release and warned of setting a precedent of negotiating with terrorists.

Democrats maintained that the resolution was one step toward impeachment of Obama, part of a broader GOP effort that includes the House lawsuit, led by Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, against the president for unilateral changes in the health care law.

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THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

Extradition of US fugitive in Iraq is 1st since 1936 pact

By AMANDA LEE MYERS
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — A federal fugitive accused of bribing U.S. military contracting officials in Iraq has been returned to the U.S. in what prosecutors say was the first extradition under a 1936 treaty between the two countries.

Metin Atilan, a dual citizen of the U.S. and Turkey, pleaded not guilty Monday to contract and wire fraud charges in federal court in Dayton, Ohio. He was extradited from Iraq on Sunday, about a year after his arrest.

His court-appointed attorney, Thomas Anderson, did not return a call for comment.

Atilan, 54, was arrested in 2008 in Las Vegas, where he was living at the time, on allegations that he offered bribes and kickbacks to secure contracts for his businesses to do construction work and provide other services in Iraq for U.S. military operations.

One of the officials he was accused of trying to bribe worked for the U.S. Air Force in Iraq and later for a Department of Defense

contractor based in southwest Ohio. That official became a confidential informant for the U.S. government.

After his arrest, Atilan was placed on electronic monitoring and ordered to appear in a federal courtroom in Dayton. Instead, prosecutors say he cut off his electronic monitoring bracelet, fled to Turkey and continued to run his businesses. He was arrested last year in Iraq, where he had been traveling on business.

Federal prosecutors hailed Atilan's extradition as historic, saying it was the first under the U.S.-Iraq extradition treaty of 1936.

"If you take a look at the history of Iraq and the governments that have existed over the last 70 years ... they have literally been all over the map and all during this turbulent era of all these different governments and rulers, the two countries have never been able to shake hands and extradite anyone, and that's sort of mind-boggling," Assistant U.S. Attorney Dwight Keller said Monday.

Keller said he did not know how many extradition requests the



MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/AP

Metin Atilan, a federal fugitive since 2008, is charged with bribing U.S. military contracting officials for work in Iraq.

U.S. had filed with Iraq over the years, and a Department of Justice spokesman declined to answer the question. Iraq officials may have been willing to allow Atilan to be extradited partly because of his U.S. citizenship, Keller said.

David Larson, an immigration attorney in Dayton who had been hired by Atilan but is no longer on the case, said he didn't think the extradition was all that remarkable.

Firm agrees to stop collections on illegal debts

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announced Tuesday it had obtained nearly \$100 million in debt relief for 17,000 consumers — primarily servicemembers — who owed money to Colfax Capital Corp. and Culver Capital LLC, known collectively as Rome Finance.

The bureau said the company promised troops and others that they could buy consumer goods with instant financing and no money down, masking expensive financing charges by artificially inflating the prices of goods.

Rome finance also withheld information that should have been on billing statements, such as percentage rates, and illegally continued collection on loans that were void, the bureau said.

"Rome Finance's business model was built on fleecing servicemembers," CFPB Director Richard Cordray said. "Rome Finance lured servicemembers in with the promise of instant financing on expensive electronics, then masked the finance charges with inflated prices in marketing materials and later withheld key information on monthly bills. Today, their long run of picking the pockets of our military has come to an ignominious end."

Under the CFPB's consent order to Rome Finance, the company agreed to stop collections on \$92 million owed by 17,000 consumers, notify credit reporting bureaus the debts were paid and pay a \$1 million penalty, among other actions.

In addition, the owners are permanently banned from consumer lending, CFPB said.

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PACIFIC

PACOM chief: Chinese spying is 'good news'

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A decision by China to spy on a U.S.-led military exercise could be a positive sign, according to the leader of American forces in the Pacific.

The Chinese navy is participating in RIMPAC — the world's largest multinational naval exercise — for the first time this year after being invited by the United States. But Beijing also sent an auxiliary general intelligence ship off the coast of Hawaii to monitor the event.

"The good news about this is it's a recognition, I think, or acceptance by the Chinese that what we've been saying to them for some time is that military operations and survey operations in another country's [maritime zones] are within international law and are acceptable, and this is a fundamental right that na-

tions have," Adm. Samuel Locklear III, the commander of U.S. Pacific Command, told reporters at the Pentagon on Tuesday.

A country's maritime zone extends beyond its territorial waters. Countries are allowed to exploit resources within their zones, but they may not prevent other nation's ships from operating in those areas.

For years, China has protested American naval activities within its zones, including intelligence gathering. Beijing claims most of the South and East China Seas as its territorial waters, but they are not recognized as such by international law.

Despite Locklear's assertions, the Chinese government has given no indication that it now acknowledges the U.S. military's right to conduct operations in those waters.

Although legal, Locklear said China's decision to dispatch a spy

ship to monitor an exercise that it's directly participating in for the first time seems strange.

"This is within the law and it's their right to do it," but the exercise is "an opportunity to build trust and confidence," he said. "The introduction of the AGI kind of made it look a little odd."

However, the vessel's presence "hasn't created any difficulties in the exercise," he said.

The Chinese military is slated to conduct a unilateral exercise this week in the East China Sea, and the PACOM chief suggested that the U.S. will be monitoring it.

"Will we be concerned about the type of operations they're doing? I mean, to the same degree that they're concerned about operations we do," Locklear said. "We all kind of keep an eye on each other."

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WMD detection drills come amid recent North Korean threats

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Exercise Fortune Guard makes its debut Monday in Hawaii. The multinational training event focuses on detecting and defending against weapons of mass destruction.

The exercise arrives on the heels of new provocations by North Korea, which fired a short-range ballistic missile into waters off its east coast on Saturday. The director of the North Korean military's General Political Bureau told his countrymen in a broadcast speech Monday that if the nation's sovereignty is threatened "our troops will fire our nuclear-armed rockets at the White House and Pentagon," according to news reports.

The timing of Fortune Guard isn't directly tied to the most recent round of saber-rattling by North Korea, Adm. Samuel Locklear III, the commander of U.S. Pacific Command, said during a news conference at the Pentagon on Tuesday.

"Next week's exercise is just one that we've had scheduled for a while," Locklear said. "This particular event that's playing out in the press now will just re-emphasize the importance of getting it right during our exercise."

PACOM is hosting the first of six planned annual Fortune Guard exercises. New Zealand will host next year's event, followed by Singapore, Australia, Japan and South Korea.

Fortune Guard is part of the Proliferation Security Initiative, launched by President George W. Bush in 2003 and now endorsed by more than 100 nations. Its intent is to prevent illegal trafficking of WMDs.

The nearly 20 Pacific region nations that have endorsed the PSI have been invited to attend the exercise, according to a PACOM statement. India and China are two notable nations that have not signed on.

The exercise is designed to improve WMD interdiction skills, from high-level decision-making to ground-level tactics. Fortune Guard will include interactive academic seminars and port, sea and tabletop exercises.

Japanese and South Korean teams will board at sea the USNS Henry J. Kaiser, which will pose as a vessel suspected of carrying weapons of mass destruction.

Norwegian officials will share lessons learned about the removal of chemical weapons from Syria.

The portside demonstration is expected to include the U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, with the 93rd Civil Support Team-WMD; the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Anti-Terrorism and Contraband Enforcement Team; and teams from Japan and South Korea. The portside exercise will employ the Air Force C-17 and standard shipping

container for simulated detection of radioactive materials.

While the greatest global threat from WMD comes from nonstate militants who could use such weapons for maximum terrorism, North Korea remains a wild-card state in its potential use of missiles, whether conventional or nuclear, though it is not believed to have the ability yet to produce a nuclear bomb small and durable enough to put into a warhead.

This week, the United Nations imposed sanctions

against a North Korean shipping company

for trying to smuggle from Cuba two fighter jets, missiles and other ammunition

beneath a load of sugar.

Locklear rejected the idea that the U.S. was "losing ground" in efforts to contain North Korea's weapons in light of recent provocations.

"We have a growing interest among nations in the region and throughout the world in participating in our counter-proliferation exercises, and we're growing our capabilities across nations and across institutions to be able to better anticipate and deal with this," Locklear said. "I think all around we're getting better."

An "essential part of the way ahead in this part of the world" is the denuclearization of North Korea, he said.

Intelligence analysts widely debate North Korea's actual nuclear capabilities, Locklear said, but he added, "As a military commander, I have to plan for the worst."

"I believe they continue to make steady progress in both their missile technology and their nuclear capability, and they desire to continue to do that," he said.

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'I believe they continue to make steady progress in both their missile technology and their nuclear capability, and they desire to continue to do that.'

Adm. Samuel Locklear III
U.S. Pacific Command



AUDREY McAVOY/AP

Japanese soldiers on a reconnaissance team listen to Japanese Rear Adm. Yasuki Nakahata speak at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, after amphibious landing practice on Tuesday.

Japan, US conduct amphibious landings

The Associated Press

KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii — Japan is practicing storming beaches with the U.S. at the world's largest maritime exercises.

Helicopters dropped a reconnaissance team of Japanese soldiers into the ocean off a Hawaii beach during Kim of the Pacific exercises on Tuesday.

The soldiers climbed aboard inflatable rafts and inspected the shoreline before waves of U.S., Australian and Indonesian marines followed in amphibious vehicles.

Japan has been buying amphibious landing craft and boosting its amphibious training for potential conflicts on islands.

In particular, it's concerned about uninhabited small islands in the East China Sea that it controls but that China claims.

Pacific Forum Executive Director Brad Glosserman said there's fear in Japan that China will attempt to land forces on the islands and Japan will need to repel them.

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MILITARY

DOD decides to oversee plagiarism investigation

HELENA, Mont. — The Department of Defense has taken the unusual step of overseeing a plagiarism investigation being conducted by the U.S. Army War College against Sen. John Walsh, of Montana, the college's provost said Tuesday.

The department will decide whether any discipline is warranted based on the recommendations of the school's academic review board, Provost Lance Betros said.

Normally, that decision is reserved for the school's deputy commandant. It is rare, if not unprecedented, for the Defense Department to intervene in a student misconduct case, he said.

The college referred the case to its five-member academic review board after a New York Times story last week showed Walsh, a Democrat, used others' work without attribution in a 2007 research paper required for a master's degree.

Walsh has until Aug. 15 to turn in any material in his defense, and he may request to appear before the board, Betros said.

From The Associated Press

Officials: C-130J stowaway likely suffocated

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

A teenage boy found dead inside a hidden compartment of an Air Force plane after its return to Ramstein Air Base in Germany from a mission across northern Africa likely suffocated because of a lack of oxygen at high altitude, according to an autopsy performed Wednesday.

German investigators said the unidentified youth, believed to be from Africa, most likely boarded the plane in Bamako, the capital of Mali, one of several stops made by the Ramstein-based C-130J Super Hercules during an eight-day mission. Prosecutor Eberhard Bayer could not say what led investigators to that conclusion but said the boy's clothing could have been an indicator.

Their findings further the belief that he climbed into the plane as a stowaway. The boy's body was found in a compartment above the rear wheel well, the Air

Force said.

Medical examiners in nearby Homburg, Germany, determined there was "high probability" that the youth suffocated because of the lack of oxygen at high altitude.

The C-130J, commonly used to airlift cargo and troops long distances, can fly close to 30,000 feet in the air, an altitude at which oxygen is thin and temperatures are well below freezing.

Military investigators are now trying to determine where and how the teenager got on board. The plane also made stops in Senegal, Chad and the Navy air base at Sigonella, Sicily, after leaving Ramstein on July 19, said Maj. Tony Wickman, a spokesman for the 86th Airlift Wing. Wickman wasn't sure of the order of each stop. Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said the plane also stopped in Tunisia.

Routine pre- and post-flight checks between each stop revealed nothing unusual, Wickman said, although such checks

focus only on the airworthiness of an aircraft. The plane functioned normally on each leg of its mission, he said, suggesting nothing was out of the ordinary.

The body was discovered during a routine post-mission maintenance inspection, Wickman said. The crew chief first noticed something unusual as he peered into the space above the landing gear. He spotted the boy's clothing as he moved closer.

The Wing then called emergency responders, who stood by as the crew removed an exterior panel of the plane to gain access to the confined space.

"The only way you could find this person is if you crawled up the landing gear itself," Wickman said. "That would only be done during a maintenance inspection."

A Pentagon spokesman said Tuesday that airfields in the region where the plane was operating often lack rigorous security measures.

"Security is going to be looked

at here, obviously it will be," Rear Adm. John Kirby said Tuesday at a Pentagon briefing. "But we shouldn't expect that the security environment in every location where these aircraft operate is going to be at the same standard" as that at U.S. military bases.

The body tested negative for communicable diseases, Kirby told reporters. An outbreak of the often deadly Ebola virus has spread across three west African countries—Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, which borders Mali.

Military officials said the plane was tasked to U.S. Africa Command for the mission, but they haven't elaborated on its operation in each country. The plane remains at Ramstein, Wickman said.

The teenager's death comes three months after a California teenager survived stowing away on a Boeing 767 flight to Maui.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chris Carroll contributed to this report. beardsley.steven@stripes.com kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com Twitter: @jbeardsley

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MILITARY

McDonald confirmed as new VA secretary

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Bob McDonald was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on Tuesday as the new Department of Veterans Affairs secretary.

The former Army Ranger and CEO of Procter & Gamble was confirmed in a 97-0 vote by lawmakers who said his boardroom experience could be used to overhaul the nation's troubled veteran health care system.

His predecessor, Gen. Eric Shinseki, stepped down in May amid a growing scandal over long patient wait times and manipulation of appointment data by VA staff. Numerous VA inspector general investigations and testimony on Capitol Hill over the past two months have revealed a deeply dysfunctional agency that often ignored or covered up dangerous shortcomings in care.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., said Tuesday that McDonald headed up one of the country's leading corporations and has the experience needed to deal with a "huge bureaucracy" that needs significant improvement in ac-

countability and management."

McDonald, 61, spent 33 years at P&G where he headed up the company's Tide detergent brand and later its global fabric care division before being promoted to president and CEO in 2009. He graduated from West Point and rose to the rank of captain in the 82nd Airborne Division before entering the private sector.

The VA is the nation's largest integrated health care system and serves nearly 9 million veterans at about 1,700 locations. Each day, 200,000 beneficiaries seek care at its hospitals and clinics.

McDonald was not present during the Senate vote but said last week that his first day on the job would include immediately convening a meeting of all top leadership to explain his future vision for the VA.

Experts say he will be faced with removing much of the VA management that oversaw the growth of waiting times at nationwide hospitals and clinics — about 636,000 vets have waited more than a month for requested treatment — and the systemic manipulation of data to cover up the delays.

A comprehensive VA reform bill introduced Monday by Sanders and Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, would give McDonald new powers to fire senior executives at will.

The proposal streamlines the appeals process for fired managers, giving them just one week to appeal terminations and an administrative judge three weeks to make a final ruling. All federal senior executives now have an appeals process that can take months to resolve.

The VA reform bill must be passed by the House and Senate. Sanders said he believes votes could occur before the end of the week when Congress leaves Washington for a monthlong recess.

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Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald

Audit finds 110 facilities manipulated vets' appointment times

USA Today

Internal VA documents show the depth of fraudulent scheduling, manipulation of data and, in some cases, intimidation of staff to hide delays in medical care to veterans in the 6 million-patient national system.

Auditors found at least one appointment scheduler at 109 VA medical centers who said wait times for veterans had been falsified, according to a USA Today analysis of internal VA survey data made public Tuesday. To keep evidence of delayed care out of the VA's official electronic tracking system, secret lists were maintained at 110 facilities.

Workers at the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wilmington, N.C., told auditors they "were fearful of retaliation"

“Some VA executives are so driven in their quest for performance bonuses, promotions and power that they are willing to lie, cheat and put the health of the veterans they were hired to serve at risk.”

Rep. Jeff Miller

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs chairman

if they did not manipulate appointment data. At the Edward Hines Jr. VA hospital in Hines, Ill., near Chicago, "staff felt they would be subject to disciplinary action" if appointment records were not changed, one report shows.

Managers instructed or "encouraged" schedulers to falsify appointment data at such VA medical facilities as those in Leeds, Mass.; Jacksonville, N.C.; Virginia

Beach, Va.; and Cleveland, according to the documents.

The audit by the VA's Veterans Health Administration was ordered earlier this year by then-VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. The results were provided to President Barack Obama on May 30, the day Shinseki resigned.

Auditors interviewed more than 3,200 employees at more than 700 clinics and hospitals to gather

their findings.

A broader investigation underway by the VA Inspector General and the Justice Department is scheduled to be completed next month. Former acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson, who took over after Shinseki resigned, has testified in Congress that "several supervisors" are being investigated in connection with potential criminal charges.

The VA issued a statement late Tuesday saying it is seeking disciplinary action against six employees working at a hospital in Cheyenne, Wyo., and at an outpatient clinic in Fort Collins, Colo., for manipulating appointment data. One of the six is a regional director; others include the director of the Cheyenne hospital and the chief of staff there.

The VA said it is seeking to have two of the six fired. The agency said it found evidence that supervisors personally manipulated data, instructed subordinates to do so and withheld accurate information from higher officials.

Internal investigations found that clinic or hospital chiefs may have manipulated appointment data in order to look better on performance evaluations upon which their bonuses were based.

"As these new details make painfully obvious ... some VA executives are so driven in their quest for performance bonuses, promotions and power that they are willing to lie, cheat and put the health of the veterans they were hired to serve at risk," said Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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MILITARY

Report: Private schools cash in from GI Bill

By **KIMBERLY HEFLING**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have flocked to for-profit colleges, including a troubled chain that is closing or selling its campuses amid a series of federal and state investigations.

A report released Wednesday from the office of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, a critic of the for-profit education industry who chairs the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee, finds that for-profit colleges received \$1.7 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits in the 2012-2013 school term. About a quarter of benefits paid under the program went to the for-profit sector.

Among the top 10 recipient schools in terms of GI Bill funds, eight were from the for-profit sector. One of them was Corinthian Colleges, a chain based in Santa Ana, Calif., that recently reached an agreement with the Education Department to sell or close its more than 90 U.S. campuses. The Education Department has said it has concerns about the chain's

operations that included allegations of falsifying job placement data used in marketing claims to prospective students, and allegations of altered grades and attendance.

Since the new GI Bill rolled out in 2009, Corinthian has received \$186 million in the new GI Bill funds, the report said. Last week, the advocacy group Student Veterans of America placed the schools under the Corinthian umbrella — Everest College, Heald College and WyoTech schools — on its "not recommended" list.

Including Corinthian, the report finds that seven of the eight companies face investigations by states attorneys general or federal agencies for "deceptive and misleading recruiting" or other possible federal violations. Even as overall enrollment decreased at the eight schools since 2009, it says the number of veterans enrolled at these schools increased.

The new GI Bill program provides the most generous school benefits paid to warfighters since the original bill was enacted in 1944. It can be used by a veteran

or a member of the immediate family — and more than a million people have used it so far.

For-profit colleges have been popular among veterans, in part, because of offerings in skilled trades and flexibility such as on-line classes. Michael Dakduk, the vice president for military and veterans affairs with the Association of Private Sector Colleges, said in a statement: "It is no surprise that members of the military choose our institutions because we provide them with career-focused programs, important support services and flexibility they need to complete their education."

But, the for-profit sector has among the highest student loan default rates and lowest graduation rates in higher education and has been a target of Democrats. The Obama administration has pushed "gainful employment" regulations that would penalize career-oriented programs that produce graduates without the training needed to find a job with a salary that will allow them to pay off their debt.

Harkin's report finds that the average cost for a veteran to attend a for-profit college is \$7,972, compared to \$3,914 for a public college — about twice the price.

The two top recipients of GI Bill money not in the for-profit sector were the public University of Maryland system and the non-profit Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, according to the report.

Earlier this year, the Student Veterans of America issued a report that said a little more than half of the veterans who got college money under the GI Bill since 2009 eventually graduated. The rate was lower than the graduation rate for traditional students, who generally enroll out of high school, but higher than for veterans' non-traditional peers

— those students who also tend to be older and have families and jobs.

It found that about three-quarters of the student veterans who graduated did so from public institutions. Another 15.5 percent attended private universities, while about 13 percent attended for-profit schools.

Another group, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, has lobbied against what is known as the "90/10" rule that requires colleges to receive at least 10 percent of their revenue from sources other than the federal government. Students using the new GI Bill don't count toward the limit, so the veterans said they are aggressively targeted by the for-profit industry.

Williams: Proposed plan to fix VA health care would open DOD hospitals to veterans

FROM FRONT PAGE

The farmer named it Mike and took the chop off to researchers at the University of Utah who determined the ax that took its head had left the brain stem, allowing it to continue living.

"It lived for [18] months without a head," Williams said. "The chicken didn't die because it didn't have a head. It died because the farmer choked it when he was feeding it with an eyedropper."

The story is meant as a lesson for managing and rooting out misconduct at the VA, which lost its secretary in May when retired Gen. Eric Shinseki resigned but gained a new secretary when Robert McDonald was confirmed by the Senate on Tuesday.

The rooster's head represents the department's top post. "We're going to chop off the head — there goes Sec. Shinseki," Williams said.

The vast VA bureaucracy, which comprises about 400 senior executives and 300,000 employees, is Mike, still continuing on the same dysfunction, he told the audience.

The inspector general found that about 70 percent of VA facilities falsified wait times and used the data to hand out awards and bonuses. Meanwhile, about 636,000 veterans have waited more than a year for required treatment at about 1,700 VA facilities. It is the largest integrated health care system in the United States.

"If you can chop off the head of this organization and it can still run, it is still doing the same thing it could do four months ago today," Williams said. "But today



C.J. Liv/Stars and Stripes

TV personality Montel Williams, a Marine Corps and Navy veteran, speaks about the lack of veterans health care at the National Press Club in Washington on Wednesday.

they are hiding it." Williams criticized Congress and the White House for going about "business as usual" in Washington and not working fast enough to solve the veterans' health care crisis. Instead, Williams has floated his own plan to fix VA — he says President Barack Obama should use emergency powers to bring Navy corpsmen and other military hospital workers back on duty and open Department of Defense health care facilities to veterans.

"Every DOD hospital could be opened up tomorrow for soldiers to be walk in and be seen," which would give a baseline measure of the access problem in the VA system, Williams said.

The former talk show host said

he has been a quiet advocate for servicemembers for years, volunteering with the Fisher House Foundation and visiting the wounded at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

But the VA scandal brought him "out of the shadows," he said.

On Wednesday, he floated the idea to the groups gathered at the forum to march on Washington for VA reform and veterans support before Americans vote in the fall. "The country doesn't listen unless something is big, unless it seems to be big," he said. "Maybe we ought to all ... descend on Washington, D.C., at the same time between now and the midterm elections."

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NATION

Poll: Americans balking at refugee status

By JENNIFER AGIESTA AND ELLIOT SPAGAT
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Americans are wary of granting refugee status to children crossing the U.S. border to flee strife-torn countries in Central America, and most in an Associated Press-GFK poll say the U.S. does not have a moral obligation to accept asylum seekers generally.

The new poll found 53 percent of Americans believe the United States has no moral obligation to offer asylum to people who escape violence or political persecution, while 44 percent believe it has that responsibility.

— More than half — 52 percent — say children who say they are fleeing gang violence in Central America should not be treated as refugees, while 46 percent say they should.

The responses expose a partisan rift, with 70 percent of Republicans saying Central American children should not be treated as refugees compared with 62 percent of Democrats who believe they should. On whether the United States has an obligation to accept people fleeing violence or political persecution, 66 percent of Republicans say it does not and 57 percent of Democrats say it does.

Jerry Benzie, 27, a Republican from Ebensburg, Pa., 90 miles east of Pittsburgh, was initially sympathetic to the plight of children seeking shelter in the U.S. from violence at home. His views changed as he grew convinced Central American governments could do more to slow the tide of northbound immigrants, and thought Mexico wasn't doing enough to prevent them from passing through that country on their way to the U.S.

Benzie said he worries the children will strain public schools and other services.

“How do you differentiate between the children who are truly fleeing violence and dangers and those whose parents may just see an opportunity for them in our country and are pushing them

to go?” said Benzie, who works in the information technology industry. “It's going to take a toll on our economy because it's going to lead to higher taxes. Our citizens are going to suffer.”

Most likely for asylum, applicants must prove they suffered persecution or have a well-founded fear of persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership in a social group or political opinion. A refugee must demonstrate the same but, unlike an asylum seeker, seeks protection while still outside the United States.

Americans who are closely following news about the wave of unaccompanied children crossing the border illegally in South Texas

are less receptive, with only four in ten saying they should qualify as refugees. Among those who say they aren't paying as much attention, roughly half believe they should be treated as refugees.

Americans with children under 18 are evenly split on whether the children crossing the border should be treated as refugees, with 49 percent taking each side. Those without young children tilt against refugee status, 53 percent to 45 percent.

The AP-GFK Poll was conducted July 24-28 and involved online interviews with 1,044 adults, and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points for all respondents.



Detainees sleep in a holding cell at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility in Brownsville, Texas, on June 18. In a new poll, most Americans say U.S. law should be changed so the immigrants can be sent home quickly, without a deportation hearing.

Last survivor of Enola Gay mission dies

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The last surviving member of the crew that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima once said he thought the bombing was necessary because it shortened the war and eliminated the need for an Allied land invasion that could have cost more lives on both sides.

But Theodore “Dutch” VanKirk also said it made him wary of war — and that he would like to see all of the world's atomic bombs abolished.

VanKirk died Monday at the retirement home where he lived in Stone Mountain, Ga., his son, Tom VanKirk, said. He was 93.

Theodore VanKirk flew as navigator on the Enola Gay, the B-29 Superfortress that dropped the first atomic bomb deployed in wartime over the Japanese city of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

The bombing hastened the end of World War II.

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NATION

Report: Chemical attack threat underestimated

Homeland Security Committee investigation finds nation's riskiest facilities not properly inspected, lack security plans

By HOPE YEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is underestimating the threat of a chemical attack on America's densely populated cities and has failed to inspect virtually all of the chemical facilities that it considers particularly vulnerable to terrorists, congressional investigators say.

The yearlong investigation by Republican staff on the Senate Homeland Security Committee paints a portrait of inspection delays, government errors in risk assessment and industry loopholes in a \$595 million terrorism

prevention program passed by Congress in 2006. A copy of the investigators' report was obtained by The Associated Press.

Coming a year after a massive explosion at a West, Texas, fertilizer plant, the report points to threats from the release of toxic and flammable chemicals.

Roughly half of the 4,011 high-risk facilities on the Homeland Security Department watch list are in 10 states: California, Texas, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, North Carolina, Florida, Michigan and New Jersey.

Committee investigators have indicated that larger metropolitan regions such as Los Angeles, Chi-

cago, New York and Philadelphia might be more vulnerable to a chemical attack.

The findings were expected to be discussed Wednesday at a meeting of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

The U.S. effort is "a broken program that is not making us measurably safer against the threat of a terrorist attack," states the report commissioned by Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla.

It said widespread problems have left many of the nation's riskiest chemical facilities "effectively unregulated."

The report relies in part on in-

ternal DHS documents, including a terrorism program assessment completed late last year that hasn't been released, and a federal database of higher-risk facilities.

DHS spokesman S.Y. Lee noted that the department has stepped up monitoring efforts, having approved security plans for 750 facilities in the last two years.

The report said that as of June 30, DHS had failed to conduct security compliance inspections on 3,972 chemical facilities, or 99 percent of the 4,011 facilities initially considered at a higher risk for terrorism. Many facilities are chemical manufacturers; they also include farm supply re-

tailers or fertilizer distribution warehouses.

The committee found that roughly 3,111 of the facilities had yet to have security plans approved despite statements to DHS officials that they would be done. Investigators said it could take years for DHS to reduce the backlog.

The report also cites a DHS-commissioned study completed late last year that raised concerns the list of 4,011 high-risk facilities was not accurate, in some cases relying on outdated data or treating densely populated areas as lower threats due to coding errors.



PHOTOS BY MIKE MADOWS/AP

People walk down a stairway leading to a parking structure across from Pauley Pavilion on the UCLA campus after flooding from a broken 30-inch water main under nearby Sunset Boulevard inundated a large area of the campus in the Westwood section of Los Angeles on Tuesday.

UCLA wades through damage from pipe flooding

By MATT HAMILTON AND KRISTA FAURIA
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The quiet summer campus of UCLA found itself suddenly steeped in water and chaos after a major water pipe burst and spewed some 8 million gallons, stranding people in parking garages and flooding the school's storied basketball court less than two years after a major renovation.

The 30-inch, nearly century old pipe burst Tuesday afternoon under nearby Sunset Boulevard, sending water 30 feet into the air, opening a 15-foot hole in the street and inundating part of the campus that soon was swarmed with police and firefighters.

"Unfortunately UCLA was the sink for this water source," UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said.

The break came amid a historic drought when residents are being threatened with \$500 fines for overuse.

"We lost a lot of water, around 35,000 gallons a minute, which is not ideal in the worst drought in the city's history," City Councilman Paul Koretz said.

The flooding hit the part of campus that is home to its athletic facilities, with the greatest danger coming in a pair of parking structures that quickly began filling with water.

Firefighters, some using inflatable boats, saved at least five people who were stranded in the structures where more than 100 cars were stuck, city fire officials said. No injuries were reported.

Water cascaded to the entrance of Pauley Pavilion, then poured on to the court named for legendary coach John Wooden and his wife, Nell.

The other two campus buildings damaged were the Wooden Center, which has training facilities for students, and the J.D. Morgan Center, which houses the school's sports trophies, hall of fame and athletics offices.



One woman pulls another on a body board through the quad of UCLA.

Ventura passage to be cut from book

From wire reports

MINNEAPOLIS — The passage from the best-selling memoir "American Sniper" that sparked former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura's defamation lawsuit against author Chris Kyle will be removed, publisher HarperCollins said Wednesday.

A federal jury in St. Paul awarded Ventura over \$1.8 million in damages on Tuesday, finding that a section of the book defamed Ventura.

Kyle, a former Navy SEAL regarded as the deadliest sniper in U.S. military history, wrote that he decked Ventura at a California bar in 2006 after Ventura made offensive comments about SEALs, including that the SEALs "deserve to lose a few" in Iraq.

Ventura, himself a former SEAL and former pro wrestler, testified he never made the statement and that the confrontation never happened.

The jury awarded Ventura \$500,000 for damage to his reputation and career caused by defamation. They also awarded him \$1.3 million for unjust enrichment — money they found Kyle made by exploiting Ventura's name and reputation.

The second amount is a non-binding advisory award. The final unjust enrichment payout is up to the judge, who is likely to review further arguments from the lawyers before he decides.

Libel insurance will cover the defamation award, said Taya Kyle's attorneys. The unjust enrichment claim isn't covered by insurance and will be drawn from the book's royalties and Kyle estate, they said.

NATION



SETH WENIG/AP

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said Monday he believes the people wearing character costumes in Times Square should be licensed and regulated. Dozens of people dressed as Elmo, Cookie Monster, Batman and other characters stand near 42nd Street and pose for photos with tourists in exchange for money.

NYC: Impersonators' behavior lacks character, needs rules

By VERENA DOBNIK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City officials are turning up the heat on Elmo, Cookie Monster and Statue of Liberty impersonators — Times Square costumed characters who often demand money for posing in photos with tourists.

The city wants to rein in a summertime spike in badly behaving characters such as the Spider-Man accused of punching a police officer recently.

"This has gone too far," a frustrated Mayor Bill de Blasio said this week. "It's time to take some real steps to regulate this reality."

That could be easier said than done. Legal experts say proposals for a city law to possibly require licenses and background checks could violate free-speech rights.

At issue is whether the characters can be considered street performers protected by the First Amendment or whether they are engaged in commercial activity subject to regulation. It de-

pends on whether the characters merely hope for tips or demand money. Some tourists have complained about being harassed for payment.

"If you can prove that they are there to seek money, not simply conveying a message ... they are subject to greater regulation," said Jesse Choper, a constitutional law professor at the University of California.

In about the past year, a Cookie Monster was accused of shoving a 2-year-old and an Elmo was heard berating tourists with anti-Semitic slurs.

There also have been recent reports of a brawl between two Statue of Liberty impersonators and a man dressed as Woody from "Toy Story" groping women.

Last Saturday, a man dressed as Spider-Man was arrested on charges he slugged a police officer who tried to intervene during a dispute with a woman who offered him a \$1 tip. Authorities say the man told the woman he only accepts \$5, \$10 or \$20.

Jonathan Turley, a constitu-

tional law professor at George Washington University, said any regulations must be written carefully to avoid arbitrary enforcement. Singling out just those who wear costumes, for example, could be problematic.

"When politicians call for regulating someone in a costume, it's clearly insane," he said. "You have people on Wall Street who violate the law, and we don't subject people in Armani suits to special regulations."

City Councilman Dan Gardinick, a Manhattan Democrat who is drafting legislation to address the issue, said the details are still being worked out. "We're trying to balance First Amendment rights of individuals with the need to protect people from what has become garden-variety harassment."

New York's regulation push is backed by the nonprofit Times Square Alliance, which on a recent night counted no fewer than 76 costumed characters prowling the square.

Advocates seek streamlined info on missing kids

By ERIC TUCKER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When FBI agents and police officers fanned out across the U.S. last month in a weeklong effort to rescue child sex trafficking victims, they pulled minors as young as 11 from hotel rooms, truck stops and homes.

Among the 168 juveniles recovered was a population that child welfare advocates say especially concerns them: children who were never reported missing in the first place.

Advocates say the roundup enforces the need for a standardized, nationwide approach to report children as missing, especially those absent from state foster care systems who are seen as most vulnerable to abuse.

Concerns over unaccounted-for children aren't new, but they're receiving fresh attention amid heightened awareness of child sex trafficking. State and federal efforts are underway to streamline how police are alerted when kids go missing.

"This has been a movement that I would say over the last year has really galvanized," said John Ryan, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Legislation pending in Congress would require child welfare agencies to alert police and the center, which has specialized response teams, within 24 hours of a child's disappearance.

The current patchwork of state and federal policies has yielded what advocates describe as a fractured safety net with little accountability. Though states may have policies encouraging child welfare agencies to report missing children to law enforcement, most don't have laws requiring that notification, according to the missing children center. That means children can disappear without police knowing they're missing or being directed to look

for them.

A federal law does require law enforcement agencies to enter missing children into the FBI's National Crime Information Center — a database available to law enforcement nationwide — but that presumes police are provided the names or have specific enough details. A 2011 Government Accountability Office report said law enforcement agencies are having trouble getting timely information from state agencies.

The missing children center says it received more than 57,000 missing-child reports between 2009 and 2013. The organization says that 30 percent of the children reported missing last year who likely were sex trafficking victims were in the care of child welfare systems when they ran away.

The difficulties aren't limited to foster care. In the most recent action, Operation Cross Country, far more children came from single-family homes than from families under state supervision, the FBI said. But experts say they're concerned that children in foster care, who often come from more troubled backgrounds, are particularly vulnerable to being targeted by sex traffickers.

"These pimps really know how to appeal to these kids," Joseph Campbell, assistant director of the FBI's criminal investigative division, said in an interview. "A lot of these pimps come from similar backgrounds as well. They are lured in by providing them care, feeding, attention."

In a transient child welfare system, it's a challenge for states to keep perfect track of children under their care. Many run away repeatedly but return on their own, giving guardians little incentive to report them missing each time. The Internet enables children to be prostituted through online advertisements instead of street corners, making it easier than ever for trafficking to cross state lines.

Police say robbery suspect celebrated with spending spree

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The suspect arrested in an armed robbery at the Bellagio casino allegedly celebrated after the heist with prostitutes and a spending spree on the Las Vegas Strip, police said Tuesday.

The Clark County Detention Center's website identified him as Scott A. Carmitchel. He was being held on \$84,000 bail and was due to appear in court Wednesday to face charges of battery, grand

larceny, burglary and robbery with a deadly weapon.

Detectives say he robbed a casino cashier of \$43,500 at gunpoint Friday night and later paid prostitutes at another hotel with money still bound in Bellagio wrappers before he was arrested Saturday night. It wasn't immediately clear if he had a lawyer.

Kansas Department of Corrections records show Scott Alan Carmitchel, 34, served time for battery against a law officer and a

robbery in 1998, and he was sent to prison most recently a year ago for making a criminal threat. Formerly of Overland Park, Kan., he was paroled in December. The department listed him as "absconded" with his whereabouts unknown as of May 29.

Detectives in Las Vegas said the man they previously identified only as "John Doe" spent about \$10,000 on a high-end shopping spree after claiming he found a black bag full of cash in



Carmitchel

false name. Corrections officials in Las

the Bellagio parking lot. They said he told them his name was Scott Rice, of Kansas, but he had no identification and they suspected that was a

Vegas had to forcibly hold his head steady for the mug shot because he "has refused to cooperate in any way with the investigation and was combative with officers throughout the booking process," Officer Larry Hadfield said in a statement.

The arrest came after investigators were tipped by a tourist from Texas who said he became suspicious after a man paid the tourist over for trafficking to a \$405 room at the Hard Rock Hotel.

Frazz



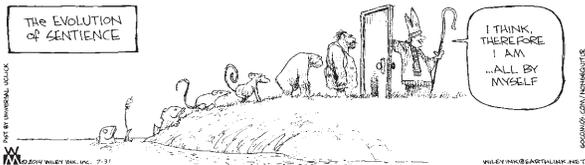
Dilbert



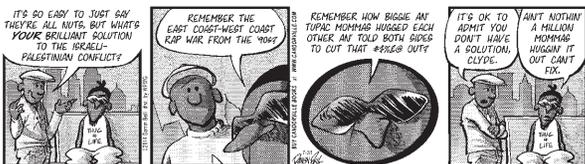
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | | 61 | |

ACROSS

- 1 Buddy
- 4 Store
- 8 Presentation
- 12 Savings plan acronym
- 13 "There once — man from ..."
- 14 Japanese leader of WWII
- 15 "Don't move!"
- 17 Hebrew month
- 18 Dandy
- 19 Praise
- 21 Move on a pivot
- 24 Actor Holbrook
- 25 Kids' game
- 26 Beavers' construct
- 28 Baseball's Pee Wee
- 32 Reverberate
- 34 Series of skirmishes
- 36 Coling arquet
- 37 Annie of "Designing Women"
- 39 Domino spot
- 41 Listener
- 42 — Solo
- 44 Animals
- 46 Cub Scouts' acronym
- 50 Inventor Whitney
- 51 "American —"
- 52 Dusk
- 56 Piscine organ
- 57 Fight the clock
- 58 "Ben. —"
- 59 French commune

DOWN

- 1 Wrong (Prof.)
- 2 "Entourage" role
- 3 Intense dispute
- 4 Stole
- 5 Crone
- 6 Job-safety org.
- 7 Elbow adornment
- 8 Play for time
- 9 Kathie Lee's co-host
- 10 California town
- 11 Little wriggler
- 12 "Mazel —"
- 13 Auto
- 14 Dance lesson
- 15 Texas city
- 23 Legislation
- 27 Treasure seeker's guide
- 29 Vision
- 30 Membership
- 31 Blunders
- 33 Desdemona's hubby
- 35 Cage component
- 38 "Erie Canal" mule
- 40 Kitchen gizmo
- 43 — Dame
- 45 Foreman foe
- 46 Pukes
- 47 Rewrite, maybe
- 48 Weevil's target
- 49 Used a pool
- 53 Here (Fr.)
- 54 Coloration
- 55 Take a whack at

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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7-31

CRYPTOQUIP

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OKFLKYW NYBBCG OMFZFNMF0.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN WORKERS BECOME REALLY HAPPY WITH THEIR JOBS, I LIKE TO CALL THAT EMPLOYMENT ENJOYMENT.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals T

UKRAINE UNREST

New sanctions target weak Russian economy

BY LAURA MILLS AND JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia was counting the potential cost of Western sanctions targeting its key energy and finance sectors on Wednesday, with the central bank promising to support lenders hit with penalties.

The U.S. and the European Union on Tuesday announced a raft of new penalties that would limit the trade of arms and technology that can be used in the oil industry and for military purposes. The EU also put its capital markets off limits for Russian state-owned banks.

The hope is to make the penalties, which had until recently mainly targeted Russian individuals, more biting economically for Russia.

Amid concerns about the potential impact on Russia's financial stability, the central bank announced it would "take adequate measures" to support the targeted banks. It did not give further details.

The reaction in the stock markets in Moscow was mixed, as investors had sold off shares in Russian companies for the past two weeks after Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was downed over east Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board. Western officials accuse Russia-backed separatists of bringing down the plane with a missile supplied by Moscow.

Reports last week that the new, tougher sanctions were due had also caused markets to tumble for days ahead of their formal announcement Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the MICEX benchmark index was up 2 percent, mainly thanks to a rise in shares in companies that were spared sanctions. Shares in VTB Bank, Russia's second-largest and one of the sanctions targets, were down 0.9 percent.

Analysts warn that with most large state-owned banks cut off from Western funding, the long-term impact of sanc-

tions on Russia's growth could be severe. U.S. officials said Tuesday that roughly 30 percent of Russia's banking sector assets would now be constrained by sanctions.

The International Monetary Fund already slashed Russia's growth forecast for this year to nearly zero, down from 1.3 percent last year, and the U.S. says more than \$100 billion in capital is expected to flow out of the country.

"Russia's actions in Ukraine and the sanctions that we've already imposed have made it weaker," President Barack Obama said Tuesday.

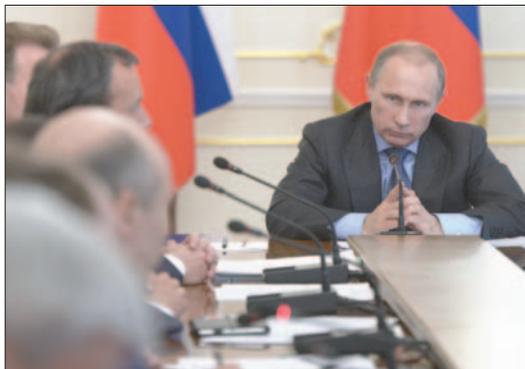
'Sanctions alone are not a policy, so we must continue to seek opportunities to diffuse the conflict politically.'

Frank-Walter Steinmeier
German foreign minister

It remained uncertain whether the tougher penalties will have any impact on Russia's actions in Ukraine — nor was it clear what further actions the U.S. and Europe were willing to take if the situation remains unchanged. In the nearly two weeks since the Malaysia Airlines plane was felled in eastern Ukraine, Russia appears to have deepened its engagement in the conflict, with the U.S. and its allies saying that Russia was building up troops and weaponry along its border with Ukraine.

Europe has a far stronger economic relationship with Russia than the U.S. does, and until this week European Union leaders had been reluctant to impose harsh penalties — in part out of fear of harming their own economies.

EU President Herman Van Rompuy and the president of the European Commis-



ALEXEI NIKOLSKIY, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE, RIA NOVOSTI/AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin heads a Cabinet meeting in Moscow on Wednesday to address measures in response new sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union against Russian companies and banks.

sion, Jose Manuel Barroso, said the sanctions sent a "strong warning" that Russia's destabilization of Ukraine could not be tolerated.

"When the violence created spirals out of control and leads to the killing of almost 300 innocent civilians in their flight from the Netherlands to Malaysia, the situation requires urgent and determined response," the two top EU officials said in a statement.

The new EU sanctions put the 28-nation bloc on par with earlier sector sanctions announced by the U.S. and in some cases may even exceed the American penalties.

Obama said coordinating Tuesday's actions will ensure that the sanctions "will have an even bigger bite."

Despite the West's escalation of its actions against Russia, Obama said the U.S. and Europe were not entering into a Soviet-era standoff with Russia.

"It's not a new Cold War," he said in response to a reporter's question.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier pressed for a diplomatic effort

to calm the situation in Ukraine, saying Wednesday that "sanctions alone are not a policy, so we must continue to seek opportunities to defuse the conflict politically."

A meeting planned in Minsk this week between the contact group and representatives from eastern Ukraine "must agree steps on the road to a cease-fire," Steinmeier said in a statement.

He renewed a call on all sides to allow unrestricted access to the Malaysia Airlines crash site. "It is intolerable that, two weeks after the crash, it is still not possible to bury with dignity the dead who remain at the crash site," he said.

Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott said Wednesday he was focused on the Malaysia Airlines disaster and was not considering ratcheting up sanctions against Russia.

"I'm not saying that we might not at some point in the future move further. But at the moment, our focus is not on sanctions; our focus is on bringing home our dead as quickly as we humanly can," Abbott told reporters.

Ukraine claims rebels have mined area near crash site

BY DMITRY LOVETSKY
The Associated Press

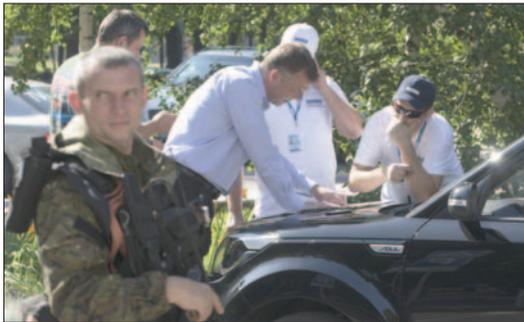
DONETSK, Ukraine — International observers turned back Wednesday after making another attempt to reach the site where Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 went down in eastern Ukraine, and a government official said the area near the zone had been mined by pro-Russia separatists who control it.

Observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe set out in two vehicles — without frustrated crash investigators from the Netherlands who have been trying to reach the site for four days.

The OSCE observers headed back to the city of Donetsk after discussions with rebels on the city's outskirts not long after starting what would have been a two-hour journey to the site.

That means that almost two weeks after the July 17 disaster, safety concerns and hindrance from the separatists who control the area are still obstructing access to the site. Foreign governments whose citizens died have complained the site is still not secured and some human remains have not been recovered. International observers say wreckage has been cut, moved or otherwise tampered with.

Government security spokesman An-



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

Alexander Hug, center, deputy head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe mission to Ukraine, and colleagues discuss the situation around the site of the crashed Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, on Wednesday.

driy Lysenko added to those concerns Wednesday by saying separatists "have mined the approaches to this area. This makes the work of the international ex-

perts impossible." Hug also was asked at a briefing about concerns that Ukrainian efforts to win back territory were increasing fighting in

the area and slowing access. He said that Ukrainian troops weren't conducting operations against separatists near the site, but were trying to cut off their supply lines to force them to leave the area.

OSCE observers did not immediately tell journalists accompanying them what specific issue made them turn back.

The U.S. and Ukrainian governments said the Boeing 777 was shot down by a missile fired from areas controlled by pro-Russia separatists who have been fighting the Ukrainian government. The separatists deny shooting down the plane. Russia denies providing the Buk missile launcher and says the Ukrainian military may have shot the plane down.

Elsewhere, Ukrainian forces took control of the town of Avdeevka, just to the north of the rebel stronghold of Donetsk. The town is near the airport, which has been fought over for weeks by rebels and government forces. Local officials said fighting over the past 24 hours killed 19 people in the region.

Ukrainian forces continue to encircle Horlivka, another key town northeast of Donetsk. The city of Donetsk is one of the main strongholds for the insurrection in the east, and taking Horlivka would open the way to move against Donetsk, the Ukrainian military has said.

WORLD

Israeli attacks hit shopping area, UN school

Dozens killed, wounded in latest escalation of fighting

By KARIN LAUB AND PETER ENAV
The Associated Press

JEBALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip — An Israeli airstrike hit a crowded Gaza shopping area on Wednesday, killing at least 16 people and wounding more than 150, hours after Israeli tank shells slammed into a U.N. school sheltering displaced Palestinians, killing 15 people, Gaza health officials said.

The latest deadly strikes came on the heels of an escalation in the embattled coastal territory, with Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers stepping up attacks after more than three weeks of fighting that has killed more than 1,300 Palestinians and more than 50 Israelis.

Gaza Health Ministry official Ashraf al-Kidra and witnesses said the shopping area was busy because residents, and many who had taken shelter in the area from fighting elsewhere, thought a cease-fire was in place. The Palestinian Red Crescent confirmed the death toll.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the strike on the shopping area and said it was investigating the report.

Israel had earlier announced a "humanitarian window" in certain parts of the territory. It said it would not halt fire in other areas, including in Shjaiyah, where the strike took place. Hamas dismissed the cease-fire, and Gaza militants fired 27 rockets at Israel after it began.

Witnesses said the strike hit a warehouse on the edge of Shjaiyah, causing a fire and sending a large cloud of black smoke bil-



Palestinians injured in an Israeli strike in the Shjaiyah neighborhood wait to receive treatment at the emergency room of Shifa Hospital in Gaza City on Wednesday.

lowing into the sky. Firefighters and medical vehicles arrived at the scene, according to an Associated Press photographer.

The second airstrike struck an area about 500 meters away, according to witnesses, immediately killing at least 16 people, among them local Palestinian photographer Rami Rayan, who was wearing a press vest at the time.

"People were in the street and in the market, mostly women and kids," said Salim Qadom, 26, who witnessed the strike. "Suddenly more than 10 shells landed in the

area, the market, in the Turkman area, and next to the gas station.

"The area now is like a blood bath; everyone is wounded or killed. People lost their limbs and were screaming for help. It's a massacre. I vomited when I saw what happened."

Israeli airstrikes and shelling killed more than 108 Palestinians across the coastal territory throughout the day Wednesday.

The military had declared a four-hour humanitarian cease-fire in parts of Gaza beginning at 3 p.m. but Hamas spokesman

Sami Abu Zuhri said it lacked any "value" because it excluded border areas from where Hamas wanted to evacuate the wounded.

Gaza militants fired 84 rockets at Israel on Wednesday, including more than 26 after the cease-fire was announced, the military said. Al-Kidra, the Gaza health official, said seven Palestinians were killed by an Israeli airstrike in the same period.

‘The area now is like a blood bath ... It’s a massacre.’

Salim Qadom
witness to
attack on a Gaza
shopping area

The Israeli military said three of its soldiers were killed Wednesday when a house Palestinian militants had rigged with explosives collapsed after they identified an entrance to a tunnel inside. More than a dozen soldiers were wounded in heavy fighting Wednesday, it said.

The latest violence further dimmed hopes of a sustainable truce in the fighting, now in its fourth week.

On Wednesday tank shells hit the U.N. school in the Jebaliya refugee camp before dawn, said Adnan Abu Hasna, a spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which is sheltering more than 200,000 people displaced by the fighting at dozens of U.N. schools across the strip.

Assad Sabah said he and his five children were huddling under desks in one of the classrooms because of the constant sound of tank fire throughout the night.

"We were scared to death," he said. "After 4:30 a.m., tanks started firing more. Three explosions shook the school. ... One classroom collapsed over the head of the people who were inside," he said.

Passengers rush to flush after sniffer dog warning

By ROD MCGUIRK
The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — An Australian airline apologized on Wednesday for a warning a flight attendant gave passengers who might have been flying high that there were drug-sniffer dogs awaiting them at Sydney airport.

Many of the 210 passengers aboard the Jetstar flight from Gold Coast city on Sunday night had attended the Splendour in the Grass weekend music festival at Byron Bay and were returning home.

"We have been told there are sniffer dogs and quarantine officers waiting in the domestic terminal," Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper on Wednesday quoted the attendant as telling passengers via the Airbus A320's public address system.

"If you need to dispose of anything you shouldn't have, we suggest you flush it now," he added.

The newspaper said the warning prompted passengers to rush for the toilets.

Jetstar spokesman Stephen Moynihan confirmed the newspaper report was accurate. He said the public response to the announcement had been "mixed."

The airline said it routinely makes quarantine announce-

ments on such flights that cross state borders.

"The crewmember's words were poorly chosen and are plainly at odds with the professional standards we'd expect from our team," Jetstar said in a statement. "We apologize to customers offended by the comments."

Jetstar said it was "addressing the matter with the cabin crewmember involved," but did not detail any potential disciplinary action.

One passenger told the newspaper several passengers suddenly made for the toilets with "things clenched in their hands."

"Why would you tip people off about this?" the passenger, who was not named, asked. "If they have got something illegal, let them get caught."

But the response on Jetstar's Facebook page was largely positive.

"What a good Samaritan, Jetstar Australia this guy deserves a promotion," Rohit Dwivedi posted.

"Of course you should warn your passengers to help avoid them being humiliated, locked in a cage or fined," Jebediah Cole posted.

Australian Federal Police declined on Wednesday to comment.



GUIDO SCHULMANN, DPA/AP

Deadly dare

Firefighters try to set up a mechanical digger on a field Tuesday near Isselburg, western Germany, where authorities say a man was killed and five others were injured when the digger tipped over and hit them during a so-called Cold Water Challenge, a dare that has been spreading on Facebook. Prosecutors said Wednesday that 11 members of a bowling club in Isselburg had filled the digger's shovel with 528 gallons of water, which was to be poured over them. As the shovel was lifted, the digger tipped over and the shovel hit six of the men. In the U.S., several people have been injured participating in Cold Water Challenges, which typically involve dares such as jumping into cold water.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Suspicious' fire damages vintage cars

FL MIAMI — At least 25 vehicles were damaged when a warehouse that houses vintage cars went up in flames.

The fire broke out July 24 at Ted Vernon Specialty Autos in Miami.

The Miami Herald reported that owner Ted Vernon was in North Carolina to film his car-themed television show, "South Beach Classics," when the fire broke out. He said many of the cars that were damaged or destroyed were valued at more than \$100,000 and the total damage is in excess of \$1 million.

Firefighters said the fire appeared suspicious but they haven't released the cause.

The Vernons are famous for their unique cars, which they buy, sell and trade. Their customers include South Florida celebrities.

The Herald reported the warehouse typically holds about 300 cars.

Restoration finds some of Jefferson's Rotunda

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — It didn't look like much, just a crumpled scrap of metal that had been tossed aside, forgotten in a pile of old rubble. But a conservator at the University of Virginia was pretty sure they had found something historically significant: a shingle from Thomas Jefferson's iconic Rotunda.

The original building, which symbolizes Jefferson's vision for the university, was destroyed in a fire more than a century ago. But in the midst of a \$50 million restoration, workers unexpectedly found scraps that offer clues to the school's storied past.

When the restoration is complete, they hope the Rotunda will no longer be seen as a symbol or a historic site so much as the busy heart of the school, as Jefferson had intended.

"It's the centerpiece of Mr. Jefferson's university. He built the whole school around that," said John Stout, an alumnus who met his wife at the University of Virginia in the mid-1980s.

Driver injures woman during Zombie Walk

CA SAN DIEGO — A driver struck and seriously injured a woman while fleeing from angry members of the annual Zombie Walk held during Comic-Con, police said.

The 47-year-old driver and his family, who are all deaf, had waited for several minutes at a downtown intersection Saturday as a large crowd taking part in the walk, including some in zombie makeup, went by around 5:30 p.m., Officer David Stafford said.

When small children in the car became frightened of the crowd, the driver rolled slowly forward to get through, Stafford said.

Some crowd members became angry, surrounded the car, pounded on it, climbed on it and smashed the windshield, he said.

The driver then sped up to flee and sideswiped a 64-year-old

THE CENSUS

25.01

The odometer reading, in miles, of NASA's Mars rover Opportunity, breaking the record for off-Earth distance traveled. NASA officials said Monday that Opportunity drove 157 feet over the weekend, which was enough to surpass the record held by the Soviet Union's Lunokhod 2 rover.



JOE BERG, FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU/AP

Wounded vet still protecting his country

Retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Billy Costello, center, who lost his right leg while stationed in Afghanistan, dives with the use of a prosthesis to help transplant coral in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary off Big Pine Key. Costello is one of a dozen wounded veterans in the Keys transplanting coral on a special section of the reef that has been set aside as a remembrance area for fallen U.S. service personnel.

woman, who fell under the car.

Some witnesses chased the car for several blocks until the driver spotted a police officer and stopped. The driver was not arrested but the investigation continued, Stafford said.

No ticket for Shrek over loud musical, chief says

NH PORTSMOUTH — A musical being performed in a New Hampshire park has drawn some noise complaints, but the deputy police chief says he's "not giving Shrek a ticket."

"Shrek the Musical" is enjoying a summer run in this seacoast city, but some neighbors want the volume turned down.

City police and City Councilor Esther Kennedy say they've been getting complaints about noise from the shows. But Deputy Police Chief Corey MacDonald told the Portsmouth Herald and its Seacoast Online website he has no plans to ticket the green ogre.

Kennedy said she'd like to out-

fit police officers with decibel meters so they can get an objective reading of how loud sounds are. MacDonald said police are waiting for more direction from the community before engaging in any crackdown.

Denali plans temporary ban on pet goats

AK FAIRBANKS — Plans are in the works to temporarily ban certain pets from Denali National Park and Preserve after a local resident was cited for hiking on park trails with his pet goat this summer.

Park Superintendent Don Striker said domestic goats pose a significant risk to Denali's Dall sheep population. He said he is planning to implement a temporary closure barring access to pet goats, and to bring the issue up at an official hearing, likely next year.

He told the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner temporary closures can last anywhere from 30 days

to a couple of years.

Corey Furrow, the Anderson resident cited for hiking with his pet goat, said he understands the park's need to protect Dall sheep. But he said his animal was on a leash.

Urination on Modell's grave brings charges

MD BALTIMORE — Baltimore County authorities said they will charge a man with disorderly conduct in a cemetery for allegedly urinating on the gravestone of former Baltimore Ravens owner Art Modell.

The man, who has been identified only as a Cleveland Browns fan, could face up to two years in jail and a \$500 fine. He posted a video of the incident to YouTube this month.

Modell and his wife, Patricia, are buried at Druid Ridge Cemetery in Baltimore.

Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger said he hopes the case will be a deter-

rent. He said the man will not be identified until charges are filed and served.

The Ravens and David Modell, Art Modell's son, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

lowa toddler treated after fall from window

IA DES MOINES — A Des Moines toddler is lucky to be alive after falling from a second-story window.

Des Moines television station KCCI reported that rescue crews were called to a house after the 1-year-old girl fell Friday afternoon. Police said the fall appears to be an accident. A witness said the girl landed on her back and was responsive, moving and crying as she was taken away in an ambulance.

No other details, including the girl's identity and condition, have been released.

From wire reports

FACES

Is the dynasty coming to an end?

Show's audience ebbs even as controversy over patriarch's comments fades



"Duck Dynasty" stars The Robertson family. The reality show, which has seen a decline in ratings in the last year, currently airs on AFN-Prime. "It's a strong, strong franchise and will continue for a number of years," said David McKillop, executive vice president and general manager of A&E Networks.

By SCOTT COLLINS
Los Angeles Times

Late last year, the Robertson family of the cable TV smash "Duck Dynasty" waded into a treacherous swamp.

Outrage exploded after Phil Robertson, the show's long-bearded patriarch, called homosexuality a sin and denied seeing black people mistreated in the pre-civil rights Deep South. A&E, the family's network home, swiftly suspended Phil; the Louisiana family that built its fortune on duck-hunting calls shot back that they wouldn't continue the show without him. As fans and conservative commentators gathered on Twitter to #StandWithPhil, the future of the No. 1 reality TV show in cable history looked in doubt.

Seven months later, all that drama seems as distant as a long-ago hunting trip. A&E rescinded Phil's suspension after just nine days. "Duck Dynasty" is still a hit, albeit one with ratings about one-third the size of their peak of nearly 12 million viewers last year, according to Nielsen.

A&E continues its lucrative merchandising partnership with the Robertsons, piling up licensed products including beef jerky and hand warmers

‘We are continuously blown away at the overwhelming response from our fans, and as long as they continue to enjoy the show and its message, we’ll bring them more to watch.’

Willie Robertson

CEO of Duck Commander and star of "Duck Dynasty"

at Wal-Marts and other stores across the nation. The tie-ins were estimated by Forbes to be worth \$400 million last year alone, although one industry analyst says the business has likely tapered since then. (A network spokesman said it would not comment on financials).

The media controversy has washed away like mud on waders.

"It's a strong, strong franchise and will continue for a number of years," said David McKillop, executive vice president and general manager of A&E Networks, in an interview.

As for the dust-up last December, he added: "I don't think there's any definitive proof that the controversy itself had an impact on the ratings. These things tend to burn very, very bright and then begin to settle into a plateau."

The strange saga of "Duck Dynasty" illustrates how in today's over-saturated media market, reality TV — much

like Internet outrage — is a highly perishable commodity.

"These kinds of 'reality' shows based on unique or unusual people usually don't have great staying power," said Jeffrey McCall, a media studies professor at DePauw University. "Once viewers have seen the personalities and their lifestyles, the audiences tend to move along ... 'Duck Dynasty' has already beaten the odds by getting into Season 6."

The season finale is scheduled to air in the U.S. on Aug. 13. A&E says that Season 7 is already in the can and, according to McKillop, the network is "absolutely" mulling possible spinoffs.

The Robertson family — despite whatever tension might have existed with A&E after the suspension — seems on board. "We are continuously blown away at the overwhelming response from our fans, and as long as they con-

tinue to enjoy the show and its message, we'll bring them more to watch," Willie Robertson, Phil's 42-year-old son and the chief of its Duck Commander business, wrote in a statement provided to the Los Angeles Times.

By any yardstick, "Duck Dynasty" has enjoyed extraordinary success. It is part of a wave of reality series, such as "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" and "Breaking Amish," that look at odd subcultures across the U.S., giving viewers a peek at lifestyles previously seldom seen in the mainstream media.

The Robertson clan is led by 68-year-old Phil, a former collegiate star quarterback in the 1960s and self-described redneck from Louisiana who famously turned down an NFL contract because of concern it would interfere with his time for hunting. Willie Robertson runs the duck call business that his father started.

The March 2012 premiere logged a modest 1.8 million total viewers, but the series built a sizable audience. By early 2013 it was regularly drawing more than 8 million viewers. Then the Season 4 premiere a year ago smashed cable records by delivering an astounding 11.8 million. Ratings began sliding and for the season finale, "Duck Dynasty" was back down to 8.9 million.

Gabriel Iglesias says the material in his comedy flick is audience approved

By RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias was 11 when he saw the 1987 comedy film "Eddie Murphy Raw" and was introduced to the world of stand-up comedy. "I remember renting and rent-

ing the VHS tape. Eddie had me in tears; I was laughing so hard." It was then I started thinking about doing voices and characters," Iglesias says.

That's why it means a lot for San Diego-native Iglesias to put out his own film.

Just like "Eddie Murphy Raw," his "The Fluffy Movie" is a full-

blown comedy concert. It was filmed in San Jose, Calif., over two nights during his sold-out "Unity Through Laughter" tour that took Iglesias to 23 countries and more than 400 cities.

Iglesias made no changes to his regular material for the movie. "I wasn't going to change something that had been working for the

last year," Iglesias says. "There's certain material that played better and cuts were made when the film was edited, but overall it was my regular show."

The film runs 97 minutes. Those who have seen Iglesias perform know his stand-up can run from one to two hours. "Iglesias doesn't write down ma-

terial. He prefers to go on stage and let the comedy flow freely. He guarantees all of the material in "The Fluffy Movie" has passed audience testing.

"It's all me in every show," Iglesias says. "I will talk about anything and everything, even how my parents met, even I came to be."

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Small cars fare poorly in crash tests

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
The Associated Press

DETROIT — The four-door Mini Cooper Countryman was the only one of 12 cars to earn a top rating of "good" in new frontal crash tests.

The Nissan Leaf, Nissan Juke, Fiat 500L and Mazda5 wagon all fared worst in the tests performed by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, an Arlington, Va.-based safety group that's funded by insurers.

The Chevrolet Volt, Ford C-Max, Mitsubishi Lancer, Scion FR-S and Subaru BRZ all got the second-highest rating of "acceptable." The Hyundai Veloster and Scion xB were a notch below that, with "marginal" ratings.

The small overlap front crash test, introduced in 2012, replicates what happens when 25 percent of a car's front end strikes a rigid object at 40 miles per hour. It's a difficult test because a small area of the car's front end must absorb and manage the energy



INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY/AP

The 2014 Mazda5 wagon was one of four small cars that performed the worst in frontal crashes in tests performed by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

from a severe, high-speed crash.

To earn a "good" rating, a car must keep the cabin around the occupants largely intact and protect them with a combination of seat belts and air bags, the institute said. When a car's cabin collapses, as it did in the crash tests of the Juke, Leaf, 500L and Mazda5, it can move the seats and air bags out of place, increas-

ing the risk of injuries.

The institute said 19 of the 32 small cars it has now tested have earned "good" or "acceptable" ratings on the small overlap test. The institute said the Mazda5 was among the worst performers it has tested. Its side air bags didn't deploy at all and its driver's side door unlatched, which shouldn't happen during a test.

In a statement, Mazda pointed out that the Mazda5 has earned "good" ratings on other IIHS tests, including a front moderate overlap test and a roof strength test. It earned a "marginal" rating in a side-impact crash test performed by the institute.

"We take these results seriously, and are studying the results of these IIHS tests as we consider the design of future vehicles," the company said.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Euro costs (July 31) | \$1.3749 |
| Dollar buys (July 31) | €0.7273 |
| British pound (July 31) | \$1.73 |
| Japanese yen (July 31) | 99.00 |
| South Korean won (July 31) | 998.00 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3771 |
| British pound | \$1.6904 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.0890 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.1717 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.5746 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 7.1525 |
| Euro | \$1.3776/0.7476 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.5201 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 232.75 |
| Israel (Sheqel) | 3.4327 |
| Japan (Yen) | 102.65 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2832 |
| Norway (Krone) | 6.2653 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 43.43 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 3.10 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7505 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.2453 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,024.55 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.9099 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 31.96 |
| Turkey (Lira) | 2.1332 |

(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., Netherlands and the United Kingdom), 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.)

MARKET WATCH

July 29, 2014

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Dow Jones Industrials | -70.48 |
| | 16,912.11 |
| Nasdaq composite | -2.21 |
| | 4,442.70 |
| Standard & Poor's 500 | -8.96 |
| | 1,969.95 |
| Russell 2000 | +2.14 |
| | 1,141.64 |

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 3.25 |
| Discount rate | 0.75 |
| Federal funds market rate | 0.09 |
| 3-month bill | 0.20 |
| 30-year bond | 3.23 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Thursday's US temperatures

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|-------|------------------|----|----|-------|----------------------|-----|----|-------|----------------|-----|----|-------|-----------------|----|----|-------|-------------------|----|----|-------|
| City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | Chatanooga | 84 | 64 | Cldy | Fort Wayne | 79 | 59 | Cldy | Louisville | 86 | 65 | Pcldy | Pocatello | 85 | 58 | Cldy | Slous City | 81 | 57 | Pcldy |
| Ablene, Texas | 85 | 66 | Cldy | Cheyenne | 75 | 52 | Pcldy | Fresno | 104 | 73 | Cir | Lubbock | 80 | 64 | Cldy | Portland, Maine | 77 | 60 | Cldy | Siox Falls | 81 | 58 | Pcldy |
| Akron, Ohio | 76 | 58 | Pcldy | Chicago | 82 | 64 | Pcldy | Goodland | 83 | 58 | Cir | Macon | 88 | 70 | Pcldy | Portland, Ore. | 87 | 61 | Pcldy | Spring Field | 79 | 61 | Cldy |
| Albany, N.Y. | 75 | 53 | Cldy | Cincinnati | 79 | 59 | Pcldy | Grand Junction | 88 | 64 | Pcldy | Madison | 80 | 61 | Pcldy | Providence | 81 | 65 | Cldy | Sooke | 86 | 67 | Pcldy |
| Albuquerque | 84 | 66 | Cldy | Cleveland | 76 | 61 | Cldy | Grand Rapids | 81 | 62 | Cldy | Medford | 99 | 67 | Pcldy | Pueblo | 80 | 57 | Cldy | Springfield, Ill. | 82 | 61 | Pcldy |
| Allentown, Pa. | 81 | 59 | Cldy | Colorado Springs | 75 | 53 | Cldy | Great Falls | 92 | 60 | Cir | Memphis | 80 | 65 | Cldy | Raleigh-Durham | 86 | 67 | Pcldy | Springfield, Mo. | 78 | 62 | Pcldy |
| Amarillo | 78 | 60 | Cldy | Columbia, S.C. | 88 | 69 | Cldy | Green Bay | 79 | 57 | Pcldy | Miami Beach | 89 | 78 | Rain | Rapid City | 84 | 58 | Cldy | St. Louis | 89 | 70 | Pcldy |
| Anchorage | 67 | 55 | Cldy | Columbus, Ga. | 88 | 70 | Cldy | Greensboro, N.C. | 84 | 67 | Pcldy | Midland-Odessa | 87 | 68 | Cldy | Reino | 94 | 68 | Cldy | Tallahassee | 94 | 71 | Pcldy |
| Asheville | 78 | 61 | Pcldy | Columbus, Ohio | 77 | 60 | Pcldy | Hartford | 87 | 63 | Pcldy | Milwaukee | 78 | 63 | Pcldy | Richmond | 87 | 66 | Pcldy | Tampa | 92 | 77 | Pcldy |
| Atlanta | 78 | 60 | Pcldy | Concord, N.H. | 78 | 57 | Rain | Hartford Springfield | 81 | 62 | Cldy | Mpls-St Paul | 83 | 63 | Cldy | Rochester | 83 | 63 | Cldy | Toledo | 79 | 58 | Rain |
| Atlantic City | 84 | 65 | Pcldy | Corpus Christi | 97 | 76 | Cldy | Helena | 93 | 60 | Pcldy | Missoula | 95 | 57 | Pcldy | Rockford | 74 | 57 | Rain | Topeka | 86 | 63 | Pcldy |
| Austin | 81 | 53 | Cir | Dallas-Ft Worth | 85 | 70 | Cldy | Honolulu | 88 | 77 | Pcldy | Mobile | 83 | 65 | Cldy | Rockford | 61 | 62 | Pcldy | Tucson | 89 | 70 | Cldy |
| Baltimore | 85 | 65 | Pcldy | Dayton | 77 | 59 | Pcldy | Houston | 94 | 76 | Cldy | Montgomery | 91 | 71 | Pcldy | Sacramento | 99 | 64 | Pcldy | Tulsa | 79 | 60 | Cldy |
| Baton Rouge | 91 | 70 | Cir | Daytona Beach | 91 | 77 | Pcldy | Huntsville | 82 | 65 | Cldy | Nashville | 86 | 63 | Pcldy | St. Louis | 85 | 65 | Pcldy | Tupelo | 83 | 64 | Cldy |
| Bismarck | 83 | 56 | Cir | Denver | 78 | 56 | Cldy | Indianapolis | 80 | 63 | Pcldy | New Orleans | 90 | 74 | Cldy | St. Petersburg | 90 | 80 | Pcldy | Worcester | 89 | 70 | Cldy |
| Boise | 86 | 67 | Pcldy | Des Moines | 83 | 61 | Cir | Jackson, Miss. | 84 | 66 | Cldy | New York City | 81 | 66 | Cldy | St. Thomas | 89 | 78 | Cldy | Washington | 85 | 71 | Cir |
| Boston | 81 | 65 | Pcldy | Detroit | 78 | 63 | Cldy | Jacksonville | 89 | 75 | Pcldy | Newark | 82 | 66 | Cldy | Salem, Ore. | 90 | 60 | Cldy | W. Palm Beach | 89 | 73 | Rain |
| Bridgeport | 86 | 64 | Cir | Duluth | 79 | 54 | Pcldy | Juneau | 67 | 47 | Cir | Norfolk, Va. | 85 | 70 | Pcldy | Salt Lake City | 89 | 66 | Pcldy | Wichita | 82 | 63 | Pcldy |
| Brownsville | 96 | 79 | Cir | El Paso | 93 | 72 | Cldy | Kansas City | 82 | 63 | Cldy | North Platte | 85 | 66 | Pcldy | San Angelo | 91 | 68 | Cldy | Wichita Falls | 83 | 67 | Cldy |
| Buffalo | 73 | 60 | Cldy | Elkins | 76 | 55 | Pcldy | Key West | 91 | 81 | Cldy | Oklahoma City | 86 | 65 | Cldy | San Antonio | 85 | 77 | Cldy | Wilkes-Barre | 78 | 57 | Cldy |
| Butte | 80 | 57 | Rain | Evansville | 92 | 56 | Pcldy | Lake Charles | 90 | 75 | Pcldy | Orlando | 95 | 77 | Pcldy | San Diego | 95 | 77 | Cldy | Wilmington, Del. | 84 | 66 | Pcldy |
| Caribou, Maine | 80 | 57 | Rain | Fairbanks | 77 | 56 | Cldy | Las Vegas | 105 | 85 | Pcldy | Pendleton | 98 | 69 | Pcldy | San Francisco | 77 | 61 | Pcldy | Yakima | 99 | 69 | Pcldy |
| Casper | 81 | 53 | Cir | Fargo | 83 | 60 | Cir | Lexington | 84 | 62 | Pcldy | Peoria | 84 | 61 | Cldy | San Jose | 87 | 62 | Cldy | Youngstown | 76 | 56 | Cldy |
| Charleston, S.C. | 89 | 72 | Cldy | Flagstaff | 82 | 53 | Pcldy | Lincoln | 82 | 62 | Cir | Philadelphia | 84 | 68 | Pcldy | Savannah | 89 | 72 | Cldy | | | | |
| Charleston, W.Va. | 84 | 59 | Pcldy | Flint | 77 | 58 | Cldy | Little Rock | 74 | 62 | Rain | Phoenix | 110 | 90 | Cir | Seattle | 83 | 58 | Cir | | | | |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 85 | 69 | Cldy | Fort Smith | 75 | 61 | Rain | Los Angeles | 88 | 67 | Cir | Pittsburgh | 78 | 56 | Cldy | Shreveport | 82 | 67 | Cldy | | | | |

National temperature extremes

| |
|--|
| Hi: Tue., 113, Death Valley, Calif. |
| Lo: Tue., 42, Aberdeen, S.D.; Stanley, Idaho |

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Ernie Gaten

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OPINION

Ryan's liberal critics miss big picture

By NOAH SMITH
 Bloomberg News

A few days ago, Republican Rep. Paul Ryan released a plan for helping people out of poverty. He unveiled the outlines in a talk at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington-based think tank that seems to have emerged as the intellectual center of the so-called reform-conservatism movement. The plan involves making large block grants, called Opportunity Grants, to states, and instructing them to implement a raft of antipoverty programs. The most innovative of the programs involves having social workers directly help poor people take concrete steps to improve their lives in a number of dimensions.

As soon as the plan was released, a lot of liberal-leaning writers began to criticize it. Ezra Klein complained that the poverty plan would conflict with Ryan's own deficit-cutting proposals. Paul Krugman dismissed the plan outright, saying anything that comes from Ryan can't be trusted. Emily Badger wrote that Ryan's punitive, deadline-based approach to personal assistance is inconsistent with what we know about how poor people make decisions. Annie Lowrey called the plan too paternalistic, labeling it "condescending and wrongheaded." And Jamelle Bouie wrote that what the poor really need is not a "life coach," but more money.

This is just a small sampling of the negative responses from writers on the left. Only a very few struck a positive note, such as Matt O'Brien, who pointed out some elements of Ryan's plan that should please liberals.

These reactions are understandable

Ryan's plan represents a sea change in the way Republicans see the role of government.

— Ryan has made a name for himself as an idea man, but this usually entails releasing plans that look bold but won't work. And many of the critics liberals make represent real shortcomings of the plan — for example, it's clear that overall funding for poverty reduction would have to be increased substantially if it was to work.

But liberals are being much too quick to bash Ryan here. Ryan's plan, which is being hailed by conservatives and Republicans, potentially represents a huge tectonic shift in the conservative movement's — and the Republican Party's — approach to the problem of poverty.

First, there's the recognition that material poverty is important. Until recently, when confronted with the issue of poverty, conservatives often tended to sniff that the American poor were much richer than people in other countries, that relative poverty was just a product of envy, or that what the poor really needed was spiritual, not material, improvement.

Ryan's plan reflects a different attitude. It recognizes that chronic unemployment and underemployment are personally destructive and a drag on the economy. It expands the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is a way of writing poor people a check. It focuses on getting poor people better jobs, higher incomes, even some additional education. The idea of personal re-

sponsibility and good behavior is still there, but now it is treated as a means to an end, and the end is better material well-being.

Second, and even more importantly, Ryan's plan represents a sea change in the way Republicans see the role of government. In his first inaugural address, Ronald Reagan famously declared, "In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." Over the next 2½ decades, Republicans and conservatives tried to drop the "in this present crisis" part. They've treated government as an obstacle to human welfare always and everywhere, instead of a tool that can sometimes be used to improve things.

Ryan's plan is the first glimmer of a big awakening on the right — the realization that the crisis we now face isn't the same as the one we faced in 1981. Perhaps a decade-and-a-half of falling real incomes and falling mobility has finally cracked the hard shell of triumphal post-Reaganism. If so, the fear that the conservative movement would degenerate forever into obstructionist self-parody — that the tea party is the future — has proven unfounded.

Thinking about it: In 2014, the Republican Party's main idea man — who just two years ago ran for vice president on the same ticket as a man who called the poorer half of America "takers" — is now proposing to use a government bureaucracy to send social workers to help poor people make more money, while simultaneously mailing them government checks. That is a big, big deal. Compared with that epochal shift, the particulars of Ryan's plan hardly matter.

Noah Smith is an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University and a freelance writer for a number of finance and business publications.

With Ukraine, Putin's courting home crowd

By LEON ARON

The downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 has finally spurred the United States and Europe to agree on imposing additional sanctions on Russia. But Vladimir Putin's tactics in Ukraine are likely to be far more influenced by his domestic political calculus than by international pressure. In fact, given how important winning — or at least not losing — the proxy war in Ukraine has become to the popularity and legitimacy of the Putin government, the sanctions are unlikely to have much effect in the short run. Instead, it seems probable they will lead to an even greater resolve on Putin's part to support the separatists in Ukraine.

The war in Ukraine has been good for Putin domestically. As recently as late 2013, after 14 years in power as either president or prime minister, Putin was in trouble. His popularity and the public's trust in him were at an all-time low. Most troubling for the Kremlin, at least half of Russians did not want him to be re-elected president in 2018. But today, despite economic stagnation that could easily lead to recession, Putin's popularity is again sky high, and he seems to be forging the foundations for a lifetime presidency (with or without "elections").

Rallied by a massive state propaganda machine that has celebrated the annexation of Crimea and cheered on the current Russian conflict in southern Ukraine, Russians seem to be swept up in the euphoria of "saving" their ethnic brethren from the "Nazi junta" in Kiev. At the same time, they have been instilled with a propaganda-induced paranoia about alleged "NATO plots," and believe Putin is the man most able to defend the motherland from them.

But Putin may soon learn that the propagandistic hysteria he has fanned has a downside. Russians who have embraced the idea that their country is on the side of right in the conflict won't want to see Putin retreat, physically or rhetorically. Putin knows only too well the history of another strongman, the late Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who similarly rode high on the nationalistic sentiments he fanned and then found that his people turned on him after NATO forced him to abandon his foreign policy and the bodies of ethnic Serbs. Putin is convinced that a retreat — or worse yet, a defeat — in Ukraine is not an option.

In an attempt to thwart what looks like a successful Ukrainian ground offensive to recover sovereignty over the country's industrial heartland, Russia has, in effect, imposed a no-fly zone over southeast Ukraine. Just since mid-July, separatists have brought down at least four Ukrainian planes — three fighter jets and a military cargo plane — in addition to the Malaysia airliner. There are indications that Russia has escalated the movement of men and heavy armor to the border.

If, despite these efforts, the separatists continue to lose ground, Putin has two options, which are not mutually exclusive. He might declare Ukraine to be in the throes of a "fratricidal civil war," using that claim to justify direct military intervention by Russian troops against the civilians. If that case, Putin would probably invoke the "Libya precedent," insisting that Russia is only acting the way the West did in Libya in 2011.

This option, however, is not without risks. The Ukrainian army might well put up a fight and Russian casualties begin to multiply. Putin's domestic support could

erode quickly. Nearly half of Russians, according to polling, do not want Russia to invade Ukraine.

Putin's other choice is, while continuing to rattle sabers, to call for an immediate cease-fire followed by "direct negotiations" between Kiev and Russia's proxies in southeast Ukraine. In such an event, the West would probably put pressure on Ukraine to stop its offensive and enter into the talks. Even though European and U.S. leaders have agreed to impose tougher sanctions, Western countries would like to see a Russian military victory or have at least not to mention avert the first war between two major European nations since the end of World War II.

Needless to say, by enabling the separatists to stay in control of the territories they hold today, a Russia-engineered truce would allow Putin a victory of how he well as abroad. He would have stopped the Ukrainian offensive without committing regular troops. Moreover, if the truce and negotiations were to drag on, Ukraine's economic situation would weaken, undermining support for Ukraine's activist, pro-Western President Petro Poroshenko, whose government might then be replaced with one that was more pro-Russia. In any case, a truce could be quickly broken by the "rebels" on orders from Moscow, just as the most recent unilateral Ukrainian cease-fire was at the beginning of July.

Despite Monday's sanction announcement, Russia's strategy in Ukraine will have government officials then be replaced with one that was more pro-Russia. In any case, a truce could be quickly broken by the "rebels" on orders from Moscow, just as the most recent unilateral Ukrainian cease-fire was at the beginning of July.

Leon Aron is resident scholar and director of Russian studies at the American Enterprise Institute. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

OPINION

Palin could change the media, but she won't

By **ALYSSA ROSENBERG**
The Washington Post

I do not care very much about former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's waning influence on American political life. But I confess an ongoing fascination with Palin as a media phenomenon. As she vacillates between the Fox News stints that keep her political clout alive and the reality television gigs that seem like a more natural fit for her talents, I always wonder when this is the moment that she will commit to a single path.

The debut of the Sarah Palin Channel, a subscription-based multimedia site that Palin and her team launched Monday, is a disappointing combination of these muddled ambitions. A bland combination of relatively predictable red meat for her political base and relatively mundane home videos, the Sarah Palin Channel suggests that Palin still wants both reality television money and Republican Party influence.

Some of the videos suggest one way Palin might have a real and positive impact in the media culture she so frequently decries: opening up the lives of families raising children with disabilities. But the overall effort suggests that she lacks the focus to seize this opportunity for a more limited, but more enduring impact.

In previous Palin family attempts to make it in reality television, Bristol Palin brought Lifetime producers into her life as the early videos on the Sarah Palin Channel. With the Stars' staged Todd Palin participated in a military-themed competition show. Palin herself showed off the Alaskan wilderness, even if that sometimes meant she got stuck on a tough stretch of Mount McKinley.

In comparison with those efforts, there is a crabbed and scattered quality to the early videos on the Sarah Palin Channel. Palin stands in a hotel room before giving

a speech in Denver, showing the camera the binder that holds her speech, though not the process of putting it together. As Time critic James Poniewozik notes, she promises to show us her kitchen garden while shredding grocery store lettuce, but somehow, she never quite gets there. For almost seven minutes, we watch Palin hang out with her son Trig, who has Down syndrome.

It is only this last clip that gives us any of the sort of media influence that Palin promises. "Glee" and "American Horror Story" creator Ryan Murphy has created several roles for actors with Down syndrome in recent years, but people with the condition are almost entirely absent from other popular media. Stories about people on the autism spectrum have become more prevalent, but even there, it is a rare show like "Parenthood" that acknowledges that an autism spectrum diagnosis brings genuine challenges instead of simply conferring genius-level intelligence.

Watching Palin read to and play with Trig is a genuinely affecting display of emotion and patience. And when Palin discusses the teachers and therapists who work with children like Trig, helping him learn to speak and eat solid food, her concern and hopes for him are both modest and clear. If Palin were going to embark on a focused media career, this is a place where she could tell stories that are often excluded from mass culture and where she could make a genuinely significant difference.

But the whole point of the Sarah Palin Channel is that she is not, that Sarah Palin contains multitudes, that Sarah Palin wants to preserve all of her options, however little interest she appears to have in pursuing some of them. And particularly when Palin is trying to be politically provocative, the



results feel awfully threadbare and meandered in a way her videos with and about Trig are not.

In an "Image of the Day," the site offers up a photo of children with guns, splashed with text that asks "Hey Barack, When are you gonna Tell the Middle East to Stop Clinging to Their Guns & Religion?" In talking about immigration, we hear Palin argue that "It's kind of the battered wife saying 'No mas'" in explaining that the current border crisis has pushed her to support an effort to impeach the president.

This has always been the great contradiction of Palin's career: When she arrived on the national stage, Palin's family members and her fluidity in talking about

them were a significant part of her early appeal. But Palin also got plenty of clear signals that there were rewards to be had in playing to ugly, inflammatory political narratives, and she did not stint in pursuing them.

The Sarah Palin Channel displays both this strength and this weakness. The latter aspect of her personality might be what brings in subscribers willing to pay \$9.95 a month to feel as though they are tweaking the mainstream media. But it is in the former part of herself that Palin might have been able to make a real difference, if only she had chosen to do so.

Alyssa Rosenberg blogs about pop culture for The Washington Post's Opinions section.

Workers sick of lack of paid leave when feeling ill

By **CATHERINE RAMPPELL**

NEW YORK

Something strange happened here this week: Lots of workers who've never done so before got the right to call in sick. And that's a good thing.

The Big Apple, you see, is joining a handful of other trailblazing cities such as Washington, San Francisco and Newark, N.J., in guaranteeing workers what Congress has not: mandatory sick days. Wednesday was the first day that the newly covered workers could use the sick leave hours they have legally accrued.

The amount of sick leave New York workers can accumulate under the law is modest: one hour of leave for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum of 40 leave hours a year. That's about five working days. If their boss has fewer than five employees, the time can remain unpaid. Still, this is a very big deal, for both low-wage workers and their white-collar brethren like me — that is, professionals who've probably taken paid sick time for granted for most of our careers.

Maybe we don't show much interest in the lives of the working poor, but we do presumably care about our immune systems. And thanks to this new law, we can finally rest assured that the



TAMMY WEBBER/AP

Fast-food workers from across the U.S. attend a convention in Villa Park, Ill., on Saturday. They say they can't provide for their families on minimum wage and want paid sick days and other benefits.

baristas who serve us our morning lattes, the day care aides who change our babies' diapers, the nurses who draw our blood at our physicals, the eatery workers who slather mayo on our turkey subs and the custodians who invisibly clean our office bathrooms can all go home if they're sick — rather than sticking around and sneezing and coughing all over our food, bodies, kids and

workspaces. This implicit guarantee doesn't exist in most of the country. Only about a quarter of food workers nationwide have paid sick leave, according to an analysis by the Institute for Women's Policy Research. So it's perhaps not surprising that multiple surveys have found that more than half of food services workers say they've come to work sick. Read some of

the most horrifying anecdotes collected about waiters, cooks, busboys and other food handlers coming in with norovirus, hepatitis A, pinkeye and other contagious illnesses, and you'll never again want to eat a restaurant meal without first dousing it in Puroil.

As you can imagine, most employees who arrive at work after puking their guts out don't do so cheerily. They knowingly put others' health at risk for two key reasons: One is that they can't afford to miss a shift. The other is that they fear getting fired for the great sin of missing work because of illness. And in most of the country, businesses can fire workers for missing work, regardless of the reason.

Employers, after all, don't see much of the upside of providing sick leave, since they don't bear the full costs imposed by making workers perform their duties while ill. Unlike with an E. coli outbreak, for the most part customers who contract the flu from an ailing sandwich maker probably won't be able to trace the bug back to the establishment where they caught it.

As a result, many companies see unilaterally offered sick leave, especially paid sick leave, as a cost that would put them at a competitive disadvantage against

their less-compassionate or -scrupulous rivals.

It's a collective-action problem. That's why federal legislation — requiring sick leave and other kinds of worker protections — is crucial. Right now, of 22 developed countries, the United States is the only one that doesn't require paid sick days. Even more egregiously, of the 185 countries and territories tracked by the International Labour Organization, we are joined by only Papua New Guinea in not requiring paid maternity leave.

True, some U.S. cities and states have taken the lead in guaranteeing these and other leave policies, at minimal cost to businesses. Even so, plenty of other jurisdictions have taken steps in the opposite direction. States such as Wisconsin, Florida and North Carolina, for example, have preemptively banned local sick leave mandates.

As with so many facets of our economy when it comes to time off, we are partitioning into two nations. There is the United States where it's OK to be sick on occasion and still hold on to your job, and the United States where, come hell or high water or food poisoning, you're still expected in tomorrow at 7 a.m. sharp.

Catherine Rampell is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Aresco touts AAC power as playoff era begins

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. — Commissioner Mike Aresco took to the podium at media day for the American Athletic Conference and talked about power.

“We all hear a lot about Power 5 conferences, the Equity 5, the High Resource 5, the Group of 5, the Autonomy 5, whatever you choose to call them, and we consider ourselves a power conference as well,” Aresco said Tuesday. “We’re not going to take a backseat to anyone. We see the landscape as five plus one and we’re knocking on the door. Our goal is to be in the conversation as the sixth power conference. I believe by virtue of our performance that we already are.”

Bold talk, indeed, from the man in charge of the former Big East, but this is definitely the time to boast.

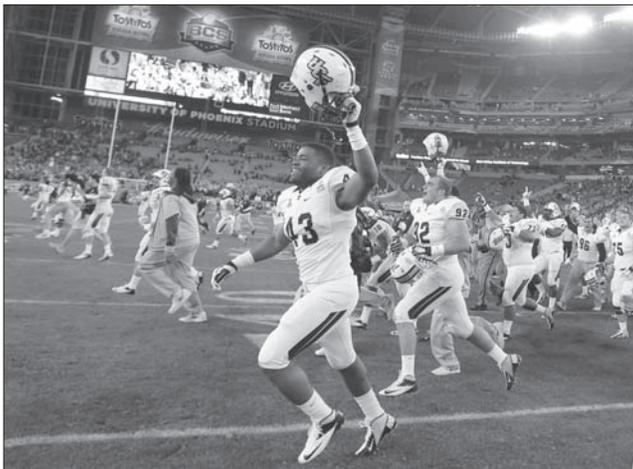
In the American’s first season, the re-invented league won national championships in men’s and women’s basketball (Connecticut) and had its football champion (Central Florida) win a BCS game.

The end of the Bowl Championship Series also meant the end of automatic entry for the American into the biggest and most-lucrative bowl games.

In the new College Football Playoff, the Big 12, Big Ten, Atlantic Coast Conference, Southeastern Conference and Pac-12 — aka the Big 5 or Power 5 — have assured themselves spots in the six high-profile New Year’s bowls. The American has no such guarantee.

Conceivably, an AAC team could slip its way into the semifinals. If not, the American gets lumped in with the Mountain West, Sun Belt, Mid-American and Conference USA. Only the best team, as chosen by the playoff selection committee, from those five conferences is guaranteed a spot in those six bowls.

The American, which adds East Carolina, Tulane and Tulsa this season, has a couple of teams that seem well positioned to make a run at that spot. UCF is replacing star quarterback Blake Bortles, but brings back much of the team that went 12-1 and beat Baylor 52-42 in the Fiesta Bowl.



MATT YORK/AP

Central Florida players run onto the field after the Fiesta Bowl victory over Baylor on Jan. 1 in Glendale, Ariz. The defending American Athletic Conference champions were picked to finish second this season behind Cincinnati by a panel of media members at the conference’s media day event on Tuesday.

“I think if you want to talk about playoffs, then the people that talk better play people.”

George O’Leary

Central Florida head coach

The Knights are picked second in the American this year behind Cincinnati, and play a loaded non-conference schedule that includes Penn State in Dublin, Ireland, at Missouri and BYU.

Cincinnati (9-4 last season) has 16 starters back and former five-star recruit Gunner Kliek likely talking over at quarterback. The Bearcats also play at Ohio State and Miami.

“I think if you want to talk about playoffs, then the people that talk better play people,” UCF coach George O’Leary said. “Nonconference scheduling needs to indicate what’s going on. I don’t

not feel threatened by a certain level of autonomy for those conferences with significant resources who want to do more for their student-athletes,” he said. “This system would not be necessary if those conferences did not worry that lesser resource conferences might frustrate their efforts to do more for their student-athletes. We, too, as a conference have resources and visibility. We share the same goals and eventually we want to be in that same autonomous group in that same room.”

Aresco said as long as scholarship limits and transfer rules are still controlled by all FBS members, the American has the ability to compete with the Big Five.

The American’s resources, however, fall far short of what the Big Five conferences have at their disposal. Those leagues have billion dollar TV contracts that help provide \$20-plus million annual payouts to members.

The American’s TV deal with

buy the power stuff. We’re going to give cost of attendance. We’re going to give the kids money to eat. How much can you eat? Everything that they’re doing we’re doing.”

Aresco said the American does not fear the power-grab being made by the wealthiest conferences in the NCAA’s current attempt to restructure. He said his conference supports a plan to allow the Big Ten, Big 12, ACC, Pac-12 and SEC a certain level of autonomy when it comes to making NCAA rules.

“Although we would prefer to be in the autonomy group, we should

Cincinnati media’s pick to win AAC

The Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. — Cincinnati has been picked to win the American Athletic Conference football title this season, with defending champion Central Florida second.

The Bearcats went 9-4 last season under coach Tommy Tuberville and return 16 starters.

They received 17 of 30 first-place votes from the media panel and 31 points at the AAC’s media day event on Tuesday in Newport, R.I.

UCF, which went 12-1 and beat Baylor in the Fiesta Bowl last season, received seven first-place votes and 296 points. The Knights return 17 starters but must replace quarterback Blake Bortles.

Houston was picked third with six first-place votes, followed by conference newcomer East Carolina.

SMU was picked fifth, South Florida sixth and Memphis seventh.

Temple came in eighth. UConn was tied for ninth with Tulane, also in its first season in the American.

Tulsa was picked last in its first season in the conference.

ESPN is worth \$126 million over seven years.

Still, Aresco wants to make the case the American is closer to the AAC than the MWC as the playoff era begins.

“We do not accept the notion that we’re not a power conference or this ‘have not’ tag that some people use,” he said. “We have resources. We have enormous potential. Make no mistake. We’ll remain an integral part of the FBS college football fabric. We’ll always have naysayers. We have far fewer now than before. It’s our job now to prove them wrong as we did last year, as UCF did in the Fiesta Bowl, as we did in the basketball championships with UConn.”

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3128, 3129, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140, 3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3148, 3149, 3150, 3151, 3152, 3153, 3154, 3155, 3156, 3157, 3158, 3159, 3160, 3161, 3162, 3163, 3164, 3165, 3166, 3167, 3168, 3169, 3170, 3171, 3172, 3173, 3174, 3175, 3176, 3177, 3178, 3179, 3180, 3181, 3182, 3183, 3184, 3185, 3186, 3187, 3188, 3189, 3190, 3191, 3192, 3193, 3194, 3195, 3196, 3197, 3198, 3199, 3200, 3201, 3202, 3203, 3204, 3205, 3206, 3207, 3208, 3209, 3210, 3211, 3212, 3213, 3214, 3215, 3216, 3217, 3218, 3219, 3220, 3221, 3222, 3223, 3224, 3225, 3226, 3227, 3228, 3229, 3230, 3231, 3232, 3233, 3234, 3235, 3236, 3237, 3238, 3239, 3240, 3241, 3242, 3243, 3244, 3245, 3246, 3247, 3248, 3249, 3250, 3251, 3252, 3253, 3254, 3255, 3256, 3257, 3258, 3259, 3260, 3261, 3262, 3263, 3264, 3265, 3266, 3267, 3268, 3269, 3270, 3271, 3272, 3273, 3274, 3275, 3276, 3277, 3278, 3279, 3280, 3281, 3282, 3283, 3284, 3285, 3286, 3287, 3288, 3289, 3290, 3291, 3292, 3293, 3294, 3295, 3296, 3297, 3298, 3299, 3300, 3301, 3302, 3303, 3304, 3305, 3306, 3307, 3308, 3309, 3310, 3311, 3312, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317, 3318, 3319, 3320, 3321, 3322, 3323, 3324, 3325, 3326, 3327, 3328, 3329, 3330, 3331, 3332, 3333, 3334, 3335, 3336, 3337, 3338, 3339, 3340, 3341, 3342, 3343, 3344, 3345, 3346, 3347, 3348, 3349, 3350, 3351, 3352, 3353, 3354, 3355, 3356, 3357, 3358, 3359, 3360, 3361, 3362, 3363, 3364, 3365, 3366, 3367, 3368, 3369, 3370, 3371, 3372, 3373, 3374, 3375, 3376, 3377, 3378, 3379, 3380, 3381, 3382, 3383, 3384, 3385, 3386, 3387, 3388, 3389, 3390, 3391, 3392, 3393, 3394, 3395, 3396, 3397, 3398, 3399, 3400, 3401, 3402, 3403, 3404, 3405, 3406, 3407, 3408, 3409, 3410, 3411, 3412, 3413, 3414, 3415, 3416, 3417, 3418, 3419, 3420, 3421, 3422, 3423, 3424, 3425, 3426, 3427, 3428, 3429, 3430, 3431, 3432, 3433, 3434, 3435, 3436, 3437, 3438, 3439, 3440, 3441, 3442, 3443, 3444, 3445, 3446, 3447, 3448, 3449, 3450, 3451, 3452, 3453, 3454, 3455, 3456, 3457, 3458, 3459, 3460, 3461, 3462, 3463, 3464, 3465, 3466, 3467, 3468, 3469, 3470, 3471, 3472, 3473, 3474, 3475, 3476, 3477, 3478, 3479, 3480, 3481, 3482,

SCOREBOARD

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Pro soccer

MLS

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | W | L | T | Pct | GF | GA |
|--------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|----|
| Portland KC | 11 | 5 | 5 | 28 | 31 | 19 | 20 |
| Real Salt Lake | 10 | 6 | 5 | 26 | 29 | 26 | 26 |
| Oakland | 10 | 6 | 5 | 26 | 29 | 26 | 26 |
| Columbus | 6 | 7 | 8 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| Philadelphia | 6 | 7 | 8 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| New England | 7 | 11 | 2 | 23 | 23 | 33 | 31 |
| Chicago | 3 | 15 | 1 | 10 | 17 | 37 | 33 |
| Houston | 3 | 14 | 2 | 12 | 14 | 22 | 40 |
| Montreal | 3 | 12 | 5 | 14 | 20 | 33 | 31 |

| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | W | L | T | Pct | GF | GA |
|--------------------|----|---|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Seattle | 12 | 5 | 2 | 38 | 25 | 27 | 27 |
| San Jose | 11 | 6 | 3 | 31 | 26 | 26 | 26 |
| Los Angeles | 8 | 6 | 6 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 29 |
| Colorado | 8 | 6 | 6 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 29 |
| FC Dallas | 8 | 6 | 6 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 29 |
| Chicago | 6 | 4 | 10 | 28 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| San Diego | 6 | 9 | 4 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Chivas USA | 6 | 9 | 4 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| San Francisco | 6 | 9 | 4 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 24 |

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

Wednesday, July 23
San Jose vs. Chicago
Friday's game
Real Salt Lake, Montreal 1
Saturday's games
Colorado 3, Chivas USA 0
Sporting Kansas City 2, Toronto FC 1
Columbus 2, New England 1
Portland 3, Dallas 2, the Portland Timbers at Kansas City
Seattle at Denver

Monday's game
Los Angeles vs. Seattle
Wednesday's games
Toronto FC at D.C. United
Portland at New England
Vancouver at Chicago
New York at Real Salt Lake

NWSL

| W | L | T | Pct | GF | GA |
|------------------|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Seattle | 11 | 4 | 37 | 46 | 24 |
| FC Kansas City | 11 | 4 | 37 | 46 | 24 |
| Portland | 10 | 5 | 33 | 41 | 23 |
| Chicago | 7 | 6 | 28 | 24 | 20 |
| Washington | 7 | 10 | 24 | 39 | 39 |
| Western New York | 7 | 10 | 24 | 39 | 39 |
| San Diego | 6 | 8 | 25 | 36 | 32 |
| San Blue FC | 4 | 8 | 19 | 24 | 31 |
| Houston | 4 | 10 | 14 | 20 | 35 |
| Boston | 4 | 13 | 2 | 14 | 40 |

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

Wednesday, July 23
Washington 1, Portland 1
Friday, July 25
Chicago vs. Houston
Saturday, July 26
FC Kansas City, San Blue FC 1
Seattle FC vs. Portland 9

Wednesday's games
FC Kansas City at Houston
Thursday's game
Western New York at San Blue FC
Saturday's games
Chicago vs. Washington
Seattle FC at FC Kansas City
Sunday's game
Houston at Portland
Western New York at Boston

AP spotlight

July 31
1954 — Joe Adcock hits four homers and triples in the Milwaukee Braves a 15-7 victory over Brooklyn.
1963 — The Cleveland Indians become the first American club to hit four straight home runs and in an unlikely ploy, number 300 game in the title game. Alyu beats Jay Poytack, capturing the Red Sox's first title with his second homer of the game. Tito Francona and Larry Brown's first major league hit ends the 1950-51 drought. He is the only major league pitcher to give up four straight home runs.
1972 — Dick Allen becomes the first player to hit three home runs in his second game — a home in the Chicago White Sox beat Minnesota 8-1.
1983 — Alan Sheehan beats Jo Anne Carner and Patty Sheehan by one stroke to win the U.S. Women's Amateur.
1990 — Nolan Ryan wins his 300th game, finishing the season with 31 wins in PBA history to win a tournament featuring a 300 game in the title game. Auly beats David Ozio 300-279 in the title game.
1994 — Sergei Bubka sets a world pole vault record for the 35th time in his career at a meet in Sesto San Giovanni, Bubka soars 20 feet, 1 inch, adding a half-inch to his old mark set in Tokyo in 1992.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

| East | | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| Buffalo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Miami | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| New England | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| N.Y. Jets | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |

South

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|
| Houston | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Indianapolis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Jacksonville | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Tennessee | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |

North

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|
| Baltimore | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Cincinnati | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Pittsburgh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

| West | | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| Denver | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Kansas City | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| New Orleans | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| San Diego | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |

South

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|
| Dallas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| N.Y. Giants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Philadelphia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Washington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |

East

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|
| Atlanta | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Carolina | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| New England | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Tampa Bay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |

North

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|
| Chicago | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Detroit | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Green Bay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Minnesota | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |

West

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|
| Arizona | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| San Francisco | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| Seattle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Louis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0 |

N.Y. Giants vs. 0 at Canton

Thursday, Aug. 7
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets
New England at Washington
San Francisco at Baltimore
Cincinnati at Kansas City
Seattle at Denver

Friday, Aug. 8
Miami at Atlanta
Buffalo at Jacksonville
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville
Dallas at Minnesota
New Orleans at San Diego

Saturday, Aug. 9
Cleveland at Detroit
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants
Green Bay at Tennessee
Houston at Arizona

Boxing

Fight schedule

Aug. 7
At Little Rock Casino Resort, Shelton, Wash., Thomas Williams Jr. vs. Gabriel Campillo, 12, light heavyweight; Andre Dirrell vs. Valdivino Bioso, 10, super middleweight.

Aug. 8
At Revel Resort, Atlantic City, N.J., Sergey Kovalev vs. Blake Caparello, 12, for Kovalev's WBO cruiserweight title; Chislera vs. Cory Cummings, 10, cruiserweights.

Aug. 9
At CONSO, Energy Center, Pittsburgh, Jason Stevenson vs. Samuel Weaver, 12, for the vacant USA World featherweight title; Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, Nev., Willie Nelson vs. Luis Gualeron, 10, junior middleweights.

Aug. 9
At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., Daniel Jacobs vs. Jarrod Fletcher, 12, for the vacant WBA World welterweight title; Lamont Peterson vs. Edgar Santana, 12, for Peterson's WBA World welterweight title; Danny Garcia vs. Rod Salas, 12, for Garcia's WBA World welterweight title.

Aug. 9
At Sands Bethlehem (Pa.), Vyacheslav Lashin vs. Andrei Rosca, super heavyweight; Vasily Lashin vs. Robert Berghammer, 12, super heavyweight.

Aug. 9
At Ica, Peru, Noherman Cepero vs. Terrence Williams, 12, for Williams' WBA World junior featherweight title.

Aug. 9
At Monterrey, Mexico, Katsunari Takayama vs. Francisco Rodriguez Jr., 12, for Rodriguez's WBO minimum weight title.

Aug. 16
At Erfurt, Germany, Pablo Hernandez vs. Firat Arslan, 12, for Hernandez's WBA World super lightweight title; At StubHub Center, Carson, Calif., Shawn Porter vs. Kell Brook, 12, for Porter's WBA World super lightweight title; Anthony Dirrell, 12, for Bika's WBC super lightweight title; Yury Trigueros vs. Daniel Estrada, 12, for Figueroa's WBC lightweight title.

Tennis

Bank of the West Classic

Thursday
At The Taubman Tennis Center, Stanford, Calif.
Purse: \$710,000 (Premier)
Surface: Hard
Singles
First Round
Carol Zhao, Canada, def. Yania Wickmayer, Belgium, 2-1, 0-6, retired.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, def. Carlos Suarez Navarro (7), Spain, 6-3, 7-5.
Martine Muguruma, France, def. Daniela Cibulkova (6), Slovakia, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, def. Sabine Lisiecki, Germany, 7-2, 6-1.
Nesir Williams, United States, def. Paula Kucik, Poland, 2-0, 6-2.
Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Paula Kucik, Poland, 6-3, 6-4.
Doubles
Alla Kudryavtseva, Russia, and Anastasia Rodionova (2), Australia, def. Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, Croatia, and Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-0.

Women
First Round
Varvara Lepchenko, United States, and Alla Kudryavtseva, Russia, def. Mariya Shukuna, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-4.
Caroline Garcia, France, and Shuai Zhang, China, def. Kristie Ahn, United States, and Carol Zhao, Canada, 3-6, 6-1, 12-10.

Citi Open

U.S. Open Series event
Thursday
At William H. Overby Tennis Center, Washington
Purse: Men, \$1.3 million (W750); Women, \$275,000 (W750)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Men
First Round
Sam Querrey, United States, def. Michael Russell, United States, 6-4, 6-3.
Kevin Anderson (7), South Africa, def. James Duckworth, Australia, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Dudi Sela, Israel, def. Marc Goles, Australia, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-4.
Victor Estrella Burgos, Dominican Republic, def. Tobias Kammerling, Germany, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (4).

Women
Daria Gavrilova, def. Michael Berrer, Germany, 7-2, 6-4.
Bernierie Sanchez, def. Blaz Kavcic, Slovenia, 6-3, 7-6 (7).

Second Round
Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, def. Bernard Tomic, Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (5).
Kevin Anderson (7), South Africa, def. Evgeny Donskoy, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
Kevin Anderson (7), South Africa, def. Pavle Paic, France, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (2), 6-4.
Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, def. Yen-Hsun Lu, Taiwan, 6-3, 6-4.
Lleyton Hewitt (14), Australia, def. Marko Matusevich, Slovenia, 6-4, 6-3.
Malek Jaziri, Tunisia, def. Radek Stepanek (11), Czech Republic, 2-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Women
Tina Smejczek, United States, def. Jeromy Charney (12), France, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.
Men
First Round
Ekaterina Makarova (2), Russia, def. Magdalena Rybakova, Slovakia, 6-1, 6-4.

Golf

LPGA Tour statistics

Through July 20

| Scoring |
|--|
| 1. Stacy Lewis, 68.97, 3, Inbee Park, 70.058, 4, Cristie Kerr, 70.180, 5, Suzann Pettersen, 70.217, 6, Michelle Wie, 70.217, 6, Lydia Ko, 70.259, 7, 70.228, 8, Chele Chi, 70.352, 9, Lexi Thompson, 70.380, 10, Charley Hull, 70.587, 11. |

Driving Distance
1. Lexi Thompson, 262.2, 2. Gerina Pilger, 270.5, 3. Brittany Lincicome, 268.5, 4. Yani Tseng, 266.4, 5. Carlota Ciganda, 266.2, 6. Hannah Klutner, 264.7, 7. Cara Westrup, 263.0, 8. Paula Retzl, 262.7, 9. Lexi Thompson, 262.3, 10. Kong-Khaphan, 261.4.

Greens in Regulation Pct.
1. Suzann Pettersen, 79.2, 2. Michelle Wie, 77.3, 3. Stacy Lewis, 76.8, 4. Anna Nordqvist, 76.7, 5. Hannah Klutner, 75.6, 6. Shanshan Feng, 74.9, 7. Gerina Pilger, 74.3, 8. Lexi Thompson, 74.2, 9. Lexi Thompson, 74.0, 10. Anazhara Munoz, 74.1.

Putting Average
1. Stacy Lewis, 1.77, 2. Gerina Pilger, 1.76, 3. Line Wedel, 1.77, 4. Morgan Pressel, 1.77, 5. Michelle Wie, 1.77, 6. Hara Noruma, 1.77, 7. Karine Icher, 1.78, 8. Anna Nordqvist, 1.78, 9. Meena Lee, 1.79, 10. Lydia Ko, 1.79.

Birdie Average
1. Stacy Lewis, 3.88, 2. Michelle Wie, 3.87, 3. Suzann Pettersen, 3.86, 4. Anna Nordqvist, 3.80, 5. Yani Tseng, 3.71, 10. Chele Chi, 3.68.

Clubs
1. (tie), Carter Murrain and Suzann Pettersen, 146, 3. Laura David, 143, 4. Auzan Koreeda, 143, 5. Hannah Klutner, 135, 6. Shanshan Feng, 132, 7. Karine Icher, 129, 8. Lexi Thompson, 129, 9. Paula Creamer, 128, 10. Michelle Wie, 127.

Save Percentage
1. Karine Icher, 54.3, 2. Lexi Thompson, 53.5, 3. Megan McHargue, 56.0, 4. Sydnee Mackenzie, 55.6, 5. Yani Tseng, 55.4.

Marina Erakovic, New Zealand, def. Kristyna Pliskova, Czech Republic, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.
Kristina Pliskova, France, def. Kristyna Pliskova, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (5), Russia, def. Virginia Ruozzi, France, 6-2, 6-2.
Bojana Jovanovski, Serbia, def. Olivia Rogowska, Australia, 6-3, 6-2.
Christina McHale, United States, def. Olivia Rogowska, Australia, 6-4, 6-4, 6-6, 4-6, 6-0.
Kirsten Flipkens, Germany, def. Heather Watson, United States, 6-4, 6-2.
Lauren Davis, United States, def. Peng Shuai, China, 1-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Doubles
First Round
Jonathan Erlich, Israel, and Royce Ram, United States, def. Jamie Murray, Britain, and Matt Pavone, Australia, 6-3, 6-4.
Juan Sebastian Cabal, Colombia, and David Marrero, Spain, def. Daniel Nestor, Canada, and Nenad Zimonjic (3), Serbia, 6-2, 6-2.

Women
First Round
Irina Falconi and Kerr Wong, United States, def. Roxanne and Sierra Ellison, United States, 6-4, 6-1.
Joeyanne Rose and Anna Smith, Britain, def. Françoise Abanda, Canada, and Shelby Rogers, United States, 6-2, 6-4.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, def. Robin Haase (6), Netherlands, 6-2, 6-3.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, def. Robin Haase (6), Netherlands, 6-2, 6-3.
Diego Sebastian Schwartzman, Argentina, and Veronika Zvereva, Georgia, 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles
First Round
Mate Pavic, Croatia, and Andre S. Brazili, vs. Collin Fleming, Britain, and Scott Lipsky (1), United States, 7-5, 6-2.
Christo Stead and Phillip Karlov, Switzerland, Germany, def. Frankrist Cermak, Czech Republic, and Philipp Oswald, Switzerland, 6-1, 6-4.
Lukas Dlouhý, Czech Republic, and Jonathan Murray, Britain, def. Rameez Junaid, Australia, and Michael Venus, New Zealand, 6-4, 6-3.
Henri Kontinen and Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, def. Julian Kovacic and Robin Haase (4), Netherlands, def. Pablo Andujar, Spain, and Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

bet-at-home Cup
Thursday
At Mercedes-Benz Arena, Kitzbuehel, Austria
Purse: \$575,000 (W750)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
First Round
Jarkko Nieminen (7), Finland, def. Teymuraz Gabashvili, Russia, 6-4, 6-3.
David Goffin, Belgium, def. Kenny de Schepper, France, 6-2, 6-4.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, def. Robin Haase (6), Netherlands, 6-2, 6-3.
Diego Sebastian Schwartzman, Argentina, def. Philipp Karlov, Switzerland, 6-4, 6-3.
Diego Sebastian Schwartzman, Argentina, and Veronika Zvereva, Georgia, 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles
First Round
Mate Pavic, Croatia, and Andre S. Brazili, vs. Collin Fleming, Britain, and Scott Lipsky (1), United States, 7-5, 6-2.
Christo Stead and Phillip Karlov, Switzerland, Germany, def. Frankrist Cermak, Czech Republic, and Philipp Oswald, Switzerland, 6-1, 6-4.
Lukas Dlouhý, Czech Republic, and Jonathan Murray, Britain, def. Rameez Junaid, Australia, and Michael Venus, New Zealand, 6-4, 6-3.
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Nicola Piet

NFL

Chiefs' Johnson targets record

Linebacker needs just 19 tackles to hit 1,000, set franchise mark

By DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — The question lobbed from the back of the media scrum was something of a throwaway, one last query for Chiefs linebacker Derrick Johnson as he headed from the practice field to the locker room.

It wound up stopping him in his tracks.

"You're 32. Have you given any thought to how much time you want to keep doing this?"

"First of all," Johnson replied glibly, "I'm 31. I'll be 32 soon."

On Nov. 22, to be exact. But what could have been an awkward moment was immediately defused by the effervescent smile that Johnson plastered on his face, one that seems to be permanently affixed these days.

The veteran is beginning his 10th season, coming off his third Pro Bowl, and closing in on the franchise record for tackles — he needs 19 to reach 1,000 for his career, which would be one more than Gary Spant recorded from 1978-86.

He still believes his best days are ahead of him, even if the first strands of gray hair are lurking in the shadows.

"No, it hasn't crossed my mind," Johnson continued, when asked about retirement. "I've been fortunate and blessed not to have a

Did you know

The Chiefs took linebacker Derrick Johnson with the 15th pick of the 2005 NFL Draft after an all-American career at Texas.

SOURCE: sports.yahoo.com

major injury. Every year, when I go back to work out with Jamaal (Charles) and all of these guys, I can keep up with these guys. If I can come back."

Besides, age is just a number at his position. Ray Lewis and London Fletcher were both playing at a high level when they retired at age 38. Keith Brooking, Mike Peterson and Vonnie Holliday were also hanging around in their late 30s, though their play had begun to taper off.

There have been no signs of that happening with Johnson's play.

"He has a unique skill set. He has great range and great speed for a linebacker, which allows us to do a lot of things," Chiefs defensive coordinator Bob Sutton said.

"Any time you have speed, a lot



REED HOFFMANN/AP

Indianapolis quarterback Andrew Luck, left, tries to get rid of the ball while being tackled by Kansas City inside linebacker Derrick Johnson during a game on Dec. 22, 2013 in Kansas City, Mo.

of times the things that go unnoticed are the plays you prevent. Sometimes, a 5-yard gain stays 5 yards because you have the speed to be over there to make a tackle.

"In the time I've been here," said Sutton, who was hired last year, "he has improved all the time, which has kind of been his trademark since he's been in the league."

Indeed, if there is any constant on the Chiefs defense, it is No. 56 in the middle of the linebacker group.

After falling out of favor with former coach Todd Haley in 2009, and regaining his starting job the

following year, Johnson has started every game with the exception of last season's finale, a meaningless game in which current coach Andy Reid rested nearly every starter.

Along the way, Johnson has put together four straight seasons of at least 100 tackles, picked off five passes and put relentless heat on unsuspecting quarterbacks.

He's managed to do it through a revolving door of head coaches and defensive coordinators, too, and even teammates at his own position. He's had four different linebackers start alongside him over the past two seasons, and

will likely have another one in Joe Mays when this season kicks off.

"He's been just a big-time player," Mays said. "Now, I'm trying to pick his brain so I can get the chance to be where he's at, doing things that he's been doing on the field."

Does it matter who is playing next to him?

"Does not matter, does not matter. This league is about change, how you adjust, and people change around the league all the time," Johnson said, shaking his head. "When they come in, the veterans get them acclimated to the system and just go."



PAUL SANCTA/AP

It's been five years since Detroit drafted quarterback Matthew Stafford with the No. 1 overall pick, and in that span the Lions have progressed from miserable to maddening.

Form: New coaches have lots of weapons

FROM BACK PAGE

The quarterback doesn't seem concerned.

"There was definitely some fun challenges for me," he said of the time he's spent working with Caldwell and Lombardi.

"Learning a new offense, new coaches: That part of it is fun. It's a challenge but we're excited about it."

The Lions threw a lot in past seasons, mostly because they were one of the NFL's worst running teams. The addition of free agent Reggie Bush before last season, coupled with the emergence of tailback Joique Bell, could mean less pressure on Stafford.

When the Lions throw, they still have All-Pro wideout Calvin John-

son and Golden Tate, who won the Super Bowl last season with Seattle. The Lions drafted tight end Eric Ebron in the first round and re-signed tight end Brandon Pettigrew. Lombardi, who comes from Saints coach Sean Payton's pass-heavy scheme, should have plenty with which to work.

Stafford's teammates also have confidence in his ability to bounce back.

"There's pressure on him every single year," guard Rob Sims said. "But he's really stepping up."

"I still think he's one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL and I think he's going to prove it this year."

The Lions play their preseason opener Aug. 9 against visiting Cleveland.

NFL

Jones' Hall induction adds to Seattle's big year

By **TIM BOOTH**
The Associated Press

ARENTON, Wash. — Walter Jones started going through names to give his induction speech at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, he constantly came back to his son Walterius.

The youngster was with him in New York during Super Bowl week when Jones found out he'd be honored in his first year of eligibility, and just the third player having spent their entire career with Seattle Seahawks to be inducted. It felt only right to have the 14-year-old give the speech.

Talk about a unique summer vacation project.

"When I asked him if he wanted to present me he was like, 'Well, there's nobody else that's going to do it,'" Jones said. "He's been with me

throughout this whole process, so he was an easy answer to present me."

Regarded as one of the game's best offensive tackles ever, Jones will get his gold jacket Saturday night and add to a year that has seen the Seahawks reach the pinnacle of the NFL. The party in New York in February didn't stop with Jones being voted into the Hall of Fame on his first try. That was just the beginning. A day later, he was at MetLife Stadium to watch Seattle's 43-8 rout of Denver to claim its first Vince Lombardi trophy.

It was a moment Jones was

hoping to experience as a player in February 2006 when Seattle reached its only other Super Bowl, losing to Pittsburgh. A championship is about the only thing missing from Jones' extensive résumé.

Jones was deemed special when he was selected with the No. 6 overall pick of the 1997

draft coming out of Florida State. He was a unique combination of size and power, but also speed and fluidity for a man who stood at 6-foot-5 and 325 pounds.

His offseason workouts became folklore, pushing Cadillac Escalades as part of his regimen — and usually during some sort of contract dispute. Yet he showed up for every season opener, whether he was unhappy with his contract or not.

Jones was selected to nine Pro Bowls. He was a four-time All-Pro. Mike Holmgren, who coached the Seahawks from 1999 to 2008, once called Jones the best offensive player he has ever coached. It's a heady state considering Holmgren coached Joe Montana, Brett Favre, Steve Young and Jerry Rice during his career.

Jones wanted to be like Anthony Munoz. And like Munoz before him,

Jones became the standard for the next generation of offensive linemen.

"From Day 1 when I got in the league, I wanted to establish the standard that I set. I wanted to be a guy that when you talk about offensive linemen, I wanted my name to come up."

Seattle's coaches once put together the numbers that helped state the dominant



Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony

AFN-Sports
1 a.m. Sunday CET
8 a.m. Sunday JKT

level at which Jones played: He blocked for more than 5,500 pass plays in his career and gave up just 23 sacks and was called for holding just nine times in 180 career games — all starts.

Jones is revered in Seattle in a way usually reserved for skill position players. It's a statue of Jones that stands outside the Seahawks-themed bar at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. His No. 71 was retired the day he retired, while Steve Largent (No. 80) and Cortez Kennedy (No. 96) had to wait for their entry to Canton before their numbers were raised.

"Getting a gold jacket and to be a part of that team, man, it's just amazing," Jones said. "Then to be a part of Seattle, it's just amazing to represent the city of Seattle, man. It's just amazing. I started there and I ended there. It's a lot of stuff that goes on."



Jim Bryant/AP

'Getting a gold jacket and to be a part of that team, man, it's just amazing.'

Walter Jones, left
Former Seattle Seahawks offensive lineman elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame

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MLB ROUNDUP

Machado's HR in 12th lifts O's by Angels

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles have a knack for winning in extra innings and it has nothing to do with luck.

Manny Machado homered leading off the 12th inning and the Orioles survived a rocky outing from starter Chris Tillman in a 7-6 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday night.

Baltimore is 12-3 in extra innings and has won seven straight.

"To do that, you've got to have a good effort out of your bullpen — and we did tonight," manager Buck Showalter said.

Orioles relievers gave up one run and five hits over the final seven innings. After Ryan Webb (3-1) worked out of a two-on, two-out jam in the 12th, Machado took care of business in the bottom half with his first career game-ending homer.

Machado hit a 1-2 breaking ball from Cory Rasmus (2-1) into the seats in left field to end the back-and-forth duel between AL contenders.

The Orioles were 16-2 in extra innings in 2012, and this is shaping up to be that kind of year.

"We have good chemistry in the clubhouse like we did back then and obviously we have a good bullpen as well," Machado said.

Adam Jones and Nick Markakis homered for Baltimore, playing its first home game since the All-Star break.

Josh Hamilton homered and had three RBIs for the Angels, who have dropped eight of their last 11 against the Orioles. Los Angeles got a solid performance from its relievers, who allowed three hits over six-plus innings.

"Our bullpen did a terrific job," manager Mike Scioscia said. "You can't ask much more from those guys. We couldn't get that one hit that would get the game on our terms."

A potential pitching duel between Jered Weaver and Tillman turned into a slugfest, as both former All-Stars left after the fifth in-



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Baltimore's Manny Machado hits a game-winning home run leading off the 12th inning as the Orioles beat the Los Angeles Angels 7-6 on Tuesday night at Camden Yards in Baltimore.

ning with Baltimore leading 6-5.

Weaver gave up a season-high six earned runs and walked four. Tillman yielded five runs, three earned, and six hits — including three doubles and a home run.

After Hamilton delivered a run-scoring grounder in the top of the first, the Orioles scored twice in the bottom half. Jones drove an 0-2 fastball over the left-field wall — giving him 20 home runs for a fourth straight season — and J.J. Hardy added an RBI single.

Los Angeles capitalized on a throwing error by Tillman to take a 3-2 lead in the second before Machado doubled in a run in the Orioles' half.

After Hank Conger hit a sacrifice fly for the Angels in the fourth, Weaver issued two walks in the bottom half and Markakis followed with a drive off the right-field foul pole to make it 6-4.

Hamilton homered in the fifth and tied it in the seventh with an infield hit.

Yankees 12, Rangers 11: Brett Gardner had four hits to go with a tremendous sliding catch and New York overcame J.P. Arenalicia's seven RBIs for host Texas.

Gardner had a leadoff homer and two doubles, and he reached base twice in a seven-run sixth that put the Yankees ahead to stay.

Arenalicia homered twice, including a grand slam. He also had two doubles to be the first Rangers player with four extra-base hits since Josh Hamilton's four-homer game at Baltimore on May 8, 2012. The last player with at least seven RBIs in a loss was Jonathan Lucroy in 2012, when Milwaukee fell to the Chicago Cubs, STATS said.

Twins 2, Royals 1: Kyle Gibson bounced back for a rocky start

to shut down host Kansas City and Minnesota held on through a shaky ninth to beat James Shields and the Royals.

White Sox 11, Tigers 4: Jose Abreu and Adam Dunn hit consecutive home runs during a seven-run seventh inning that sent Chicago past host Detroit.

The White Sox sent 12 hitters to the plate in the seventh and broke the game open against Anibal Sanchez (7-5) and Joakim Soria. Alexei Ramirez added a three-run double in the inning.

Mariners 5, Indians 2: Hisashi Iwakuma (9-5) kept his road record spotless since last July, pitching seven strong innings to lead visiting Seattle over Cleveland.

Blue Jays 4, Red Sox 2: Marcus Stroman had his second solid start against host Boston in five days and Coby Rasmus hit a solo homer to lead Toronto.

Anthony Gose had a tiebreaking two-run double for the Blue Jays, who won for the ninth time in 11 games and improved to 9-3 against the Red Sox this season.

Rays 5, Brewers 1: Alex Cobb struck out 12 in eight innings and Ben Zobrist drove in two runs to help Tampa Bay beat Milwaukee and get its 11th win in 12 games.

Zobrist hit his ninth home run in the sixth inning for the only run off Milwaukee starter Matt Garza. Zobrist's double in the eighth off reliever Will Smith (1-3) put the Rays ahead for the first time.

Pinch-hitter Logan Forsythe followed with another RBI double and the Rays went on to a four-run inning.

Phillies 6, Mets 0: Cole Hamels pitched eight shutout innings and finally got some run support when Chase Utley hit a grand slam to lead visiting Philadelphia over New York.

Reds 3, Diamondbacks 0: Mike Leake pitched into the eighth inning and singled home a run in left field to snuff out Arizona.

Cubs 4, Rockies 3 (16): Catcher John Baker scored the winning run in the bottom of the 16th inning after pitching a scoreless top half as host Chicago overcame a three-run deficit to beat Colorado.

Baker scored on Starlin Castro's fly to end game that lasted 6 hours, 27 minutes, a record for longest game by time for both teams.

Padres 3, Cardinals 1: Jedd Gyorko singled in Yanervis Solarte with the go-ahead run with two outs in the sixth inning and Tyson Ross as host San Diego beat St. Louis.

Pirates 3, Giants 1: Francisco Liriano struck out a season-high 11 in seven innings to win consecutive starts for the first time this season as visiting Pittsburgh beat San Francisco.

Josh Harrison hit a leadoff home run in the first inning and Travis Snider added a two-run shot in the second for the Pirates, who moved within one game of first-place Milwaukee in the NL Central.

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MLB



Jac C. Hone/AP

The Dodgers' Matt Kemp watches the flight of his two-run home run in the seventh inning, his second of the game, against the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Kemp's HRs power LA

OF gives Dodgers reason to pause in rumored trade talks

By BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Matt Kemp is making a case for himself, regardless of where he's playing the rest of the season.

With his name being bandied about ahead of Thursday's trade deadline, Kemp hit a pair of two-run homers to power the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Atlanta Braves 8-4 Tuesday night.

His four RBIs were a season high as he surpassed 600 career RBIs with 603. Kemp is hitting .400 in 10 games since the All-Star break.

"I'm not worried about any rumors," he said. "I'm just worried about helping my team win."

Kemp is playing right field, where he began his career, having been moved from center field in the Dodgers' crowded outfield.

"I'd play anywhere right now," he said. "I'm just happy to be in the lineup."

Yasiel Puig had four hits with two runs scored for the first-place Dodgers, who won their season-high fourth straight. Adrian Gonzalez is also hitting .400 since the break. He had two doubles, two runs scored and two RBIs.

"That's what we envision offensively," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "We got contributions from all over."

The Dodgers trailed twice in their first meeting with the Braves since eliminating them in a division series last season.

Puig came up a home run short of hitting for the cycle, lifting his team-leading aver-

age to .317. He struck out in his final at-bat after tying his career high in hits.

Los Angeles rallied from a two-run deficit to tie it 4-4 all on an RBI double by Gonzalez and an RBI single by Carl Crawford in the fifth.

That set the stage for outfielders Crawford and Kemp to put the Dodgers ahead in the seventh.

Crawford had an RBI groundout to second base and Kemp followed with his second two-run shot over the center field fence for a 7-4 lead. Gonzalez doubled in another run in the eighth.

Brandon League (2-2) got the victory in one inning of relief, allowing one hit and one walk. Kenley Jansen got four outs for his 31st save.

Kemp's first two-run shot in the second briefly gave the Dodgers a 2-1 lead.

"Matt did a good job hitting that curveball," Braves starter and former Dodger Aaron Harang said. "That's the Matt Kemp I remember from the first half of 2012."

Freddie Freeman, who went 2 for 4, put Atlanta back in front 3-2 in the third with his own two-run homer. Tommy La Stella tied a career-best with three hits and scored a run as the Braves' three-game winning streak ended.

Anthony Varvaro (3-3) took the loss, giving up three runs and four hits in one relief inning.

Dodgers starter Josh Beckett struggled through another outing. The right-hander gave up four runs and nine hits in 4 1-3 innings, struck out two and walked one in dropping to 0-5 in his last six home starts.

Six-run ninth lifts A's

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Brandon Moss was having a frustrating night before the ninth inning.

Mired in an 0-for-14 rut, Moss turned things around on one pitch.

He hit a go-ahead single during a six-run rally in the ninth inning that sent the Oakland Athletics to a 7-4 victory over the Houston Astros on Tuesday night.

Josh Reddick homered for the AL West-leading A's and Yoenis Cespedes had three hits, including two doubles.

"It had not been a very good day until that last at-bat," Moss said. "I was just trying to battle, stay on the ball a little bit. Get on base any way I could. If I got a good pitch to hit, hit it hard."

Oakland trailed 4-1 in the ninth before pinch-hitter Alberto Callaspo had a two-run single off closer Chad Qualls (1-2).

After Houston couldn't turn a potential game-ending double play on John Jaso's grounder, Jed Lowrie walked and Cespedes tied it with a single.

Moss ended his slump with the RBI single off Tony Sipp and then Josh Donaldson hit a two-run double off Jose Veras.

"We always have confidence in him," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said of Moss. "He's played himself into a role here this year where he's getting at bats against left-handers, too, and doing some damage, and no more than that one right there."

Evan Scribner (1-0) got the win and Sean Doolittle pitched the ninth for his 16th save.

"They just found some holes when they needed to and hit the ball on the screws when they needed to," Qualls said. "I just didn't get it done."

Marvin Gonzalez homered off the left-field foul pole in the first inning to give the Astros a 1-0 lead. Enrique Hernandez had an RBI triple as part of a two-run fifth and an RBI double in seventh to give the Astros the 4-1 lead.

"Any time you lose games in the eighth or ninth inning, those are tough games to lose," Houston manager Bo Porter said. "We were in position to win the ballgame and just were not able to close it out."

A's starter Jeff Samardzija gave up four runs and six hits with seven strikeouts in 6 2/3 innings.

"I'm not happy with how I pitched, but to keep it close and give these guys a chance, sometimes that's all I need," Samardzija said.

Did you know

Tuesday's win was the A's sixth this season when trailing after eight innings and was the second time they scored at least six runs in the ninth this year. Oakland scored seven runs in the top of the ninth on April 25, also at Houston.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Oakland's Brandon Moss, left, and Yoenis Cespedes celebrate after scoring on Josh Donaldson's double during the ninth inning against Houston on Tuesday.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Marlins win sixth straight

By CHRISTOPHER STOCK
The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Miami Marlins have gotten contributions from a number of players during their recent surge. On Tuesday night, they took two All-Stars led them.

Henderson Alvarez pitched seven scoreless innings, Giancarlo Stanton drove in two runs and the surging Marlins beat Stephen Strasburg and the Washington Nationals 3-0 for their sixth straight win.

Christian Yelich also drove in a run for the Marlins, who have won nine of their last 10.

"Guys are excited, there's a lot of confidence," manager Mike Redmond said.

Steve Cishek struck the bases in the ninth before striking out Anthony Rendon to record his 27th save in 30 chances.

At 53-53, the Marlins have climbed back to the .500 mark for the first time since June 25 when they were 39-39. They trail the Nationals by five games in the NL East.

"They've got the ability to roll off like they're rolling right now," Nationals manager Matt Williams said.

Strasburg (7-9) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings after allowing four runs each in his last two starts.

Alvarez (8-5), who issued a season-high

four walks, got out of a bases-loaded jam with no outs in the second inning. He got help from third baseman Casey McGee, who made a diving catch to rob Nate McLouth from extra bases for the second out in the inning.

"When you're winning ballgames, guys are making big plays," Redmond said.

The Marlins got to Strasburg in the sixth when Stanton doubled to left to score a run. Stanton came into the game hitless in his last nine at-bats, striking out eight times.

"I haven't felt good for a while now," Stanton said. "I did a little different set in pregame, so hopefully I'm feeling better and more comfortable at the plate and today was a good plus."

Yelich hit an RBI double in the eighth to give Miami a 2-0 lead and Stanton drove him in two batters later.

Miami's Jeff Baker had his career-best 11-game hitting streak snapped with an 0-for-3 night.

Bryce Harper had two of the Nationals' five hits.

Both teams could be looking to make moves before Thursday's non-waiver trade deadline.

"Any help we can get to make us better is always good," Stanton said. "You never what it's going to be or if there's going to be one, but any additions will help."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Browns WR Gordon plans pot defense

By TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Josh Gordon has a new, high-profile teammate to help him fight the NFL.

Facing an indefinite suspension for marijuana use, Cleveland's talented wide receiver has hired attorney Maurice Suh to represent him at his appeal hearing with the league this week, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press. Suh, who helped Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman win an appeal for a suspension in 2012, will be with Gordon in New York on Friday, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on Tuesday on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the talks.

ESPN first reported Suh's hiring.

Gordon is facing an indefinite ban under the league's substance abuse policy. While he awaits his hearing, the Pro Bowl has been at training camp with the Browns. He has declined interview requests.

Suh helped Sherman win his appeal of a substance abuse violation on the grounds of a faulty test.

According to the person who spoke to the AP, Gordon will contend failed test results were caused by secondhand marijuana smoke. Gordon's attorney also is expected to point out that Gordon only tested positive once despite being tested over 70 times, and even then two samples taken did not match.

ESPN and profootballtalk.com were first to report

Gordon's plans to clear his name.

Gordon, who failed at least three drug tests in college for marijuana, was suspended for two games last season for what he claimed was for a prescribed cough medicine. Despite the suspension, he still led the league in yards receiving and broke several team records. The 23-year-old reportedly checked into rehab following a recent DWI arrest in Raleigh, N.C.

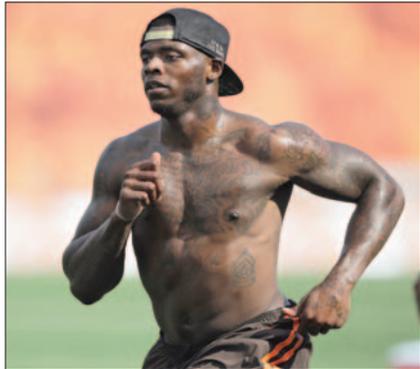
The Browns are eager to find out if they will have Gordon at all this season.

Pro Bowl tight end Jordan Cameron said the uncertainty has weighed on Gordon as he waits to learn his fate.

"He's trying to be positive," Cameron said after Monday's practice. "It's one of those things, he doesn't know. It's up in the air right now. It's hard for him to have a say either way, so he's just grinding. He's out here every day and he's working hard and that's all you can ask of him."

If Gordon loses his appeal, he'll have to wait one year to apply to Commissioner Roger Goodell for reinstatement.

Gordon could be helped by the public outcry over the league's handling of Baltimore running back Ray Rice's case. Rice was suspended two games by Goodell for violating the league's personal conduct policy. Rice was arrested following a Feb. 15 altercation in Atlantic City, N.J., in which he allegedly struck then-fiancée Janay Palmer.



Cleveland Browns wide receiver Josh Gordon runs during a conditioning test at the team's training camp in Berea, Ohio, last Friday. Gordon faces a suspension for marijuana use.

Briefly

NASCAR suspends Hamlin crew chief six races

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR suspended Denny Hamlin's crew chief and car chief on Tuesday for six races because the Joe Gibbs Racing entry failed inspection following his third-place finish at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Darian Grubb and Wesley Sherrill were both suspended through the Sept. 6 race at Richmond. Grubb, the crew chief, was also fined \$125,000.

It strips Hamlin of two vital crew members during the stretch of the season he would be putting the finishing touches on preparations for NASCAR's title-deciding, 10-race Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. Grubb and Sherrill, who also each received six months' probation, are not eligible to return until the Chase opener, Sept. 14 at Chicagoo.

JGR said in a statement it will appeal the penalty, but Grubb and Sherrill will begin serving their suspensions immediately. Under NASCAR rules, suspended competitors can't compete until the appeal process is complete, but delaying sitting out would extend the suspensions into the Chase should JGR not get portions of the penalty overturned.

Also, Hamlin and team owner Joe Gibbs were docked 75 points apiece in the driver and owner standings. It dropped Hamlin from 11th to 21st in the Sprint Cup standings. But, as a race winner next this season, Hamlin is likely guaranteed a spot in the 16-driver Chase field.

Hamlin's car failed post-race inspection Sunday because NASCAR said it found issues with



Police officers walk over to remove a fan that made it onto the field and proceeded to take a selfie with Real Madrid's Isco, right, in the second half of a match against Roma on Tuesday in Dallas. Several fans made it onto the field, some able to acquire autographs from players, in the match's final minutes.

several of the covers in the rear firewall of the driver compartment. Loose or missing covers could vent the driver compartment and create more downforce for the car.

The penalty was considered a P5 infraction under the scale NASCAR implemented this season. It clearly defines penalties and their punishments on a P1 to P6 scale.

Penalties found post-race are subjected to an additional 25 point

deduction and an increase of the fine by up to \$50,000 than if they would have been found before the race. NASCAR has deemed a P5 penalty so serious, it does not consider intent.

Fans run on field during Real Madrid-Roma match

DALLAS — Approximately 20 fans ran on the field in the 87th minute of AS Roma's 1-0 victory over Real Madrid at the Cotton

Bowl on Tuesday night, disrupting play in the International Champions Cup match.

The group of mostly young men appeared to overwhelm the security officials working the game. One man waived a Palestinian flag as he ran across the field.

Players and officials waited patiently as the visitors were rounded up and removed from the scene. Some of the players stretched while others just stood with their hands on their hips as

the fans ran by looking for some sort of acknowledgement.

Francesco Totti scored the only goal on a cross from Alessandro Florenzi from the right side in the 58th minute.

In other soccer news:

■ English Premier League referees will start using a vanishing spray to prevent encroachment by players in a defensive wall during free kicks.

The water-based, shaving cream-like foam was successfully deployed by FIFA at the World Cup in Brazil and will be used by the Premier League when the new season starts next month. It ensures players lining up in a wall against a free kick respect the 10-yard distance from the ball.

Elsewhere:

■ Dallas Cowboys rookie defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence will miss at least two months after breaking his right foot in practice at training camp.

A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Lawrence would have surgery and miss eight to 12 weeks. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the injury.

■ Bengals defensive tackle Geno Atkins joined in his first training camp practice on Wednesday, a big step in his comeback from a torn knee ligament.

One of the NFL's top interior linemen, Atkins had been limited to working out on a side field for the first week of training camp. He was cleared to join the team for practice on Wednesday. Coach Marvin Lewis said he'll be limited at the outset.

SPORTS



Flexing its muscles
American Athletic Conference touts its strength | **College football, Page 23**

NFL



Detroit quarterback Matthew Stafford became the Lions' career passing leader during last year's disappointing 7-9 season.

PAUL SANCIVA/AP

Regaining his form?

Stafford tries to bounce back from subpar year

The Associated Press

MALLEN PARK, Mich. — Matthew Stafford became the Detroit Lions' all-time leading passer last season.

But that accomplishment got lost in the closing stretch of a disappointing season.

He finished last season with 17,457 yards passing to surpass Hall of Famer Bobby Layne's team record, but he threw five interceptions during a late three-game skid that dropped the Lions out of playoff contention.

He's still looking to regain his form from his only playoff season, when he ended 2011 with 5,038 yards

and 41 touchdown passes with just 16 interceptions. He's thrown more interceptions each season since. The arrival of a new coaching staff could be just the thing.

"Our head coach has been to Super Bowls, has won Super Bowls," he said of Jim Caldwell, who won Super Bowls as an assistant coach in Tampa Bay and Baltimore and was hired after Detroit fired Jim Schwartz at the end of a 7-9 season.

"Having those guys around the building means a lot to us. It's something we haven't had in the past."

Offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi, who spent the past five seasons as Drew Brees' quarterbacks coach in New Orleans, also should help as Stafford looks to reverse a run that has seen his yardage and completion percentage drop slightly in each of the past two seasons.

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By the numbers

19

Interceptions Matthew Stafford threw last season. His career high was 20 in 2009.

12

Number of times Stafford fumbled last season, far and away a career high. His next worst year was 2012, when he had six.

84.2

Quarterback rating for Stafford last season, up from 79.8 the previous season. His career-best QB rating is 97.2, set in 2011.

Inside:

- Jones adds to Seattle's big year, Page 27
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SOURCE: nfl.com

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Kemp's two home runs propel Dodgers

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