

A VICTIM OF 'VIP CULTURE'



Col. Darron Wright AP

ENVIRONMENT OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR SENIOR OFFICERS LED

TO PARACHUTE ACCIDENT THAT KILLED COLONEL, ARMY REPORT FINDS

PAGE 3

Veterans: VA reform bill only a first step

With legislation headed to president, advocates say more change needed

BY TRAVIS J. TRITEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—The hard-fought passage of a \$16.3 billion VA reform plan by Congress on Thursday drew applause from veterans groups, but they also warned it is only a first step toward a needed overhaul of the nationwide health care system.

The Senate voted 91-3 in favor of the bill late Thursday, following overwhelming support in the House for expanding veterans' access to private health care, hiring more Department of Veterans Affairs medical staff, leasing new health-care facilities and giving the secretary more power to fire executives.

The bill was on its way to President Barack Obama on Friday and he was expected to sign it as early as next week after months of public outrage over dangerously long patient wait times at VA facilities and widespread records manipulation by staff.

"The passage of this bill through the Senate today is not a silver bullet, but rather it is only a Band-Aid, and one that will soon fall off," Paul Rieckhoff, CEO and founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said in a statement after the late-evening vote.

LAVA, which claims 270,000 members including veterans from America's two most recent wars, is "glad and relieved" that an agreement was reached, but said Congress should not be praised for finally addressing long-time problems in the VA health care system.

American Legion National Commander Daniel Dellinger did praise lawmakers for putting aside political differences to pass a bipartisan compromise bill. But he said the measure to decrease wait times by expanding veteran access to private care must only be temporary.

SEE REFORM ON PAGE 2

Air Force overhauls evaluation, promotion systems

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—The Air Force is going to implement "sweeping changes" to its evaluation and promotion systems for enlisted airmen, the service announced Thursday. "This is the most comprehensive update

to enlisted evaluations and promotions in nearly 45 years," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody said in a press release announcing the overhaul.

The changes come at a time when the Air Force is planning to shed tens of thousands of positions during the coming years, and service leaders want to ensure they

are promoting the best performers.

Significant modifications will be made to the Weighted Airman Promotion System.

Instead of making WAPS calculations using an airman's last five Enlisted Performance Reports, the new system will only use the three most recent EPRs.

SEE OVERHAUL ON PAGE 4

WORLD

A century later, Europe marks start of WWI

Page 11

MLB

- Tigers acquire Cy Young Award winner David Price
- Trade deadline roundup

Back page, pages 30-31

WORLD

Gaza cease-fire unravels with scores of Palestinians killed in Israeli shelling

Page 9



QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The consequences can be catastrophic in terms of lost lives but also severe socio-economic disruption and a high risk of spread to other countries.”

— Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, on the Ebola outbreak

See story on Page 9

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COMING MONDAY

Shifting Gears

Chrysler visionary gets his due



TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 14
- Books 19
- Business 22
- Comics 23
- Crossword 23
- Health & Fitness 15
- Music 16-17
- Opinion 12-13
- Sports 24-32
- Weather 22

NATION

Iron Dome bill shows US backs Israel

By BRADLEY KLAPPER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Friday rushed through a \$225 million bill to replenish Israel's missile defense system, and House approval was expected in the final hours before lawmakers began a summer break.

The money will go to restocking Israel's Iron Dome, which has been credited with shooting down dozens of incoming rockets fired by Palestinian militants during three and a half weeks of war. The vote came two days after the Pentagon announced ammunition deliveries to the Jewish state and as a planned 72-hour cease-fire between Israel and Hamas unraveled almost as quickly as it began.

Efforts in the Senate to approve the money stalled Thursday night after Republican Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma sought cuts elsewhere in the budget to pay for the aid. Earlier, senators attempted to lump the Israel money into a broader spending bill that included border security and wildfire assistance money. That bill failed to get the necessary 60 votes on Thursday, and the House had little interest in it, anyway. Friday's separate Israel bill passed by voice vote.

The Iron Dome system has emerged as a game-changer in the current round of violence, with Israeli officials citing a success rate as high as 90 percent.

The system uses radar, advanced tracking

technology and anti-missile batteries to follow the trajectory of an incoming rocket or mortar and to determine if it is headed for a major population center. If an urban area is threatened, interceptors are fired to detonate in the air in close proximity to the missile. Projectiles not posing a threat are allowed to fall in empty fields. The system targets short-range rockets with a range between 2 miles and 45 miles; interceptors cost as much \$100,000 apiece.

Created by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Iron Dome has enjoyed strong U.S. technological and financial support.

Throughout its history, the U.S. has provided more than \$700 million to help Israel cover costs for batteries, interceptors, production costs and maintenance, the Congressional Research Service said. The total already appeared set to climb above \$1 billion after Senate appropriators doubled the Obama administration's request for Iron Dome funding for fiscal 2015. Now it seems likely to rise even further, with President Barack Obama expected to sign any bill swiftly into law.

It's unclear, however, how quickly the new supplies might reach the battlefield. And Israel and Hamas may be in for a prolonged fight.

A cease-fire arranged by the United States and United Nations collapsed shortly after its start Friday morning, with at least 40 Palestinians and two Israeli soldiers killed. And the apparent capture of an Israeli infantry officer

set the stage for a major escalation in a conflict that already has devastated large swaths of Gaza.

The Obama administration, which had grown increasingly irritated with the mounting Palestinian casualties, condemned the capture as "absolutely outrageous." More than 1,400 Palestinians, mostly civilians, and more than 60 Israelis, mostly soldiers, have been killed in the past 25 days.

Some of Congress' Iron Dome money could go to U.S. defense contractor Raytheon, which can manufacture components of the system after a March 2014 agreement between Israel and the United States. The two companies also are collaborating on a system targeting midrange rockets that can travel between 45 miles and 200 miles to protect Israel against Hezbollah in Lebanon and President Bashar Assad's government and Sunni extremists in Syria.

With an eye on Iran, Israel also is developing a deterrent against longer-range threats. The next generation of the Arrow system is scheduled to deploy in 2016.

Shortly after the Gaza conflict erupted, Obama praised the missile defense systems as proof of America's commitment to Israeli security. His administration sent the Israeli request to Congress for more Iron Dome money even as the president and Secretary of State John Kerry have been seeking a humanitarian cease-fire.

Reform: Opponents say bill doesn't solve agency's troubles

FRONT PAGE

A permanent solution to the department's crisis in access must be found, Dellinger said.

"The VA reform package that passed overwhelmingly in the Senate Thursday night is an important step in the process to begin repairing systemic problems in the Department of Veterans Affairs," Dellinger said in a release Friday. "But it is only one step, and only a beginning."

Lawmakers repeatedly have warned that it likely will take years to turn around the deeply dysfunctional VA, which is the second-largest federal agency and runs the nation's largest integrated health care system. Each day, 200,000 veterans seek care in about 1,700 facilities.

The department reported Thursday that about 636,000 veterans have been waiting more than a month to get care at its hospitals and clinics. VA inces-

tor general audits and congressional testimony during the past few months have revealed that staff attempted to cover up the long wait times and were awarded bonuses based on false treatment statistics.

"This bill is a beginning — not an end — to the efforts that must be taken to address this crisis," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who defended the overhaul bill on the Senate floor Thursday, said in a release. "Still, it includes some of the most significant changes to the VA in decades."

The bill passed by Congress calls for \$10 billion in emergency spending to let vets who cannot get VA appointments within 30 days of requests or who live more than 40 miles from VA health care facilities seek treatment from private providers.

It aims to increase the capacity of the VA health care system by pumping \$5 billion into hiring new doctors, nurses and other VA

medical staff. Also, \$1.27 billion would be spent on leases for 27 new medical centers in 18 states and Puerto Rico, according to a cost estimate released Wednesday by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Congress would pay for about \$4.46 billion of the price tag by capping VA employee bonuses to save \$350 million per year, deferring planned reductions in housing loan interest rates and trimming other areas of the department budget, the CBO said.

Overall, the reform would cost U.S. taxpayers about \$10 billion in new deficit spending during the coming decade, the agency found.

It is a compromise struck by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, and his counterpart in the House Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., after a month of tense debate, but it was almost undone by opponents on the Senate floor Thursday evening.

Fiscal hawk Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., moved to block a vote and argued that spending billions of dollars on the VA would not solve an embedded culture of corruption and irresponsibility.

"The culture is one of looking good, protecting those in the VA and not protecting our veterans," Coburn said. "You have to have a bill that fixes that. I don't believe this is going to do it."

The VA budget has increased much faster than its workload, yet severe problems with getting veterans timely health care have grown worse.

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., who voted against the reform bill, said it would expand veterans' access to outside health care for about three years with \$10 billion but creates a "massive" unfunded liability after that. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., also voted against it.

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MILITARY

Army 'VIP culture' blamed in colonel's death

By ADAM ASHTON

The (Tacoma, Wash.) News Tribune

He didn't belong on the plane. A former Joint Base Lewis-McChord officer who died in a September accident was not ready to jump with a new kind of parachute when he attempted his first airborne drill in four years, according to an Army investigation obtained by The News Tribune.

That wasn't the only mistake that contributed to the death of Col. Darron Wright, a popular senior officer who spent the previous four years helping lead a JBLM Stryker brigade in combat and held a series of prestigious headquarters assignments at the base south of Tacoma, Wash.

Wright's tragic fall from an Air Force C-130 plane flying 1,000 feet above the ground in North Carolina was made possible by a string of administrative oversights, according to the investigation. It was also enabled by a "VIP culture" at Fort Bragg, the Army's largest post, that allowed senior officers to make late demands on their subordinates and skip the basic safety briefings junior soldiers must attend.

"This VIP crap stops now," Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, commander of the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, fumed when he read the report on how one of his highest-ranking officers died in a preventable accident a few months before they were scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan.

Wright, 45, left behind a wife and three children. He's memorialized at JBLM, where a room in the 7th Infantry Division Headquarters is dedicated to his memory.

Friends and colleagues called him "larger than life." He served three tours in Iraq and wore a memoir of his war years, called "Iraq Full Circle," so the world would understand what he saw.

He joined the XVIII Airborne Corps in August 2013 as its plans officer, one of the senior soldiers on Anderson's staff. Its headquarters soldiers are now in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The corps is a paratrooper command unit whose members are expected to practice jumping out of airplanes in case they're called for an airborne mission.

Wright, an expert parachutist with more than 60 jumps behind him, was getting back up to speed as an airborne officer when he requested a spot on a Sept. 23 jump. It would be his first airborne training jump since he left the ground-based unit at JBLM.

But when two senior officers asked for late changes to the plans for the jump, it set off a chain reaction that eliminated any margin for error.

A fateful decision

Four days before the flight, XVIII Airborne Chief of Staff Robert Morschauser and Deputy Chief of Staff William Steele determined they and three others scheduled for the jump should use a steerable parachute instead of the standard variety used by most conventional soldiers at Fort Bragg.

The MC-6 steerable parachute has been in the Army inventory for about five years



Photos courtesy of the Georgia Army National Guard

U.S. Army Col. Darron Wright gives an interview to local Iraqi media in Baghdad when he was a lieutenant colonel.

and is mostly used by Special Operations troops.

The MC-6 also is a standard parachute for general officers. The staff officers who requested the steerable chutes for the Sept. 23 jump had used them before and believed they were expected to do so because they were part of Anderson's command team.

The officers got what they wanted, but the change was not reflected on the official mission plan, according to an investigation conducted by Brig. Gen. Christopher Cavoli.

As a result:

- The plane that dropped Wright and other soldiers that day was not flying at the recommended altitude for the MC-6 parachute. It flew at 1,000 feet — 200 feet too low.

- The Army officers on board did not convey to the pilots that they had to fly at a higher altitude when the Army leaders decided to use the new parachutes.

- The late decision to have Wright and other "VIPs" use the new parachute led to more work for an undermanned parachute-rigging company. Wright's parachute was not packed to the latest standards and had two small flaws.

The unit, known as the 11th Quartermaster Company, was known as a sweatshop in the Army. Officials had demanded a restructuring of the company after the 2011 death of another paratrooper, Staff Sgt. Jamal Clay. The overhaul never happened, Cavoli wrote.

- Wright attended a paratrooper basic

Army makes changes

Cavoli wrote that Wright "should not have been able to get on the manifest" for the jump because his certification from his refresher courses had expired.

He also found that none of the soldiers should have been able to use the MC-6 parachutes without written permission from a general officer. They did not get it, but no one questioned them.

"It is evident that the existing culture in XVIII Airborne Corps accepts that high-ranking individuals may skip institutionalized procedures with which the rest of the airborne population complies," Cavoli wrote.

His report recommends 25 policy changes that affect planning for airborne missions, medical support at paratrooper drop zones and the organization of the notoriously overworked 11th Quartermaster Company.

Col. Michael Lacey, the corps' top lawyer, wrote in an email to The News Tribune that Anderson appointed a lieutenant colonel to make sure that each change is adopted — an unusual step.

"This was the first time I have seen this done in over 15 years of reviewing these types of investigations," Lacey wrote.

Since Cavoli finished the report, Fort Bragg has a new policy letter spelling out standards for use of the MC-6 parachute and an updated system to make sure paratroopers are qualified for their jumps. In addition, the 11th Quartermaster Company received enough soldiers to reach nearly full strength.

Senior officers also received renewed orders emphasizing that they must attend safety briefings. If they don't, they will be scratched from missions by the enlisted jumpmasters, Lacey said.

"Anderson emphasized the basic leadership principle that leaders must lead by example," Lacey wrote. "Further, all paratroopers must attend all required training and adhere to airborne (standard operation procedures), regardless of rank or workload."

'Hope you're trained'

On the morning of the accident, just one soldier notified the VIP officers when they arrived late to the flight line. He was Col. Brett Jenkinson, the corps operations officer and the only jumper with the same rank as the staff officers.

Jenkinson remembered glaring at Steele and Wright. "You're late, and you put [the jumpmaster team] in a bad position," Jenkinson said.

He looked to Wright and said, "Hope you're trained; dudes get hurt jumping those things."

"I'm good," Wright assured Jenkinson. Wright was the fifth man to leave the plane. Witnesses said the aircraft might have hit some turbulence and that Wright might have made a weak exit.

He hit the edge of the door and began an uncontrollable summersault. His leg caught the rig, and the parachute would not open correctly. Parachute lines became tangled as he spun in the air.

His peers on the ground and in the air watching the accident unfold shouted to him, "Reserve! Reserve! Reserve!" urging him to pull the cord for his second chute.

He pulled the line for the reserve chute just 40 feet above ground. It was too late.

Wright appears to be the Army's only fatal casualty in an MC-6 training incident, according to data from the Army Safety Center.



Georgia Guardsmen use MC-6 parachutes when jumping from a helicopter during airborne operations at Paudling County Airport in Dallas last month.

refresher course on Aug. 14 just after he arrived at Fort Bragg. Soldiers are supposed to jump within 30 days of attending that course, meaning Wright's training had expired by the time of his fatal jump. His headquarters did not follow up to check his parachuting records.

- Wright and three other "VIPs" skipped a mandatory morning safety briefing and mock drill for their flight. Their jumpmaster, deferring to the officers' experience, did not go over the drill with them when they arrived two hours late.

It is evident that the existing culture in XVIII Airborne Corps accepts that high-ranking individuals may skip institutionalized procedures with which the rest of the airborne population complies. ¶

Brig. Gen. Christopher Cavoli
report on the death of Col. Darron Wright

MILITARY

Army decides on new pattern for camouflage

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army has selected a new camouflage pattern to begin fielding next year, an unidentified senior Army spokesperson announced in a statement late Thursday. But the new camo, dubbed the Operational Camouflage Pattern, remains well-concealed.

No official image of the pattern has been released by the Army, although a number of unconfirmed depictions can be found on the Internet.

"The Army has confirmed through testing that the pattern would offer exceptional concealment, which directly enhances force protection and survivability for Soldiers," according to the statement from the Army.

The pattern will be used in all combatant commands, including Afghanistan, the Army said. Uniform and equipment with the existing pattern won't be dis-

carded, but replaced only as they wear out.

The pattern was developed by the Army under the name Scorpion W2 to replace the much-maligned Universal Camouflage Pattern, a pixelated combination of green, gray and tan that some soldiers said provided bad concealment in most places.

The new pattern is said to be very similar to the MultiCam pattern, which became the standard for troops deployed to Iraq in 2010. MultiCam is privately owned by Crye Precision, the company that developed the original Scorpion pattern for the Army more than a decade ago. The Operational Camouflage Pattern, a modified version of the Scorpion pattern, belongs to the U.S. government and requires no fees to use.

Army Combat Uniforms bearing the new pattern will go on sale next summer, the Army says.

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SIGAR prods nonprofit over its 'gag provisions'

By SCOTT HIGHAM
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A federal inspector general said Thursday that more than half of the separation agreements signed by departing employees of a nonprofit that received hundreds of millions of tax dollars to work in Iraq and Afghanistan contain provisions that violate laws protecting whistleblowers.

In a letter to International Relief and Development, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said the agreements contain "unacceptable gag provisions" and asked that they be declared "null and void."

"I remain concerned that IRD is acting improperly to limit the rights of potential whistleblowers to report instances of waste, fraud, and abuse," Special Inspector General John Sopko wrote.

Sopko told IRD — one of the largest grant recipients among nonprofits funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development — to "take immediate steps to comply with federal laws and policies protecting whistleblowers." Those steps include notifying the former employees of their rights under whistleblower protection laws and informing them

that they can cooperate with government officials.

IRD, based in Arlington, Va., said it is engaging with the special inspector general's office to resolve the issue. "We have taken several steps to enhance and communicate our compliance with whistleblower and related protections," Kris Manos, interim chief executive of the nonprofit, said in a statement.

The separation agreements came to light in May when The Washington Post published an examination of IRD and its operations. Most of IRD's funding — \$2 percent of \$2.4 billion since 2007 — was provided by USAID to run relief and development projects in the war zones. The Washington Post found that numerous IRD executives received substantial salaries and bonuses and that several of its key projects were sharply criticized by federal auditors and former employees.

The agreements told employees that they could face legal action if they made disparaging remarks about IRD, including comments to "funding agencies" or "officials of any government." Whistleblower lawyers said the agreements violate laws designed to protect those who want to report abuse and fraud.



JORDAN STEAD, SEATTLE/COM/AP

Brush with blue

Visitors, including former Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire, center right, pose for pictures and chat with members of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels at Boeing Field in Seattle on Monday.

Overhaul: Evals, promotions being revised

FROM FRONT PAGE

The goal is to put greater emphasis on an airman's most recent duty performance, according to the Air Force.

In addition, seniority will be phased out as a criteria for promotion. Overall EPR points for WAPS will increase while time-in-grade and time-in-service points will be reduced gradually over "the next few years" until they are eliminated.

The new system will first be applied to the initial phase of a new master sergeant promotion process scheduled for September 2015.

"We want to make sure performance is the most important thing in every aspect of an Airman's career, so the evaluation process is going to measure performance, and the promotion system is going to emphasize performance," Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James said in the press release.

In addition to WAPS changes, the Air Force plans to modify its

"Unfortunately, over time the system has become inflated and a great majority of Airmen have become a 'firewall five.'"

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III

performance reviews. New EPR forms similar to the recently introduced Airman Comprehensive Assessment will be introduced in May 2015 through March 2016.

To avoid score "inflation" and to make the evaluation system more competitive, the service will change its Enlisted Evaluation System policy. Forced distribution rules will limit the number of top promotion recommendations a unit commander is authorized to give, and new regulations will also limit the number of stratifications a senior rater may assign.

Air Force leaders believe a change is needed because most airmen receive a top grade of "5" on their EPRs, which use a 1 to 5 assessment scale.

"Unfortunately, over time the system has become inflated and a great majority of Airmen have become a 'firewall five,' which makes it very difficult to differentiate our very best performers," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III said in the press release.

WAPS-related changes will only affect active-duty troops, but changes to EES will apply to the active duty, Reserve and Guard components.

The Air Force said it will provide additional information about each of the major program changes before implementation.

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Army contractor admits taking gifts

The Washington Post.

WASHINGTON — A former contractor for the U.S. Army on Thursday admitted to accepting vacations, a luxury car, escorts and cash in return for helping businesses obtain federal contracts worth millions.

In Seon Lim, 48, pleaded guilty in federal court in Alexandria, Va., to a conspiracy to commit bribery and wire fraud, general bribery and tax fraud. Lim, who worked in the United States and South Korea, accepted illegal gifts worth about \$490,000, prosecutors said.

Lim said little as U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema read off his offenses, which included taking gifts of \$40,000 and a trip to the Philippines in 2007 in exchange for a \$330,000 contract with Nova Datacom. He admitted to taking a 2010 Lexus LS 460 in exchange for helping Avnet-ech win \$3 million in contracts. And he admitted to helping Unisource Enterprise obtain a \$1.1 million contract in exchange for a secret 40 percent ownership stake.

Lim's attorney, Michael Nach-

manoff, described the government's evidence against his client as "thousands of pages of documents, files and emails," which led to his client's guilty plea.

Federal prosecutors said in court that Lim asked contractors to submit invoices for work they did not do. He also operated under aliases to direct subcontractors.

Lim received bribes in the form of cash for a down payment on a home, golf clubs, female escorts, meals, a cellphone and a free service contract and family trips, according to the court papers.

NATION



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

CIA Director John O. Brennan speaks in Washington in March.

CIA: Computers wrongly searched in Senate probe

By GREG MILLER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—CIA employees improperly searched computers used by Senate investigators involved in a multistep probe of the agency's use of harsh interrogation measures on terrorism suspects, according to the findings of an internal agency inquiry that prompted CIA Director John Brennan to apologize to lawmakers this week.

The embarrassing admission by the agency stems from a dispute that erupted in public earlier this year when the CIA and the Senate Intelligence Committee traded accusations of illicit spying and security breaches — allegations that led to an extraordinary feud between Brennan and the Senate panel, which oversees his agency.

The conflict centered on a special computer network that the CIA set up at a secret office in northern Virginia to enable committee aides to examine the agency's internal records of its interrogation program, which involved the use of waterboarding and other brutal techniques before President Barack Obama shut it down in 2009.

A summary of the CIA inspector general's report obtained by The Washington Post cited 10 agency employees, including two lawyers and three computer specialists, who had searched the committee's files and had read some of the staff's emails on computers that were supposed to be exclusively for committee investigators.

The document also criticizes the computer team members for a "lack of candor about their activities" when they were questioned by investigators working for CIA Inspector General David Buckley. The development comes as the CIA is bracing for the long-

awaited release of a committee report that is said to be sharply critical of the agency, finding that it exaggerated the effectiveness of interrogation measures and repeatedly misled members of Congress and the executive branch. The report is expected to be released within weeks.

In a statement, the CIA said its employees had "acted in a manner inconsistent with the common understanding reached" between the agency and lawmakers in 2009, when the committee's investigation began. The CIA acknowledgment was first reported by the McClatchy news service.

After briefing committee leaders, Brennan "apologized to them for such actions by CIA officers as described in the [inspector general's] report," the agency's statement said. Brennan also ordered the creation of an internal personnel board, led by former senator Evan Bayh, D-Ind., to review the agency employees' conduct and to determine "potential disciplinary measures."

Members of the Senate Intelligence Community expressed vindication but some made clear that their animosity toward Brennan persists. Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., called for Brennan's resignation. He said he had "lost confidence" in the director, citing "the unprecedented hacking of congressional staff computers," damaging leaks about the committee's interrogation probe and Brennan's "abject failure to acknowledge any wrongdoing by the agency."

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Obama supports Brennan and disputed that the CIA director's reversal on the clash with Congress had damaged his credibility. "Not at all," Earnest said, noting that Brennan had initiated the inspector general's review.

Poll: Foreign policy no longer Obama strong point

By CONNIE CASS
AND JENNIFER AGRESTA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Foreign policy used to be a bright spot in Americans' dimming opinion of President Barack Obama. Not anymore. Associated Press-GfK polling found a spring and summer of discontent with the president's handling of world events.

Obama's consistently low marks across crises such as the fighting in Ukraine and the conflict between Israel and Hamas could benefit Republicans aiming to win control of Congress in the fall.

"The problem is saying something and not doing anything — making grandiose threats and never following any of them up," said Dwight Miller, 71, a retiree and volunteer firefighter in Texas. Miller, who describes himself as a libertarian-leaning Republican, said Obama should either stay out of other nations' business or commit to "all in."

The foreign conflicts that have consumed so much of Washington's attention lately are not rated as especially pressing by most Americans surveyed for the AP-GfK poll. It's unclear how their unhappiness with Obama's performance will affect the midterm elections in November.

Asked about world trouble spots:

- 42 percent say the conflict between Israel and Hamas is "very" or "extremely" important to them; 60 percent disapprove of the way Obama has handled it.

- 40 percent consider the situation in Afghanistan highly important; 60 percent disapprove of Obama's handling of it.

- 38 percent give high importance to the conflict in Ukraine; 57 percent disapprove of what Obama has done about that.

- 38 percent find the situation in Iraq of pressing importance; 57 percent disapprove of Obama's handling of it.

Opinion of Obama's foreign

policy has slid nearly as low as his overall approval rating.

Just 43 percent were OK with the president's handling of foreign relations in the new poll, while 40 percent approved how he's doing his job overall. AP-GfK polls in March and May show a similar picture.

The late-March poll, which came after Russia seized upon an uprising in Ukraine to annex the Crimean Peninsula, marked a significant drop from January's 49 percent foreign policy rating. In September 2012, shortly before Obama's re-election, it was 57 percent.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted July 24-28, 2014, using KnowledgePanel, GfK's probability-based online panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. It 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. It is larger for subgroups.

Cantor says he'll resign from Congress

By ELIZABETH WASSERMAN
AND ROGER RUBINEN
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor will not serve out his term in Congress, announcing in a Virginia newspaper opinion article and interview that he will resign Aug. 18.

The Virginia Republican told the Richmond Times-Dispatch that he has asked Gov. Terry McAuliffe to schedule a special election that coincides with the general election on Nov. 4. His term would have ended at 11:59 a.m. on Jan. 3, 2015.

"I want to make sure that the



Cantor

constituents in the 7th District will have a voice in what will be a very consequential lame-duck session," Cantor wrote in the newspaper.

Cantor, who served in Congress for 14 years, lost the Republican primary in June to a relatively unknown conservative, David Brat, who had tea party support. He said he hoped Brat would succeed him after the general

election.

"The issues that will be considered during the lame-duck session this year will be crucial to the future of our country," Cantor wrote. "These debates will continue into the new Congress, and the people of this district deserve to have their new voice representing them and engaging on their behalf."

For now, the number of House vacancies stands at two: the North Carolina seat formerly held by Democrat Mel Watt, who became head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the New Jersey seat that had been held by Democrat Rob Andrews, who left in February.

Ginsburg: Court right to void buffer zones

By MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is defending a rare Supreme Court decision that put her at odds with women's rights groups.

Ginsburg said the court's unanimous ruling in June that struck down the 35-foot, protest-free zone on sidewalks outside Massachusetts abortions clinics was a good decision that balanced the rights of access to the clinics and speech of abortion opponents.

"It was not a compromise decision but a good decision to say, 'Yes, you can regulate, but it is speech, so you have to be careful not to go too far,'" Ginsburg said Thursday.

While all the justices said the 35-foot buffer zone violated the

Constitution, Ginsburg joined the court's other liberal justices and Chief Justice John Roberts to strike down the buffer zone on narrower grounds than the other, more conservative justices wanted.

Massachusetts officials said the 35-foot buffer zone was needed to keep patients and staff safe,

and women's groups said the high court decision would put people in danger.

"This decision emboldens more extreme violence, harassment, and intimidation of women and health care providers in the name of free speech," Feminist Majority Foundation President Eleanor Smeal said.

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NATION

Colo. considers giving edible pot a different look

By KRISTEN WYATT
The Associated Press

DENVER — Edible marijuana comes with all kinds of warning labels in Colorado. But once those pot brownies and gummy bears are out of the package, they can look identical to straight-laced treats.

A panel of marijuana producers and industry critics start work Friday on trying to make edible pot identifiable to kids even when it's out of the package, a challenge some edible-pot makers say can't be achieved.

Colorado, which has legalized the recreational use of marijuana, currently requires edible pot to be sold in child-safe packages to note that the contents contain marijuana, that the product can make consumers sick and shouldn't be consumed before driving.

But Colorado lawmakers tightened the edible pot regulations earlier this year after reports of

children accidentally eating pot-infused treats. Lawmakers passed under platters of chocolate chip cookies, some of them containing pot, and expressed alarm that the products looked identical.

"We've heard so many stories of people consuming marijuana not knowing it was marijuana," said Rachel O'Bryan, an attorney and founding volunteer leader of Smart Colorado, a group that advocates for strict marijuana regulations.

"Without a stamp or a clearly visible difference, these products are deceptive."

Edible-pot makers insist they're not trying to fool anybody, but that requiring the products themselves not to look like other foods goes too far.

"It works for some products, but others, it's going to be extremely hard and more than likely impracticable," said Julie Berliner, owner of Sweet Grass Kitchens, which makes marijuana-infused



BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

Chef Alex Tretter carries a tray of cannabis-infused peanut butter and jelly cups to the oven at Sweet Grass Kitchens, a Denver-based gourmet marijuana edibles bakery that sells its confections to retail outlets throughout the state.

cookies.

Others in the industry argue that stamping a chocolate with a pot leaf, for example, does little to prevent consumption by kids too young to read.

The rules are in addition to edible-pot packaging restrictions already in the works.

A draft emergency rule awaiting the governor's approval requires Colorado's makers of edible pot to physically mark their products so that consumers can "intuitively determine" how much constitutes a dose of marijuana's intoxicating ingredient, THC.

A spokeswoman for the Colo-

rado agency that prepared the rule couldn't comment on them because they have not been made public. But Natrice Bryant, of the state Department of Revenue, confirmed that the rules take effect in November if approved by the governor as expected. The final rule could differ from the draft obtained by the Associated Press.

Colorado's rules already require edible pot to be sold in "servings" of 100 milligrams of THC. But many consumers have complained they can't tell what a serving is and eat too much of a heavily dosed product, leading to many reports of unpleasant experiences, includ-

ing nausea and feelings of paralysis. Those stronger-dosed edibles are holdovers from the medical pot marketplace, where sellers say consumers who have built up strong tolerances won't buy anything that has a dosage of less than 100 milligrams of THC.

New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd wrote in June of going into a "hallucinatory state" after visiting Colorado and eating too much pot candy. And an edible pot cookie has been blamed for the death earlier this year of a college student who ate more than six times the suggested dose and then fell to his death from a hotel balcony.

Crews work to repair Calif. pipe that burst

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Repair crews on Thursday were shoring up a giant hole in the middle of Sunset Boulevard caused by a ruptured pipe, as officials at the water-logged University of California, Los Angeles, continued to assess damage from the 20 million gallons that inundated the campus.

Workers were reinforcing the excavated 56-by-41-foot crater and making the site safe for crews, said Mike Miller, district superintendent for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Meanwhile, workers off-site were fashioning new valves and a Y-joint connector to replace the burst section of the century-old steel line.

The Department of Water and Power said work on the pipe itself was expected to be completed late Friday or early Saturday. Then work could begin on repairing the famed boulevard, a heavily traveled east-west thoroughfare, pushing reopening well into the weekend.

There's still just a lot of work to do out here," Miller said. "We're still shooting to have this done,



DAMIAN DOVRGANES/AP

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power crews work Thursday to repair the Y-shaped juncture where a water rupture occurred near the University of California, Los Angeles.

at least the repair to the main, by Friday."

UCLA officials said six facilities were damaged in Tuesday's flooding. About 960 vehicles were trapped in garages, with many under water left behind by the rising flood. On Thursday night removal began of about 270 cars that were on upper levels and not damaged by water.

Rich Mylin, associate director of events and facilities, led a tour Wednesday of affected areas for Department of Water and Power workers in hard hats, and they snapped photos and took notes. The flooding sent water cascading into the Pauley Pavilion, less than two years after a \$136 million renovation.

UCLA Vice Chancellor Kelly Schmadier said 8 to 10 inches of water covered the basketball court, and it showed signs of buck-

ling. The floor will be repaired or replaced as necessary and will be ready by the start of the basketball season this fall, Athletic Director Dan Guerrero said.

On Wednesday evening, six men helping to pump water from the pavilion were treated for exposure to carbon monoxide from a generator's exhaust, city fire spokeswoman Katherine Main said. Two were taken to a hospital in fair condition, and four were treated at the scene.

Department of Water and Power spokesman Joe Ramallo said people who suffered damage from the flooding can file claims with the agency, which will work with UCLA on settling losses.

The 30-inch steel main was gushing 1,000 gallons a minute Wednesday before it was shut off completely in the evening.

First lady: Homelessness among vets a 'stain' on US

By ALEJANDRO DAVILA
FRAGOSO

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — First lady Michelle Obama stressed the administration's commitment to end homelessness among veterans Thursday and predicted that the country is on "the verge of making a major breakthrough."

"That's a stain on the soul of this nation," Obama, speaking at the 2014 National Conference on Ending Homelessness, said of homelessness among veterans. "As Americans, the idea that anyone who has worn our country's uniform spends their nights sleeping on the ground should horrify us."

A longtime promoter of better nutrition and exercise to address an epidemic of childhood obesity, the first lady has recently concentrated her efforts on the administration's fight against homelessness among veterans. In June, she unveiled the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, a partnership intended to solidify the effort, and called on mayors to commit to end the condition in their communities by 2015.

Speaking to a packed audience at the Renaissance Hotel's Grand Ballroom, Obama said she was outraged to hear that veterans who've served their country lack shelter when it rains.

"Every single time they're asked, these men and women an-

swer the call and give this country everything they got," she said.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that more than 58,000 veterans are homeless. Nearly 40 percent are African-American or Hispanic, according to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

But the first lady said patriotic duty is only part of the reason why this issue is critical.

"Ending homelessness for our veterans can be a crucial first step, a proof point to show that we can end homelessness for everyone," she said, explaining that the military is a trigger for social change.

School lunch programs started in the 1940s because many people were too malnourished to serve when drafted, she said, and in the fight to end segregation, people argued that "if our troops could bleed together on their battlefield, well, they certainly can sit next to each other at the movies."

In her remarks, Obama pointed to recent successes in Phoenix and Salt Lake City, which have ended chronic homelessness among veterans, and noted that New Orleans is on track to do the same in the next six months.

HUD has reported a continued decline in homelessness among veterans. Late last year, it reported a 24 percent decrease since 2010, when there were more than 75,000 veterans living on the streets.

NATION

Scientists develop see-through mice

Transparent rodents reveal inner anatomy details

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Researchers have found a way to make see-through mice, but you won't find these critters scampering in your kitchen.

The transparent rodents aren't alive and they're for research only, to help scientists study fine details of anatomy.

Before they are treated with chemicals, the animals are euthanized and their skin removed. Researchers made their inner organs transparent, but not their bones.

The results look like a rodent-shaped block of gelatin with the organs held in place by connective tissue and a gel used in the procedure.

Mice are mainstays of biomedical research because much of their basic biology is similar to ours and they can be altered in ways that simulate human diseases.

Scientists have been able to make tissues transparent to some degree for a century, and in recent

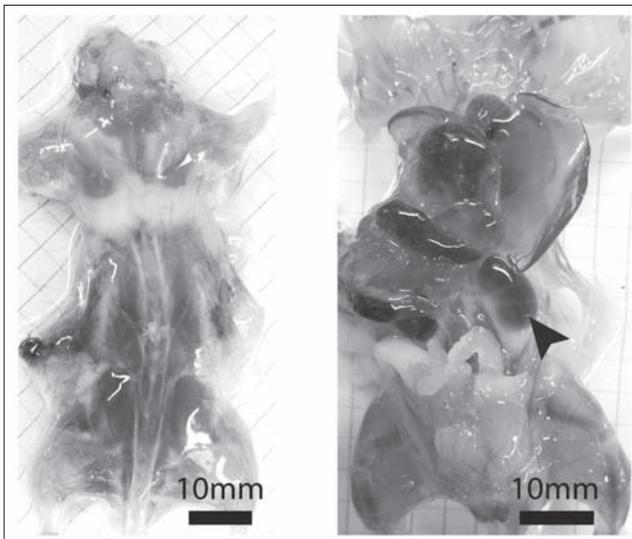
years several new methods have been developed. Last year, for example, a technique that produced see-through mouse brains made headlines. Such treatments reveal far more detail than X-rays or MRI exams could deliver.

The new work is the first to make an entire transparent mouse, experts said.

It should be useful for projects like mapping the details of the nervous system or the spread of cancer within lab animals, said Viviana Gradinaru, of the California Institute of Technology, senior author of a paper describing the work. It was released Thursday by the journal *Cell*.

It might also help doctors analyze biopsy samples from people someday, she said.

The see-through technique involves pumping a series of chemicals through blood vessels, as well as other passages in the brain and spinal cord. It takes about a week to create a transparent mouse, Gradinaru said.



YANG ET AL., CELL/AP

In a study released by the journal *Cell* on Thursday, researchers describe a way to make see-through mice and rats, a step that should help them study fine details of anatomy for basic research. The left image shows the mouse with the skin removed. The right image shows the mouse after one week of the process.

Study traces dinosaur evolution into early birds

By SETH BORENSTEIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Scientists have mapped how a group of fearsome, massive dinosaurs evolved and shrank to the likes of robins and hummingbirds.

Comparing fossils of 120 different species and 1,500 skeletal features, especially thigh bones, researchers constructed a detailed family tree for the class of two-legged meat-eaters called theropods. That suborder of dinos survives to this day as birds, however unrecognizable and improbable it sounds.

The steady downsizing and elegant evolution of the theropods is detailed in the journal *Science* on Thursday.

"They just kept on shrinking and shrinking — shrinking for about 50 million

years," said study author Michael S. Y. Lee, of the University of Adelaide in Australia. He called them "shape-shifters."

Lee and colleagues created a dinosaur version of the iconic ape-to-man drawing of human evolution. In this version, the lumbering large dinos shrink, getting more feathery and big-chested, until they are the earliest version of birds.

For a couple of decades scientists have linked birds to this family of dinosaurs because they shared hollow bones, wishbones, feathers and other characteristics. But the Lee study gives the best picture of how steady and unusual theropod evolution was. The skeletons of theropods changed four times faster than other types of dinosaurs, the study said.

A few members of that dino family did

not shrink, including T. rex, which is more of a distant cousin to birds than a direct ancestor, Lee said.

He said he and colleagues were surprised by just how consistently the theropods shrank over evolutionary time, while other types of dinosaurs showed ups and downs in body size.

The first theropods were large, weighing around 600 pounds. They roamed about 220 million to 230 million years ago. Then about 200 million years ago, when some of the creatures weighed about 360 pounds, the shrinking became faster and more prolonged, the study said. In just 25 million years, the beasts were slimmer

down to barely 100 pounds. By 167 million years ago, 6-pound paravians, more direct

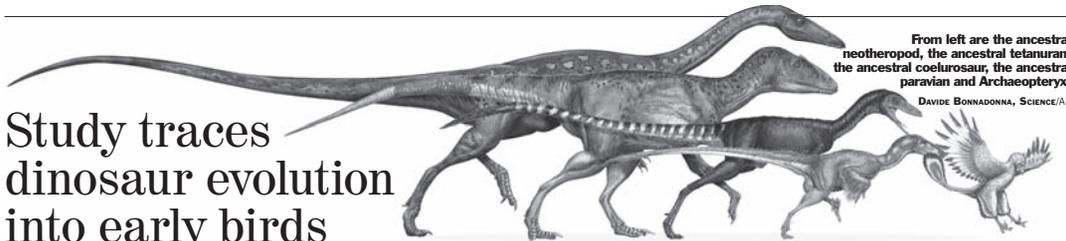
ancestors of birds, were around. And 163 million years ago the first birds, weighing less than two pounds, probably came on the scene, the study said.

People may think bigger is better, but sometimes when it comes to evolution smaller can be better because bigger creatures are more likely to go extinct, said Paul Sereno, a dinosaur researcher at the University of Chicago.

And when the theropods started shrinking there weren't many other small species that would compete with them, Lee said.

From left are the ancestral neotheropod, the ancestral tetanuran, the ancestral coelurosaur, the ancestral paravian and Archaeopteryx.

DAVIDE BONADONNA, SCIENCE/AP



The Hubble found a galaxy so huge, it acts like a magnifying glass

By RACHEL FELTMAN

The Washington Post

"Lensing" galaxies are so huge that they act like magnifying glasses for the space behind them. Their gravity can bend and distort light from smaller galaxies further beyond.

Now, scientists using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have unexpectedly found the most distant lensing galaxy to date. Its light has taken 9.6 billion years to reach us (200 million light years closer than the previous record holder), and the object it's magnifying — a

tiny spiral galaxy that we can now see undergoing a surge of star formation — is 10.7 billion light years away. Kenneth Wong, one of the researchers to announce the discovery, said in a NASA press release that these cosmic magnifiers aren't all that rare. But to find

them outside of our stellar backyard is a special treat.

"There are hundreds of lens galaxies that we know about, but almost all of them are relatively nearby, in cosmic terms," said Wong, first author on the team's science paper. "To find a lens as far away as this one is a very

special discovery because we can learn about the dark-matter content of galaxies in the distant past. By comparing our analysis of this lens galaxy to the more nearby lenses, we can start to understand how that dark-matter content has evolved over time."

NATION



JASON DEAREN/AP

Ranch owner Liesa Priddy talks about loosing cattle to panther attacks in Immokalee, Fla. A University of Florida study has found that as the Florida panther population has rebounded, ranchers are losing more cattle to panther attacks.

In Florida, predators on rebound

Resurgent panther population thinning ranchers' herds, study finds

By JASON DEAREN
The Associated Press

IMMOKALEE, Fla. — Since Florida's frontier days when cattlemen drove their herds through the state's vast fields and forests, ranchers and native panthers have been natural enemies.

The ranchers seek to nurture and protect their calves, but the panthers see them as prey.

Human development won the battle, driving the large, tawny cats to the brink of extinction before successful efforts to restore them began decades ago.

But with Florida's panther population recovering, some ranchers complain the protected 6- to 7-foot-long predators are once again killing their calves.

Now, university research supports that claim, at least in one part of southwest Florida.

A University of Florida researcher hired

by federal wildlife officials has found that panthers are killing calves in an area where the predatory felines are thriving. Her study, the first to quantify the kills and losses, was given to The Associated Press exclusively.

The research marks the first step toward the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considering a program that would pay ranchers for preserving acres of panther habitat, instead of undertaking the impossible task of verifying every kill.

"Ranchers will tell you that they suspected panthers were killing their calves, although no one knows how many they're losing," said Caitlin Jacobs, the university researcher who staked out a ranch for the better part of two years. "It's hard to find the calves — when panthers kill, they drag the prey into the forest and cover it with brush to hide them from scavengers."

It's estimated that at one time, more than 1,300 panthers roamed Florida be-

fore their numbers dwindled. There were as few as 20 panthers in the 1990s, but the population has rebounded thanks to conservation efforts.

In the past, ranchers simply would have shot the panthers, but because the state's 100 to 180 panthers are legally protected under the Endangered Species Act, they have few options.

The study's results are set to be released later this year.

The information can help wildlife managers move forward on ideas for compensating ranchers.

Small ranchers with less than 100 head of cattle can apply for compensation from two nonprofits, but those programs aren't used by bigger ranches.



MCT

WORLD

Cease-fire in Gaza unravels; shelling kills at least 40

By IBRAHIM BARZAK AND DANIEL ESTRIN
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — A Gaza cease-fire quickly unraveled on Friday as violence erupted in and around a southern town in the war-ravaged strip, with at least 40 Palestinians killed in Israeli shelling while the military said two soldiers were killed and an infantry officer was feared captured during fighting there.

Israel and Hamas accused each other of breaking the cease-fire, which had been announced by the U.S. and the U.N. and took effect at 8:00 a.m. Friday. The fighting broke out less than two hours later.

The breakdown of the cease-fire and the apparent capture of the Israeli soldier set the stage for a major escalation of the 25-day-old conflict, which has already devastated large swaths of the impoverished coastal area.

The White House condemned the apparent capture of the soldier near the southern Gaza town of Rafah, describing it as an "absolutely outrageous" action by Hamas. Deputy National Security Adviser Tony Blinken said the soldier must be released immediately.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, told U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in a telephone conversation that Palestinian militants had "unilaterally and grossly" violated the cease-fire and attacked Israeli soldiers after 9 a.m.

"Israel will take all necessary steps against those who call for

our destruction and perpetrate terrorism against our citizens," Netanyahu told Kerry, according to a statement from the prime minister's office.

Mark Regev, Netanyahu's spokesman, said Hamas had "yet again thrown away a chance for humanitarian relief for the people of Gaza by deliberately violating this cease-fire."

Moussa Abu Marzouk, Hamas' deputy leader, told Al-Arabiya news channel from Cairo that the movement's military wing carried no military operations after 8:00, when the truce came into force.

If confirmed, the capture of the soldier could dramatically change the trajectory of the conflict. Any cease-fire efforts would likely be put on hold, and Israel might instead expand its ground operation. Israel has in the past gone to great lengths to return captured soldiers. In 2011, it traded hundreds of Palestinian prisoners for an Israeli soldier who had been captured by Hamas-allied militants in 2006.

Israel had already said it would continue demolishing cross-border tunnels behind its own defensive lines during the cease-fire, and the military said its troops were attacked during one such operation.

Gunmen emerged from one or more tunnel openings and opened fire, with at least one of the fighters detonating an explosives vest, Israeli army spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said.

He said 2nd Lt. Hadar Goldin, 23, of the central town of Kfar Saba, was apparently captured during the ensuing mayhem and taken back into Gaza through a



DUSAN VRANIC/AP

Palestinian children walk hand in hand as residents return to the heavily bombed Gaza City neighborhood of Shijayyah, close to the Israeli border, on Friday.

tunnel, while two other soldiers were killed.

"We suspect that he has been kidnapped,"

Lerner said, adding that the attack took place an hour and a half after the cease-fire began. A Hamas spokesman, Barhoum, would not confirm or deny Goldin's capture, saying that it was being used — along with news that two Israeli soldiers were killed in the area of Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip — as a cover for a

Benjamin Netanyahu
Israeli prime minister

tunnel, while two other soldiers were killed.

"massacre" in Rafah that followed the apparent capture.

The Israeli military said the heavy shelling in Rafah was part of operational and intelligence activity designed to locate Goldin.

The shelling sent families fleeing from apartment blocks as pillars of smoke caused by the shelling rose from them. One woman carrying two children rushed toward a parked car.

"Quickly, open the car door!" she yelled to a man standing nearby. Ambulances ferried the wounded to Rafah's al-Najar hospital, where bloodied bodies on stretchers were carried inside and family members frantically searched for loved ones. Many of the wounded were children, their clothes stained with blood. In one hospital room, four children were treated on a single bed. Others were being examined on the floor.

Gaza health official Ashraf al-Kidra said the death toll could rise as rescue workers search for people buried under the rubble. He did not say whether those killed were civilians or militants.

On July 8, Israel launched an

aerial campaign against Gaza aimed at halting Palestinian rocket fire and later sent in ground troops to target launch sites and tunnels used by Hamas to carry out attacks inside Israel.

The war has since killed at least 1,500 Palestinians, mainly civilians, according to Palestinian officials. Israel says 63 of its soldiers and three civilians in Israel have been killed.

Soon after the cease-fire started, Gaza's residents took advantage of the lull to return to their homes, many of which had been destroyed in the fighting.

In the heavily bombed Gaza district of Shijayyah, less than a mile from the Israeli border, residents surveyed the damage.

Bassem Abul Qumbus found his three-story home — in which he had invested tens of thousands of dollars — shattered. Shells had punched a hole in the ceiling of one bedroom and a wall had collapsed into the kitchen.

"The work of all those years is gone," he said, as he struggled to salvage food from bags that had been torn apart by shrapnel.

WHO: Ebola moving faster than efforts to control it



ABIB DULLEN/AP

Liberian soldiers patrol the streets on Friday to prevent panic as fears of the deadly Ebola virus spread in Monrovia, Liberia.

By BOUBACAR DIALLO AND KRISTA LARSON
The Associated Press

CONAKRY, Guinea — An Ebola outbreak that has killed more than 700 people in West Africa is moving faster than the efforts to control the disease, the head of the World Health Organization warned as presidents from the affected countries met Friday in Guinea's capital.

Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, said the meeting in Conakry "must be a turning point" in the battle against Ebola, which is now sickening people in three African capitals for the first time in history.

"If the situation continues to deteriorate, the consequences can be catastrophic in terms of lost lives but also severe socio-economic disruption and a high risk of spread to other countries," she said.

At least 729 people in four countries — Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria — have died since cases first emerged back

in March. While health officials say the virus is transmitted through direct contact with bodily fluids, many sick patients have refused to go to isolation centers.

The fatality rate has been about 60 percent, and the scenes of patients bleeding from the eyes, mouth and ears has led many relatives to keep their sick family members at home instead. Sierra Leone is now sending teams door to door in search of Ebola patients and others who have been exposed to the disease.

Chan emphasized Friday that the general public "is not at high risk of infection," but also said the Ebola virus should not be allowed to circulate widely.

"Constant mutation and adaptation are the survival mechanisms of viruses and other microbes," she said. "We must not give this virus opportunities to deliver more surprises."

WHO has said it plans to launch a \$100 million response plan that would include funding the deployment of hundreds more health care workers to the affected countries.

WORLD

Ukrainians killed near jet crash site

By **MYSTYSLAV CHERNOV**
AND **PETER LEONARD**
The Associated Press

HRABOVE, Ukraine — With the sound of artillery fire in the distance, dozens of international investigators arrived Friday at the zone where a Malaysia Airlines plane crashed in eastern Ukraine and began preparations to comb the rural area for remains of as many as 80 victims and jet debris.

Several hours before they arrived, at least 10 Ukrainian soldiers were killed when their convoy was ambushed by pro-Russian separatist rebels in a town close to the wreckage site. Thirteen more soldiers were unaccounted for after the attack, officials said, and the bodies of four more people were being examined to determine whether they were soldiers or rebels.

The investigators from the Netherlands and Australia plus

officials with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe traveled from the rebel-held city of Donetsk in 15 cars and a bus to the crash site outside the village of Hrabove. Then they started setting up a base to work from at a chicken farm.

As the investigators prepared equipment for the search, an Associated Press reporter heard the artillery fire.

The investigative team's top priority is to recover human remains that have been rotting in midsummer heat of 90 degrees since the plane went down July 17. They will also try to retrieve the belongings of the 298 people killed who were aboard the Boeing 777.

Ukraine and the West contend the plane was shot down by the rebels with a Russian-supplied missile. Rebel leaders publicly deny it, but one top rebel official has told the AP on condition of anonymity that insurgents were

involved in the operation that downed the plane.

Friday's search effort came after a smaller advance investigative team managed to perform a preliminary survey of the area a day earlier. For days, clashes along routes to the wreckage site had kept investigators from reaching the site. Independent observers warned that there has been tampering with evidence.

The sprawling site of fields in between two villages now will be officially designated a crime scene and divided into grids that will be systematically searched for remains, victims' belongings and jet crash evidence, Australian police officer Brian McDonald told reporters in Hrabove. Specially trained dogs also will be used in the search.

The investigative team's journey in their convoy lasted about three hours from Donetsk, through the government-held town of Debaltsevo, and back into

the separatist-controlled territory, where the wreckage lies. At Debaltsevo, the convoy was joined by three vehicles from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Both sides in the conflict tentatively agreed to a cease-fire around the crash zone, but the Friday morning attack by rebels on government troops took place less than 12 miles south of the crash site, outside the town of Shakhtarsk. Ukrainian forces and rebels have been battling in that area for several days but the town is still in rebel hands.

Defense officials said that an army convoy was struck by mortars during redeployment.

Ukraine security spokesman Vladislav Seleznev said the attack took place at 6 a.m., before the end of the 24-hour "day of quiet" declared Thursday in response to a call for a cease-fire from U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

UN: Iraq deaths drop to 1,700 in July

BAGHDAD — The United Nations says 1,737 people, mostly civilians, were killed in Iraq in July, marking a dramatic decline from the previous month, when some 2,400 people were killed as Sunni militants swept across large parts of the country, capturing the second largest city Mosul.

The militant advance largely ground to a halt last month as the insurgents approached Shiite-majority areas. Both months' numbers exclude the western Anbar province, parts of which have been held by militants for months.

The wave of violence continued Friday, when a car bomb tore through a busy commercial street in Baghdad's eastern Habibiya neighborhood, killing six people and wounding 16, police officials said.

Pakistan: 30 bodies found near beaches

KARACHI, Pakistan — Pakistan's navy has recovered the bodies of at least 30 people who drowned earlier this week when strong winds swept through the country's southern beaches near the city of Karachi, a spokesman said Friday.

Navy spokesman Kamran Asif said rescue crews were using boats and helicopters in the search operation which was launched last Wednesday.

An undetermined number of picnickers were swept away Wednesday because of heavy winds on beaches near Karachi, the capital of southern Sindh province.

S. Africa: Giraffe's head hits highway overpass

JOHANNESBURG — Those responsible for the death of a giraffe whose head struck a South African highway overpass while it was being transported in a truck will likely be prosecuted under animal protection laws, an official said Friday.

The accident on a highway between Pretoria and Johannesburg on Thursday was very unsettling because it could easily have been avoided, said Rick Allan, an animal welfare officer.

"It's just so unnecessary," said Allan, head of the Pretoria area branch of Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Ugandan court invalidates anti-gay law

KAMPALA, Uganda — A Ugandan court on Friday invalidated an anti-gay bill signed into law earlier this year, saying the measure is illegal because it was passed during a parliamentary session that lacked a quorum.

The panel of five judges on the East African country's Constitutional Court said the speaker of parliament acted illegally when she allowed a vote on the measure despite at least three objections including from the country's prime minister — over a lack of a quorum when the bill was passed on Dec. 20.

From The Associated Press

Taiwan gas pipeline blasts kills at least 25

By **GLADYS TSAI**
The Associated Press

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan — Heavy machinery pulled vehicles from huge trenches gouged by explosions along an underground pipeline in Taiwan's second-largest city that killed at least 25 people and injured 267.

The series of five explosions from about midnight Thursday to early Friday struck a densely populated industrial district in the port of Kaohsiung where petrochemical companies operate pipelines alongside the sewer system under city streets. The cause of the disaster was being investigated.

Four firefighters were among the victims when the blasts went off hours after they had been called to investigate gas leaks. At least six fire trucks were flung into the rubble. The blasts sent flames shooting into the sky and hurled concrete and cars through the air, leaving yard-deep trenches down the middle of several roads.

Three people remained missing and many of the injured were still receiving emergency treatment. The disaster was Taiwan's second in as many weeks following the crash of a TransAsia Airways turboprop airplane on the island of Penghu on July 23 that killed 48 people and injured 10.

"Last night around midnight, the house started shaking and I thought it was a huge earthquake, but when I opened the door, I saw white smoke all over and smelled gas," said Chen Qing-tao, 38, who lives 10 buildings away from the main explosion site.

The explosions were believed to be caused by leaking propane, a petrochemical material not intended for public use, said Chang Jia-juch, director of the Central Disaster Emergency Operation Center. Chang said the cause and location of the leaks were unknown.

The exploded gas line belongs to government-owned CPC Corp., which told The Associated Press there were no signs of problems before the explosions.

Video from broadcasters showed residents searching for victims overnight in shattered storefronts and rescuers placing injured people onto stretchers, while passersby helped other victims on a sidewalk. Numerous fires sent smoke pouring into the night sky above the Chian-Chen district, where factories operate near residential buildings.



WALLY SANTANA/AP

Soldiers use electronic sensors Friday to search for missing people believed to be buried after massive gas explosions in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

The government's disaster response center said it was trying to prevent secondary explosions. Some fires burned into Friday.

"In terms of what we can prevent, we're afraid another explosion could happen, as there is that possibility," said Hsu Lee-hao, a Ministry of Economic Affairs section chief staffing the disaster response center.

Many of the dead and injured had been outside near a night market and were hit by flying rubble or cars, a police officer at the scene said. Police and firefighters suffered burns while trying to control blazes.

Area resident Chang Bi-chu, 63, described seeing dead bodies along the roadside. "I felt really bad. After all there just was the air crash in Penghu last week."

Chang said the front door of her home was warped by the explosion and power was cut, leaving the house without lights or fans in the steamy weather.

"We don't have money to stay in a hotel and they're all booked, anyway," she said. Power supplies to 12,000 people in the area were severed, and 23,600 lost gas ser-

vices. More than 1,100 people were evacuated overnight and the worst-affected areas were sealed off.

Chen Chu, mayor of the southwestern port city of 2.8 million people, warned people to stay away from the area and said the city had opened nine emergency shelters.

Baokhoes pulled upended fire trucks and other vehicles from the rubble. Paramedics with rescue dogs combed the neighborhood for survivors.

Rescuers expected to find few, if any, people in the rubble because no buildings collapsed, the economics ministry's Hsu said.

Police officers and firefighters had investigated a gas leak on Kaixuan Road reported at 8:46 p.m. Thursday, but were unable to identify the source. They were closest to the fire during the initial midnight explosion, and many suffered burns.

Large trenches ran down the center of four of the hardest-hit roads, edged with pavement slabs torn apart by the blasts. Burned walls and toppled shop signs lined Sanduo Road, near an elementary school.

WORLD



A paper poppy stands in front of a World War I grave with the epitaph "Kismet," which translates to "Fate," at the Saint Symphorien Cemetery near Mons, Belgium.

Blind to tragedy

The launch of World War I: A century later

By **RAF CASERT**
The Associated Press

SAINTE-SYMPHORIEN, Belgium — British Pvt. John Parr set off on his reconnaissance bike on the lookout for German troops amid the rolling farmland and woods south of Brussels in August 1914. It was the last anyone saw of "Ole Man" Parr, the ironic nickname he won due to his tender age of 17. He became known as the first Commonwealth soldier to die on the Western Front of World War I, likely killed by German gunfire.

Another British private, George Ellison, was already moving to face the Germans in southern Belgium for the first battle of the two empires. He went on to survive the horrific slaughter of the Somme and Passchendaele and came back to the Belgian pastures, where he was shot and killed on Nov. 11, 1918 — the last day of the war.

Now, Parr and Ellison lie separated by a few footsteps — and 9 million dead soldiers over four years — in the cemetery of Saint Symphorien. The jarring contrast of distance and death count symbolizes that, in the early August days of 1914, few knew what hell the great powers of the age unleashed when they declared war.

"They didn't, most of them, foresee what the war would turn into," said Oxford University historian Margaret MacMillan. "And if they had known what the war was going to be, four years of huge slaughter, consumption of resources, destruction in many cases of their own societies, they might have thought differently."

Nobody foresaw the cataclysm that would befall the world the day of Aug. 4 when the conflict erupted in full force with the German invasion of Belgium and the British declaration of war. Both sides believed the war would be over by Christmas. Instead, a battlefield scar would slowly and agonizingly rip across Europe, ravage whole societies and millions of families. It produced a moral wasteland in Germany that would become fertile ground for the rise of Nazism. Four empires would disappear.

On Sunday, French President Francois Hollande will host his German counterpart Joachim Gauck near their common border in off-disputed Alsace to underline their friendship despite bitterly fighting two world wars in the 20th century. On Monday, Gauck will join Britain's Prince William, his wife Catherine and brother Prince Harry at the Saint Symphorien cemetery for a similar remembrance. In Britain, there will be ceremonies in Glasgow and a candlelit vigil at London's Westminster Abbey.



Above: World War I soldiers, known as Lancers, ride on horseback as they enter a Belgian village in the first days of the war on the Western Front.

Right: A copy of the New York Sun shows coverage of the outbreak of hostilities that eventually led to World War I.



Above: World War I Canadian troops gather in the center of Mons, Belgium.

Left: A magazine illustration depicts World War I soldiers on bicycles.

AP photos

It will set off four years of centennial events from the United States to Russia, China to Australia, through Belgium, France, Germany and Britain — underscoring that there was hardly a place on the planet untouched by the calamity.

With soaring tensions over Ukraine, the causes of World War I have had special resonance this year. A century ago few thought war was imminent until the June 28 killing in Sarajevo of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

Yet those shots fired by Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Bosnia-Herzegovina carried tragic echoes. A political puzzle of complicated alliances fell into place that inexorably closed in on total war between the alliance of German and the Austro-Hungarian empires and the Allied powers of Britain, France and Russia.

Then as now, global peace and prosperity did not seem an unreasonable expectation.

"Europe went so quickly from peace to war — five weeks, from the assassination June 28 in Sarajevo to a general war on Aug. 4," said MacMillan. "And you do feel, 'don't you realize what you will be throwing away? People are on summer holidays in these lovely towns. Europe is getting more prosperous and they are about to throw themselves into this catastrophic struggle.'"

In a half dozen crises over the five years leading to the Great War, countries had always stepped back from the brink. This time though, "you had people who had decided for various reasons they were not going to back down."

Germany opened the Western Front on Aug. 4, sweeping into Belgium, hoping to overwhelm France before Russia had a chance to mobilize to the east.

The Schlieffen Plan was conceived as a lightning-fast operation that would bring German forces into Paris within weeks. It is why the fierce battles around Belgium's Liege and Mons have such significance — since holding up the Germans for a few days, even in defeat, delayed their operation and deprived them of a swift victory.

It is what gives the death of Parr — on Aug. 21, 1914 — and some 1,500 British soldiers in Belgium military meaning, said Peter Francis, of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

"It was an ordered defeat, if that makes sense," Francis said. "It is a defeat that bought time. It allowed the Schlieffen Plan to be held up and start to crumble. It was a defeat that bought another day."

Such defeats bought more than that. They bought another week, another month. And, in a sense, four more years.

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

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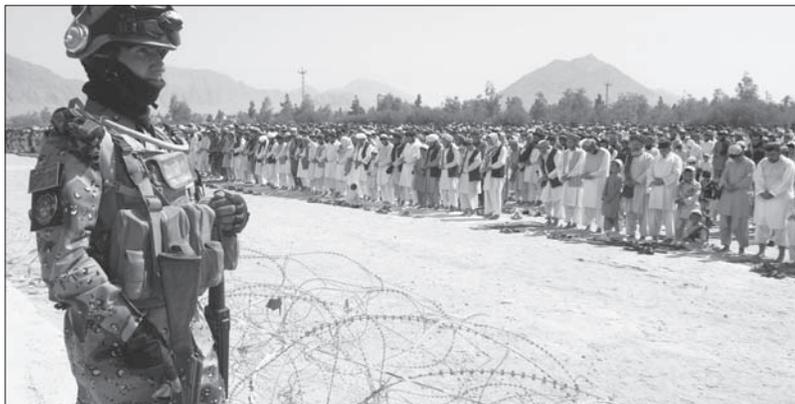
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ALLAUDIN KHAN/AP

An Afghan soldier stands guard during Eid al-Fitr prayers in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Monday. Of the \$104 billion the United States has poured into Afghanistan since fiscal year 2002, some \$62 billion has gone toward creating the Afghan army.

US effort to rebuild Afghanistan matches Marshall Plan in dollars, but not in sense

By ELIAS GROLL
Foreign Policy

In June of 1947, Secretary of State George Marshall delivered a wholly unexpected commencement speech to the newly minted graduates of Harvard University. The United States, Marshall announced, would launch a massive reconstruction effort to rebuild Europe in the devastating aftermath of World War II. The subsequent effort, the Marshall Plan, put Europe back on the path to prosperity and has been hailed as a monumental, if wildly expensive, achievement of U.S. foreign policy. All told, the United States funneled an inflation-adjusted \$103.4 billion to the plan's recipients over the course of four years.

But the Marshall Plan has now been knocked off its pedestal as America's most expensive nation-building project. Afghanistan now reigns supreme, having gobbled up \$104 billion in American aid. And, unlike in Europe, that money hasn't bought the kind of world-class infrastructure that became the cornerstones of numerous flourishing economies. Instead, the funds have mainly bought empty buildings, malfunctioning power plants, and a corrupt government that will be wholly dependent on Western — read: American — aid well into the future.

This week John Sopko, the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, released his quarterly report to Congress. The document reads like an early epitaph for the American nation-building effort in Afghanistan. With \$104 billion already spent, another \$5.8 billion has been requested for 2015. Of the money appropriated, \$15.95 billion remains to be spent.

A significant portion of that money has been directed toward projects that are comically ill-conceived or badly carried out. The United States has spent \$7.6 billion on counternarcotics efforts in Afghanistan, but opium cultivation there — a key Taliban funding source — has risen for the past three years, and helped push global quantities of the crop to a record level. The U.S. Department of Agriculture spent \$34.4 million toward a soybean project in the face of scientific evidence

indicating that the crop was “inappropriate for conditions and farming practices in northern Afghanistan, where the program was implemented.” The United States Agency for International Development has pledged \$75 million toward the ill-fated Kajaki Dam project, but the inspector general questions whether that project is at all economically viable. The United States has spent \$626 million to provide weapons and equipment to Afghan forces. That aid includes 465,000 small arms, but, according to the IG, for 43 percent of those arms, information was missing in a database used to track their receipt in Afghanistan. Indeed, equipment expenditures have been a key outlier during the American presence in Afghanistan.

So it's perhaps no surprise that the report notes that the Afghan government is far from financial independence. Last year, the Afghan government saw revenues of about \$2 billion. Its budget was far larger: \$5.4 billion. Donors mostly made up that difference. In January, Afghanistan approved a \$7.6 billion budget, with donors chipping in about \$4.8 billion.

Of the \$104 billion the United States has poured into Afghanistan since fiscal year 2002, some \$62 billion has gone toward creating the Afghan army. (It should be noted that when comparing the U.S. reconstruction effort in Afghanistan with the Marshall Plan that, in the aftermath of World War II, the United States did not have to stand up any European armies.) To save money, the size of that force is being reduced from 352,000 to 228,500 men. Even at that reduced size, the Afghan government takes in far less money than will be required to fund the army: an estimated \$4.1 billion annually.

Hobbled by a weak state, persistent poverty, and a mostly rural population, Afghanistan has historically struggled to collect taxes, which Sopko identifies as one of the key challenges for Kabul in the years ahead. But so far, the government is struggling to make progress. According to the IG's report, the Afghan government missed by 20 percent its revenue targets during the first four months of the current fiscal year. At the same time, expenses are expected to rise, creating a situation in which Afghanistan will remain highly reliant on the generosity of donor nations.

And while the money will keep pouring into Afghanistan, the U.S. government's ability to oversee how it is being spent is about to decline, according to Sopko. Less than 20 percent of Afghanistan is expected to be accessible to U.S. oversight personnel by December, a 50 percent decrease since 2009.

Sopko's report comes at a crucial turning point for the country. The runoff election between presidential candidates Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah is undergoing an audit of all 8 million ballots. A new Afghan president cannot be declared fast enough for Washington, which is waiting on a winner to sign a bilateral security agreement. Without the agreement, the United States has said it will have to withdraw all troops by the end of the year. If the next Afghan president does sign it, President Barack Obama has said 9,800 American troops will remain, drawing down to roughly 4,900 by the end of 2015.

In his letter accompanying the report, Sopko describes his most recent trip to Afghanistan in June. “The U.S. effort to bring its men, women, and materiel home from Afghanistan already is proceeding at a tremendous pace,” Sopko notes, and as the United States withdraws, “the Afghan National Security Forces will be responsible for securing Afghanistan.”

But Sopko's oversight efforts cast doubts on whether they will be able to do so effectively. Earlier this week, his office released a report explaining that those forces may have lost track of as many as 43 percent of the nearly half a million small arms provided by the United States. A day later, his office released a report casting doubt on whether the ANSF's fleet of armored personnel carriers will be viable in the long term.

And these questions over equipment and procurement, Afghan forces have been sustaining heavy casualties. Between March 2012 and May 2014, the Afghan National Army saw 2,330 of its soldiers killed in action. The United States, the primary financial benefactor or those forces, has paid a heavy price in lives too. In 11 years since the war began, the United States has lost 2,338 troops and seen more than 19,000 wounded.

Elias Groll is a staff writer for Foreign Policy.

OPINION

UN council's biases seen in Gaza inquiry

By GREGORY J. WALLANCE

Last month, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution, S-21, creating a "commission of inquiry" to investigate human rights violations in the Gaza war. Nowhere does the resolution mandate that the commission conduct a fair, impartial and balanced investigation. This was not a drafting error.

S-21 without any fact-finding, renders a verdict against Israel. It declares that the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip have constituted "widespread, systematic and gross violations of international human rights and fundamental freedoms."

It further states as fact that Israel engaged in "disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks" on civilians. For good measure, S-21 also recites every grievance of Palestinians, even the ones unrelated to human rights violations in the current Gaza conflict, from Palestinian prisoners to occupation in the West Bank to East Jerusalem. Conspicuously, it nowhere mentions Hamas and in just one sentence only indirectly mentions the rockets the militant group launched against Israel that provoked the conflict in the first place.

This is not the first exercise by the Human Rights Council in show-trial justice, where even well-intentioned investigators come to grief.

Following the Gaza war in 2008-09, the council established a fact-finding mission whose initial terms similarly declared Israel guilty of human rights violations. A respected South African jurist, Richard Goldstone, agreed to lead the investigation on more neutral terms and concluded that Israel had intentionally targeted civilians, citing in particular the deaths of a large Palestinian family as a result of an Israeli bomb.

By a subsequent Israeli military investigation determined that these tragic deaths were not deliberate but the result of an Israeli officer's failure to properly interpret a drone image. This caused Goldstone to reject his own report's conclusion



FRANCOIS MORU/AP

Demonstrators hold Pro-Israel placards during a gathering in front of the Israeli Embassy in Paris on Thursday.

about Israel's intentions and policy toward civilians. He criticized Israel for not cooperating with his investigation, despite its improved mandate, but he also said: "If I had known then what I know now, if I had known then what I know now, if the Goldstone Report would have been a different document."

The council's S-21 resolution constitutes a major embarrassment to the Obama administration, which reversed the George W. Bush administration's policy of U.S. nonparticipation in the council after its creation in 2006, because of its repeated focus on Israel while downplaying human rights abuses elsewhere.

In 2007, for example, even U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, hardly a defender of Israel, expressed disappointment that the council had singled out "only one specific regional item" for its attention. In 2008, the council appointed as its special

rappporteur on the question of Palestine an American scholar, Richard Falk, who had compared Israel's treatment of Palestinians with the Nazis' treatment of Jews during the Holocaust. According to Elliott Abrams, who served in foreign policy positions in several Republican administrations and is a strong council critic, since 2006 the council has passed 50 anti-Israel resolutions, almost the same number of human rights resolutions as it passed against the rest of the world.

The U.S., by virtue of being the largest contributor to the U.N., is now the council's largest funder, which means that American taxpayer dollars will probably be supporting a biased investigation of Israel. That money, needless to say, can be put to better use.

True, without the U.S., there would have been no votes against S-21, which was

backed by such human rights stalwarts as China, Russia and Cuba (the European countries abstained). But, as S-21 shows, the Obama administration's participation has not fundamentally changed the council.

The defenders of U.S. participation in the council, such as James Traub, a columnist for ForeignPolicy.com, point to what they call "small victories," such as the council's criticism of regimes in Libya and Syria and its requirement that Sri Lanka's government investigate civilian deaths in its war against Tamil insurgents. But these modest achievements are not worth paying the moral price of having our name on the door of an organization while it conducts what is essentially a propaganda exercise on behalf of Hamas.

Hamas, which the council sees no reason to censure in its new resolution, makes no pretense that it has been trying to kill as many Israeli civilians as possible within the limits of its rockets' accuracy. Israel, pronounced guilty by S-21, went to significant lengths to avoid unnecessary Palestinian civilian deaths, including calling inhabitants of a house to warn them of an imminent missile strike and providing the Israel Defense Forces commanders with precise coordinates for more than 500 schools, mosques and hospitals, some of them discovered to be storage sites for Hamas rockets, to avoid unnecessarily hitting them.

Whether Israel could have done more to prevent Palestinian civilian deaths is a fair question — and it deserves a fair and impartial investigation. Under the best of circumstances — as seen in the Goldstone inquiry — a human rights investigation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict requires near-superhuman thoroughness and objectivity. Suffice it to say, these will not be the hallmarks of an investigation conducted by a commission of inquiry appointed under S-21.

Gregory J. Wallance, a former federal prosecutor, is a lawyer and writer in New York. He is on the board of the not-for-profit organization Advancing Human Rights. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Most government spending isn't open for debate

By CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

In theory, the American people's elected representatives decide every so often how much to tax the public and how to allocate the revenue among various priorities, both short-term and long-term.

In practice, however, Congress and the president have almost no say in the latter. The vast majority of anticipated tax proceeds, roughly 80 percent at present, are already committed to be spent — on programs such as Social Security and Medicare and in interest on the national debt — before the House and Senate convene each January.

By 2023, the figure will approach 100 percent if current trends continue. Consequently, the federal government would have to borrow its entire discretionary budget, for things such as disaster relief, infrastructure and education.

This near-total loss of "freedom" is the theme of "Dead Men Ruling," a short, superb new book by C. Eugene Steuerle, from which the above statistics derive; the title nicely expresses the fact that today's lawmakers are tightly constrained by the accumulated, and seemingly unalterable, decisions of their predecessors. Government is not just out of their control; it's be-

yond their control.

Steuerle persuasively argues that the nation's budget challenge is not simply a matter of deficits and debt, important as they are.

Rather, the point is to restore a long-term balance between spending and revenue so that the federal government can invest in new priorities without further indebting an already dangerously indebted country.

Declining fiscal freedom is politically toxic, too. The two parties define themselves by past achievements — New Deal and Great Society programs for Democrats, low tax rates (and various tax breaks) for Republicans — and then fight uncompromisingly to perpetuate them.

"What began as legitimate desires to create a safety net and reduce very high tax rates," Steuerle writes, "has now morphed into a situation in which both liberals and conservatives live in the past — ruled over largely by the decisions and dictates of dead or retired officials — and seek mainly to protect and build on those victories."

No matter that neither entitlement programs nor the tax code operates with anything like optimal efficiency in a society that is far different demographically than the ones in which they were first enacted.

No matter that the net effect of the partisan impulse over fiscal policy is to shift the costs of current spending onto future gen-

erations — even though it is highly unlikely that economic growth will be sufficient to cover the government's accumulated debt, as it sometimes has been in the past. And no matter that the standoff over spending and taxes generates excess political anger, which flows into other struggles such as immigration or guns and makes them worse.

Steuerle's book is an effective riposte to those who would argue that fiscal concerns are overblown in light of recent progress against the deficit or that "deficit hawks" are just rationalizing mean-spirited "austerity" to punish the poor and elderly.

To the contrary, what Steuerle shows is that the issue is long-term fiscal sustainability, which would provide flexibility.

A government that lives within its means would be freer to stimulate the economy during recessions or to devote more resources to the needs of poor children — as opposed to maintaining the current consumption of older middle- and upper-middle-class voters, which is the unstated but actual purpose of the status quo.

A senior policy expert at the centrist Urban Institute and former Treasury Department official during the Reagan administration, Steuerle is a veteran of the 1986 tax reform fight and therefore not above pointing out the political heavy lifting it would take to restore America's lost fiscal

freedom.

Titanic as that 1986 battle was, Steuerle acknowledges that its equivalent will have to be fought on multiple fronts if the United States is to escape its fiscal predicament and end the long-run stagnation that will otherwise prevail.

He reckons that the only precedents are the "fiscal turning points" the United States faced when it had to finance Revolutionary War debt at the end of the 18th century and when it had to institute an income tax and the Federal Reserve at the dawn of the 20th. Those reforms took decades; ditto, probably, for the institutional changes we need today.

At least Steuerle, unlike other budget pundits, is upbeat about the challenge, emphasizing the opportunities for policy innovation and reinvented governance that would result from the restoration of "fiscal freedom."

As the intellectually sterile election campaigns currently underway show, however, few politicians, if any, have figured out how to express Steuerle's combination of realism and optimism and sell it to voters. The future might belong to the one who finally does.

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post's editorial board.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Island overrun by hundreds of cats

NY NORTH TONAWANDA — A small island near Buffalo has a big cat problem thanks to people who have abandoned felines there over the years.

WIVB-TV reports that hundreds of feral and abandoned cats are believed to be on the Niagara River's Tonawanda Island.

Mike Charnock owns a marina and restaurant on the 85-acre island just north of Buffalo. He says the cats are making a mess of the island, and even have gotten onto boats at his marina.

Danielle Coogan has launched Operation Island Cats to stem the growing problem. She's trapping cats and having them spayed or neutered by veterinarians.

Durham assistant police chief sues city

NC DURHAM — Durham Assistant Police Chief Winslow Forbes is suing the city and Police Chief Jose Lopez, alleging civil rights violations.

Forbes' lawsuit says he was passed over for promotion because of complaints he had made about discrimination in the department.

The lawsuit also accuses Lopez and city officials disregarded Forbes' right to be free from illegal race discrimination in the workplace.

The suit comes after a discrimination complaint Forbes filed with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission last August. That complaint charged discrimination on the basis of race.

State, student settle lawsuit for \$212,500

VA RICHMOND — The state of Virginia has reached a \$212,500 settlement with a University of Virginia student who was arrested after her purchase of water was mistaken for beer.

Attorney General Mark R. Herring announced the settlement Wednesday night with Elizabeth Daly, who had filed a \$40 million federal lawsuit against agents with the state Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Herring said the settlement was not an admission of wrongdoing by any of the parties in the lawsuit.

Daly fled in terror outside a Charlottesville supermarket in April 2013 when her vehicle was swarmed by state ABC agents who mistook her just-purchased carton of sparkling water for beer.

Daly was charged with eluding police and assaulting a police officer after her SUV grazed two of the agents. The arrest provoked a public outcry, and the charges were dropped.

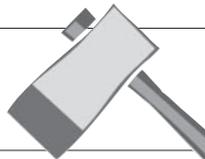
Old remains found in unrefrigerated morgue

RI PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island's medical examiner is trying to identify several bodies that had been left up for a decade or more at a Provi-

THE CENSUS

\$200

The amount a truck driver, from Peabody, Mass., was fined after being cited for failing to secure an ax that smashed through the windshield of a car. Massachusetts State Police say the ax bounced out of a landscaper's dump truck at about 11 a.m. Wednesday on southbound Interstate 95 in Topsfield. Police say the car's passenger was "shaken up" but not hurt.



SARA CALDWELL, THE AUGUSTA (GA.) CHRONICLE/AP

Hops with cops

Tori Whitehead, 11, center, jumps rope Thursday with Latoya Riles, who works with the Richmond County Sheriff's Office, at the Boys & Girls Club as they wait for Kids and Cops Camp to start in Augusta, Ga. The Camp offered opportunity for the Richmond County police and Fire Department members to help foster a better relationship between kids and law enforcement.

dence funeral home.

The Providence Journal reports six bodies and two cremated remains were found last week in a garage that had been converted into an unrefrigerated morgue at the Pennine Funeral home.

Authorities say the funeral home's director, Alfred Pennine, committed suicide last week in New Hampshire.

Another funeral director found the remains after returning from New Hampshire with Pennine's body. Michael Berarducci says some of the bodies appeared to be identified with hospital tags.

Man on Most Wanted list arrested in Mexico

LA NEW ORLEANS — A man on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list in connection with a 2008 rape and homicide has been captured and brought to Louisiana, where the crime took place.

The FBI reports on its website that Jose Manuel Garcia Guevara

surrendered to authorities in Mexico and was returned to Lake Charles on Wednesday morning.

Guevara is accused of breaking into 26-year-old Wanda Barton's home in Lake Charles on Feb. 19, 2008, raping her and then stabbing her to death in the presence of her then-4-year-old stepson.

Firefighters rescue horse trapped in ditch

CA HESPERIA — About 20 firefighters with help from a veterinarian rescued a horse that was trapped upside down in a ditch in San Bernardino County.

Fire officials say a rider was on the horse trying to travel up the side of a ravine Tuesday in Hesperia when the animal fell and ended up on its back in the ditch, estimated to be about four feet deep.

The Los Angeles Times reports about 20 firefighters including an animal rescue team were called.

2 women survive ordeal on rail bridge

IN BLOOMINGTON — A video camera captured the terrifying plight of two women who became trapped on an 80-foot-high railroad bridge in Indiana when a freight train surprised them as they walked along the tracks.

The incident happened just before sunrise on July 10 on a bridge northeast of Bloomington at Lake Lemon, about 50 miles south of Indianapolis.

The engineer of the 100-car, 14,000-ton coal train activated its emergency brakes when he saw the women, who began to run.

But the women had few choices — jumping from the tracks would have seriously injured or killed them. One woman lays flat between the tracks immediately, while the other stumbles before going the same.

"How they survived that is nothing short of a miracle," Monroe County deputy prosecu-

tor Jeff Kehr told the Herald-Times of Bloomington that Indiana Railroad officials have turned over evidence to the sheriff's department, which is investigating.

Copperhead killed on Capitol grounds

WV CHARLESTON — A state Capitol police officer has killed a copperhead snake on the Capitol grounds in Charleston.

West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety spokesman Lawrence Messina said Thursday the officer borrowed a shovel from construction workers on the north edge of the complex Wednesday to kill the snake, which was then taken elsewhere and buried.

The copperhead was killed in an area near where an employee had spotted a snake while walking to her car Tuesday. Messina says the officer had been patrolling the area for the snake Wednesday.

From wire reports

HEALTH & FITNESS

College football workouts not for the meek

By JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

The massive men ran from one station to the next, barely taking a second to catch their breath between rounds of situps, pushups and throwing weighted balls against a wall.

They moved on to the weights next, easily whipping bars with multiple plates up to their shoulders.

The end of the session turned into a testosterone show, students watching from a perch above and shouts filling the room as the players took turns bending steel bars while squat lifting the equivalent of small cars.

Five days earlier, the scene was much more subdued.

Yes, the participants were just as sweaty, their chests heaving and hearts pounding just as much, but the weights were far lighter, the pace much slower, the crowd nonexistent — and they didn't even have to go run 2,000 yards afterward, like the football players did.

Think you can handle a college football offseason workout? Good luck.

"There would be some people in some gyms who could probably do some of it," said Shawn Griswold, Arizona State's head coach of sports performance.

"But what they don't get is the tempo and the conditioning that goes with it. They (the players) don't go home, get on a stepper or a treadmill. We get out and run, and that's where it becomes unique."

When Arizona State invited a group of media members to go through a workout with Griswold, I figured why not. I like to think I'm in decent shape and figured I could make it through one workout.

But as the cones and started, the trepidation began. When you're a middle-aged man who's been told you have the back of a 70-year-old man, will eventually need knee replacement surgery and sometimes injure yourself while sleeping, the specter of being pushed to the limit by a professional strength coach will cause some anxiety.

The invite said Griswold was not going to take it easy on us. Only three of the 13 who signed up actually showed up.

Five minutes into it, I was wondering why I wasn't among the bailers.

I work out daily and play basketball a couple of times a week, but those movements aren't nearly as dynamic as what football players go through in games and their workouts.

So as we went through speed drills — stepping quickly in and out of a fabric ladder on the floor in various directions — did situps and threw weighted balls against a wall, I found myself wondering where the defibrillator was.

Ducking under a series of hurdles, I felt like the Tin Man. Sidestepping with bands around my knees made my hips seize up. There were pushups, pullups with bands as our feet hung in the air, and hurdle steppers, too.

And that was just the warm-up. Weights were next.

Clean and snatch was out of the question because of my back and squats because of my knee, so I got the pleasure of doing step-ups.

If you ever want to make your quads and lungs burn at the same time, step up onto a flat bench holding 25-pound weights, lifting your knee waist-high with each step. Oh, and I also doubled up with squat-downs on a machine, going straight from one exercise to the next.

The double sets continued with different exercises, jogging from one station to the next to alternate one-armed flat bench with back extensions, chin-ups with dumbbell Romanian dead lifts, shoulder raises and bent-over rows.

By the time we wound down and Griswold ran

through what we just did, I was looking past him at the wall of refrigerators full of water, PowerAde and Muscle Milk, his words barely registering.

We didn't do as many sets as the players, and Griswold and his staff stopped on several occasions to explain how they do things. And we didn't have to run after it was over, yet it still was exhausting.

"What I put you guys through, I was just trying to give you a visual, a smidgen of what they do," said Griswold, who followed Sun Devils head coach Todd Graham to Tempe from Pittsburgh and Tulsa. "As far as the volume and intensity, it's substantially different. We do more exercises; we do them faster."

Offseason conditioning has changed drastically in the past 20 or so years.

Used to be, players could work out on their own — some none at all — and get in shape at the start of fall camp. These days, players are expected to be in shape year-round so they can hit the ground running, so to speak, when practices go live.

Conditioning has become a bigger priority at Arizona State under Graham, who wants the Sun Devils to go-go-go all the time.

"It's vital considering how much the game has changed," Graham said. "We now have up-tempo offenses and attacking defenses and the players have more explosiveness, power and strength. The game has evolved so much. The players have to be both mentally and physically tougher."

Arizona State's big fellas appear to be in good shape on both counts.

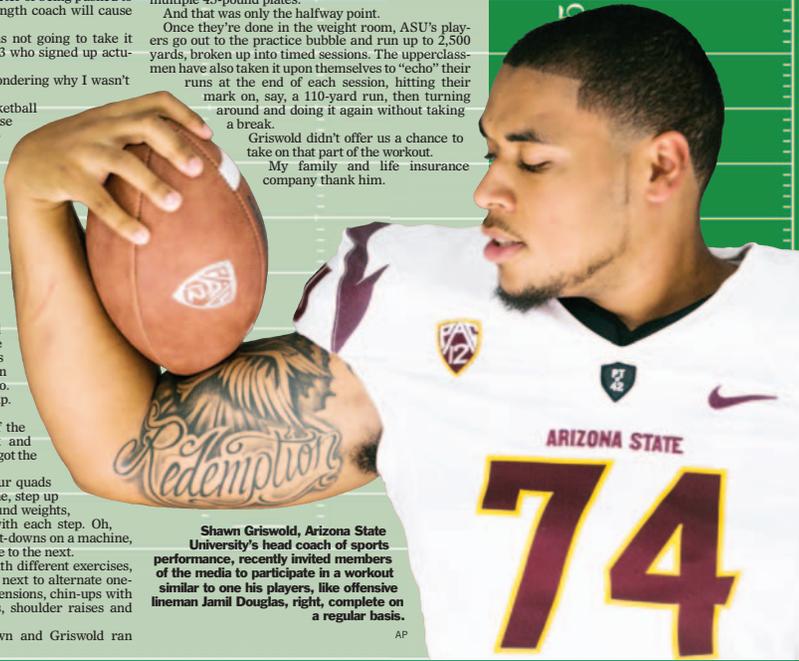
Through the speed drills, they looked more like running backs and receivers than linemen. The weighted balls looked like tennis balls in their hands. They lifted weights most people couldn't bench up to their shoulders, and the squatting session was an impressive display of power, the entire group gathered around as bars bent like rubber movie props under the weight of multiple 45-pound plates.

And that was only the halfway point.

Once they're done in the weight room, ASU's players go out to the practice bubble and run up to 2,500 yards, broken up into timed sessions. The upperclassmen have also taken it upon themselves to "echo" their runs at the end of each session, hitting their mark on, say, a 110-yard run, then turning around and doing it again without taking a break.

Griswold didn't offer us a chance to take on that part of the workout.

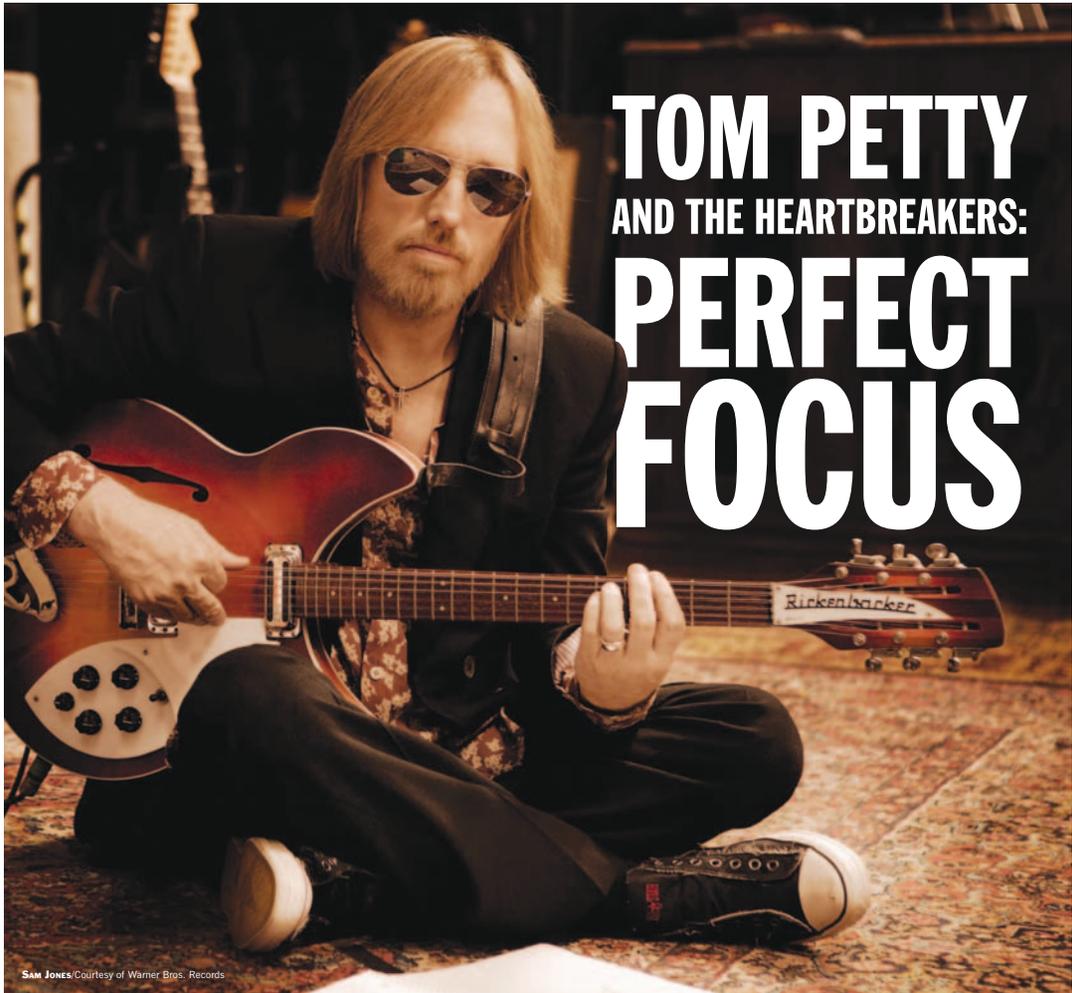
My family and life insurance company thank him.



Shawn Griswold, Arizona State University's head coach of sports performance, recently invited members of the media to participate in a workout similar to one his players, like offensive lineman Jamil Douglas, right, complete on a regular basis.

AP

MUSIC



SAM JONES/Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS: PERFECT FOCUS

Seasoned L.A. band still setting the bar high with new album, 'Hypnotic Eye'

BY RANDALL ROBERTS
Los Angeles Times

efore easing into a conversation about his new album with the Heartbreakers, "Hypnotic Eye," the long-time Malibu beach-dweller Tom Petty has a score to settle. It's in response to an old Times survey of Los Angeles' most enduring rock bands.

Specifically: He and the Heartbreakers shouldn't have been disqualified because of his north Florida roots.

"We're an L.A. band," says Petty with a good-natured but emphatic tone, puffing on a vapor pen while lounging in his home studio. The Heartbreakers were birthed in this city, he adds.

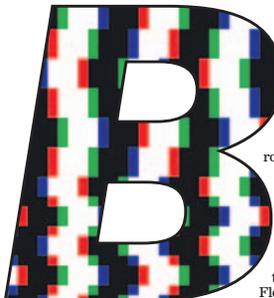
"We're certainly as L.A. as the Springfield were, or the Byrds," he says, then geekily lists Buffalo Springfield players and their hometowns before focusing on the Doors. His voice rises: "Jim Morrison was from Florida!" Petty's beard is hermit scraggly, as if he's been

cooking his meals beneath the trees out back. He's wearing blue jeans and a black Western shirt over a tee.

The slight bugged him for years, says the singer, songwriter and guitarist, 63, mostly because of the ribbing he got from his accomplished peers. "I got the finger shaken at me by so many people. 'Hey, you're not an L.A. band!'" Add in that Petty and the Heartbreakers have never recorded outside of Southern California and his frequent lyrical nods to his home. "Free Fallin'," his solo ode to cruising the San Fernando Valley, cemented his residency years ago, as did the Roger McGuinn-suggestive Rickenbacker strum of "The Waiting" before that.

Editors, a retraction might be in order. Let the record show that Petty and his Heartbreakers, upon the July 29 release of their 13th studio album and after thousands of concerts, three solo records, hundreds of hours in area studios and countless nights in the Pacific Coast Highway breeze, should be deemed an L.A. band — backdated to the mid-1970s.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



● **Review**
on **Page 17**

MUSIC

FROM PAGE 16

It doesn't hurt that his Malibu compound, one of a pair in the area, looks every bit the property of a successful entertainer. Expansively spread behind two levels of security, his beachfront property features a shiny Tesla sedan in the garage and a team of landscapers working the foliage.

"Hypnotic Eye," only the second Heartbreakers album in 12 years, closes the argument. Opening with a basic statement of purpose — "I'm gonna make my way through this world some day/I don't care what nobody say" — Petty and band roll through a collection whose emotions range from profound love to bitter cynicism. Petty tackles optimism on "American Dream Plan B" and recalls midnight interludes on the lovely midtempo love song "Red River."

The tangled guitar line that opens "Power Drunk," courtesy of Mike Campbell, mixes with keyboard player Benmont Tench's organ chords on a song about the intoxicating allure of power. Closer "Shadow People" is a lovely meditation on isolation and communion. "Fault Lines" is the best Petty song in years.

It doesn't get any easier to make them. Petty says that as the years have passed it's gotten tougher for him and Campbell to pen a passable composition. "The two of us together turns into a recipe for procrastination," admits Petty. The pause is in part because of the pressure of his catalog as well as to the aging process itself, which he says makes it harder to focus.

For generations, Petty and band have been the no-nonsense voice of a brand of rock that cut through pretense, haircuts and studio trickery to craft songs that resonated without being dumb, cloying, gratuitous or commercially designed trend hoppers.

His classics since his rise in the mid-1970s have transcended subgenre, part of a philosophy that avoided scenes and synthesizers. The Heartbreakers first broke in England, where they found kindred spirits in bands such as the Clash and the Sex Pistols, but were outsiders by design. They were more interested in the sound coming from Los Angeles in the mid-1960s than the punk tropes of a decade later.

"I didn't want to put on the outfit. I really felt an allegiance to their trip, and I loved the spirit of it," he says, "but our identity was too well formed to go that way. I remember one of them saying, 'You guys need to cut your hair.' And I was like,

'Mm, no.' Then I would be joining a club. I just want to be our own thing."

Boogie rock, disco, metal, synth-pop, grunge, rap rock, indie rock, blog rock and dance rock have come and gone, but the Heartbreakers endure through a focus nearly identical in 2014 as in their first Los Angeles gigs. As they've remained true, though, the band has ceded its role at the center of the rock conversation. Petty's a reclusive guy by nature, part of his allure. (The only mention of straying from Malibu comes when he speaks of visiting one of his two adult daughters in New York.)

"That body of work weighs on Petty. "After you've written 300, 400 (songs), you've got to really concentrate so you can get something that feels fresh and is worth the money to someone who has a whole bunch of Tom Petty records. 'Why would I buy another one? Well, because it's worth it, you know?'"

Adds guitarist Mike Campbell later: "The bar is high."

Less bluesy by design than 2010's "Mojo," his most recent Heartbreakers record, the 11 new songs on "Hypnotic Eye" draw on riff-heavy rock, gentle swagger, coolly recollected moments, blues (always blues), much masterful guitar work from founding Heartbreakers Campbell and Tench's typically light and

efficient touch on piano and keyboards.

"I wanted it to be a pretty rock 'n' roll album from top to bottom," says Petty. They started work on it three years ago between tours and were inspired anew, he says, by young rock bands and "the wild abandon of the sounds and energy. I wanted to do some of that — but in the way that we would do it." Cue "Faultlines," a riveting, surprising song about the fractures and tectonic shifts that occur within ourselves and our lives. A work that couldn't have been penned anywhere but Southern California or by anyone but Petty and Campbell, it confirms not only the group's stature but its continued inventiveness.

"I love that song," Petty says, his eyes shining as he talks about the spark that generated the lyrical theme. "It's so strange how that stuff works, how it pops in your head."

As is usual, Petty's responsible for the lyrics and many of the songs, with Campbell pitching musical ideas that Petty calls a prime ingredient of any true Heartbreakers record. Once they worked out "Faultlines," Petty says, "We called the boys and went to the Club House (the Heartbreakers' rehearsal space in the Valley), and we cut the track." He pauses. "That was kind of our M.O. for the record."

"The conversation would go like this," says Campbell. "Tom would call up and say, 'I've got a couple of songs. Let's get the band together and see how they sound.' There was no sit-down."

"When we started the record, it was more in the vein of 'Mojo,'" says Tench, adding that they recorded about 30 songs during the process, so he didn't know what shape "Eye" would take until he heard the finished product. "I noticed near the end of it that the songs were becoming more concise." Tench's work on Mellotron and piano fill in key moments with his restrained counter melodies.

Petty agrees that he had to check his blues reflex midway through the process. He'd been listening to a lot of old blues music, and in the early sessions they cut four tracks that reflected it. "I listened to them and I thought, 'You know, we're going to end up going down the same road if we get hung in this. We should play some rock 'n' roll.' I don't like to make the same record twice."



Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers

Hypnotic Eye (Reprise)

Tom Petty isn't singing about himself on his new tune "Forgotten Man," but he can't be blamed for thinking like that.

The music world has moved on from the days when Petty and his Heartbreakers were among its leaders. So what to do? They can give up, go country, become a walking jukebox or stand and fight.

They've decided to take a stand, based on the evidence of this stunning new disc. "Hypnotic Eye" is testament to the enduring power of blues-based rock 'n' roll. The Heartbreakers are among the best rock bands still working, and this disc is the type of showcase it hasn't had for decades.

Mike Campbell's fluid guitar, Benmont Tench's unparalleled keyboards, Ron Blair's surprisingly melodic bass and Steve Ferrone's drums — it's a veteran band that plays with confidence and precision. Petty brings the songs, hook-laden and filler-free, speaking to the strivers and dreamers who have always made up his audience. The sound is classic but never dated.

Were this the summer of 1984, "Faultlines," "Red River," "Forgotten Man" and "Sins of My Youth" would be constants on the radio. It's no fault of his that time and trends are different now.

You'd be wise, however, not to forget Tom Petty.

— David Bauder
Associated Press



'I don't like to make the same record twice.'

— Tom Petty

From left: Scott Thurston, Benmont Tench, Petty, Steve Ferrone, Mike Campbell and Ron Blair

Courtesy of Big Hassle Media



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BOOKS

'Deep' gets to bottom of ocean obsession

By MICHAEL E. YOUNG
The Dallas Morning News

I grew up within sight of the ocean, close enough to hear the boom of the surf as it exploded across the sandbars. My grandfather pulled his living from the ocean, and a great uncle died in it. I spent thousands of hours in the Atlantic and thousands more along its edges. I knew it, I thought.

Then I read James Nestor's fascinating new book, "Deep," an exploration, layer by layer, of the oceans' depths. My knowledge barely dipped beneath the surface.

Nestor's journey begins in Greece, on assignment for Outside magazine to cover the 2011 Individual Depth World Championship, the largest gathering of competitive freedivers in the history of this little-known and incredibly dangerous sport.

The aim is to dive as deeply as possible while the increasing pressure of the water squeezes your lungs to the size of fists, your

body goes into convulsions and you hallucinate in a dreamlike state. Then, exhausted, you grab a piece of paper with clumsy, unfeeling fingers and start your ascent, praying that you reach the surface before you lose consciousness.

When the competition begins, Nestor follows every movement — the deep breaths, the quick kicks to get below the surface, and then, as gravity gives way, the graceful descents, like skydivers in a different medium. But as divers surface with blood gushing from their noses, or their faces blue from oxygen deprivation, or in the worst cases, are dragged to the surface more dead than alive, Nestor sees only horror in this sport.

Soon, though, he finds another side to freediving, which opens the way to exploring at least this top layer of a whole different world. That leads him on a quest, not just learning to freedive — something that proves difficult until someone suggests he simply close his eyes — but beginning to understand how life can exist and even thrive in the deepest crevices in the sea.

In Honduras, Nestor boards a cramped homemade submarine with its builder, Karl Stanley, and a friend, for a descent that will put them 2,500 feet down.

"The view outside is lunar," he writes, "boulders, shallow craters and broad, open planes, all glowing as white as if the place has just been dusted with snow."

Actually, the powdery stuff is calcium and silicon from billions of microscopic skeletons, building up by about an inch every 2,000 years. Life seems impossible here, but as the submarine's lights show, life is everywhere, just not in a form Nestor had ever seen before.

A reddish, eel-like fish staggers along on two stumpy legs. Another, the size of a small dog, is covered with brown blotches, like tree bark. "Failed experiments from God's test kitchen," Nestor writes. And this is less than 10 percent of the way down to the ocean's deepest depths.

Later, Nestor takes part in a mission to collect recordings of sperm whales talking — an incredibly elaborate series of clicks that allows the whales to communicate with one another, navigate in the lightless depths where they feed, and identify and "X-ray" anything that passes their way.

In the waters off Sri Lanka, Nestor and a friend have a personal encounter with an adult female sperm whale and her calf, which approach "hissing and blowing steam

— two locomotives."

They pass and seem to disappear before returning to a point about 150 feet away.

"The clicking starts again, louder than before. I instinctively kick toward the whales, but my guide, Hanli Prinslow, grabs my hand.

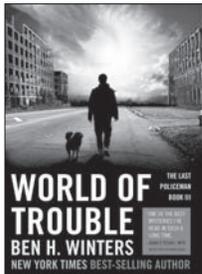
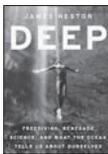
"Don't swim, don't move," she whispers.

"They're watching us." "The clicks now sound like jackhammers on pavement. These are echolocation clicks; the whales are scanning us inside and out. We watch from the surface as they exhale. With a click of their flukes, they lunge toward us."

The whales come straight toward them until they're 30 feet away, then pull to the side and veer past.

"They keep their gaze upon us as they pass within a dozen feet of our faces, shower us with clicks, then retreat slowly back into the shadows," Nestor writes. "The coda clicks turn to echolocation clicks, then the echolocation fades, and the ocean, once again, falls silent."

Similar scenes unfold throughout "Deep" as they become a vivid you-are-there exploration of places few of us will ever visit in a world that none can fully comprehend.



World of Trouble
Ben H. Winters

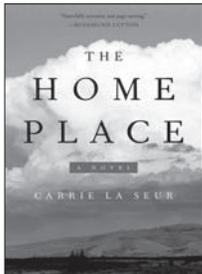
In "World of Trouble," Detective Hank Palace has only 14 days to live and a mystery to solve — what happened to his younger sister, Nico?

Palace is not the only one with 14 days. Everyone on earth has just two weeks to live since an asteroid, 2011GV, or Maia, is going to strike the planet, causing mass destruction.

"Because these Auburn mid-western trees are going to burst into flames in the first burning moments. Trees around the world will go up like tree tinder. In a short time the clouds of ash will block the sun, put a hard stop to photosynthesis, snuff out all lushness. ... What is about to happen is not the reclaiming of Earth by a triumphant Mother Nature, a karmic repudiation of humanity's arrogant ill stewardship."

Author Winters has done an excellent job of not being depressing in the face of the ultimate end. The story could have been dark and dystopian, but it's the character of Palace that keeps you going.

Palace will follow the elusive trail of Nico until it runs out or the world ends. Will he succeed?
— By Tish Wells
McClatchy Washington Bureau



The Home Place
Carrie La Seur

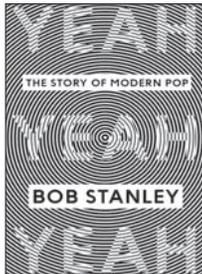
Carrie La Seur's finely crafted debut chronicles a woman's complicated relationship with her hometown of Billings, Mont. her relatives who stayed behind and her ancestral history. La Seur's graceful prose in "The Home Place" complements her incisive character studies of a family that has managed to keep most of its pretensions behind closed doors.

Alma Terrebonne left Billings and the family's "home place" more than 15 years ago to attend college, shortly after her parents were killed in a car accident that maimed her younger sister, Vicky. Now an attorney in Seattle, Alma only returns to Billings to attend family events.

When Alma returns home after Vicky is found frozen to death, she finds her family in disarray. A slimy land agent has been threatening local families, including the Terrebones, over mining rights to their properties.

La Seur poignantly shows how characters are influenced by a sense of place, affecting their choices in life.

"The Home Place" is one of the year's strongest debuts.
— By Olive H. Cogdill
The Associated Press



Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!
Bob Stanley

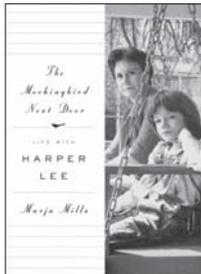
In 1954, Bill Haley shook, rattled and rolled. In 2003, Beyonce went crazy in love. That's two pop stars, among the biggest of their time, using similar language (and similar grooves) to describe more or less the same thing.

But think of all that happened over the half-century that separates them: Elvis Presley, rockabilly girl groups, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Motown, the Beach Boys, punk, disco, heavy metal, the Eagles, new wave, New Order, new jack swing, Madonna.

This absurdly, deliciously vast landscape is what Bob Stanley sets out to map in his sweeping but finely detailed new book.

Structured chronologically, "Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!" moves crisply but methodically through history as the author takes up each successive scene or sound or movement and tries to understand its place in the larger story.

Think of the book as an encyclopedia in narrative form, one shaped by the author's subjective, sometimes contrarian taste. (His favorite Bob Dylan record: "New Morning.") He's got loads of trivia, too.
— Mikael Wood
Los Angeles Times



The Mockingbird Next Door
Marja Mills

Harper Lee was 34 when her first novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird," was published in 1960. This tale of childhood innocence and racial injustice in the Depression-era South won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961, was adapted for an award-winning film with Gregory Peck and became a staple of high school English curricula. But Lee slumped publicly and never published another novel.

In 2001, Marja Mills, then a reporter at the Chicago Tribune, traveled to Monroeville, Ala., on assignment. The Chicago Public Library had selected the novel for its One Book, One Chicago reading program, and her editor wanted a story on Lee's hometown and, if possible, Lee herself.

In the years that follow, Mills socializes with Lee and her sister and eventually rents the house next door. Their friendship is the real subject of her modest but amiable book, a celebration of the small-town values and old-fashioned pleasures the sisters embody for the author.

There isn't a great deal of drama, but there are some good chuckles.
— Tom Beer/Newsday



Adam
Ariel Schrag

In Schrag's audacious coming-of-age novel, an inexperienced teenage boy falls in love with a lesbian and tricks her into believing he's transgender so she'll go out with him.

As the book opens, Adam is a perpetually aroused, awkward high school junior. When he sets off to spend the summer with his college student sister, Casey, and her roommates in Brooklyn, he has vague hopes of hooking up with an older girl. Although Casey is a lesbian and so are most of her friends, he dares to dream anyway.

At a party, he meets Gillian, who's definitely female. And older. And attractive. And seems to like him. And — wait — she's a lesbian. He realizes she thinks he's transgender. This begins a mad scramble, as Adam desperately employs drastic measures to keep their budding romance alive.

Much of the novel's audience will be as dazed and confused as Adam is, but Schrag sends you home with a greater understanding of all the permutations of what it means to be human.

Connie Ogle
The Miami Herald

MOVIES

'Guardians' director James Gunn prepares for liftoff of career

BY GINA MCINTYRE
Los Angeles Times

About midway through Marvel's new interstellar adventure "Guardians of the Galaxy," David Bowie's "Moonage Daydream" plays over a shot of a ramshackle spaceship traveling toward a mining colony called Knowhere. The planet is actually the severed head of a fallen titan where workers of alien races, some with candy-colored skin, collect valuable bone and fluid to ship to the outer reaches of the cosmos.

The sequence could have been cribbed from the imagination of surrealist trickster Alejandro Jodorowsky, perhaps as part of his unrealized cinematic adaptation of Frank Herbert's sci-fi novel "Dune." Yet it's far from the only over-the-top landscape in the film, Marvel's riskiest venture.

"Guardians of the Galaxy" is the first major studio film to be directed by James Gunn, a subversive stalwart who cut his movie teeth at New York's low-fi cinema factory Troma Entertainment. It introduces audiences to a new team of heroes led by Chris Pratt's sarcastic Peter Quill, also known as Star-Lord; the group includes a green alien assassin (Zoe Saldana), a hulking tattooed warrior (Dave Bautista) and two wholly CG characters and a machine-gun wielding raccoon.

There's a soundtrack littered with '70s favorites, and a Walkman, a device that will surely be unknown to many younger viewers, plays an integral part in the story.

"For the past two years, all I've been doing is driving forward, making this movie," Gunn said in July on Disney's Burbank, Calif., lot. "Now I'm done and I'm standing outside of it, and I'm going, 'How did you guys let me get away with all that?'"

From its inception, "Guardians" was designed to be something different from the other comic book blockbusters Marvel has produced since 2008's "Iron Man," most of which take place on Earth and feature recognizably human characters.

The \$170-million movie is the studio's 10th release but the first wholly "cosmic" adventure — bringing to the screen a corner of the Marvel universe that has long been fertile creative ground for comic-book writers and artists but had been only briefly referenced in earlier hits, including "The Avengers."

The story, rooted in a 2008 series written by Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning, follows scofflaw Quill, who finds himself hunted by an aristocratic outer-space bad guy named Roman the Accuser (Lee Pace) after he comes into possession of a mysterious orb. Before long, he befriends misfits that include Zoe Saldana's assassin Gamora, Dave Bautista's Drax the Destroyer, along with raccoon Rocket and his pal Groot, voiced in the movie by Bradley Cooper and Vin Diesel, respectively, who ultimately join forces to stop Roman from launching a genocidal attack.

In shaping the film, Gunn said he took inspiration from science-fiction classics including "Alien" and "Blade Runner," but with its soaring action set pieces, outre environments and inventive creature design, "Guardians" seems far closer to an updated riff on "Star Wars," albeit one with

a decidedly bratty sense of humor and a sweetly retro spirit.

"All of us at Marvel wanted to do a big space movie for a long time — we grew up on those kinds of movies," said Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige.

It's not on a distant planet but on Earth that "Guardians" begins, depicting an important childhood moment that sets young Peter on the path toward interplanetary adventure. Gunn's own cosmic journey dates to his youth where he often escaped into a world of imagination captured in the drawings of John Byrne and John Romita Sr. and Steve Ditko.

"I had a lot of emotional problems as a kid, so I just didn't fit in when I was young and I would stay home from school all the time," said Gunn, 43. "My parents sent me to a psychiatrist ... and I think the psychiatrist said to my dad, 'You need to form more of a bond with your son.'"

That led to a visit to a comic-book convention in Chicago, which Gunn said "is probably still to this day the greatest two days of my life." Soon after, Gunn's father bought him an extensive collection of comics.

"It was everything. It was every single 'Fantastic Four,' No. 9 on, every single 'Amazing Spider-Man' from No. 4 on, every 'Tomb of Dracula,' every 'Avengers' from 2 on," Gunn said. "I think it was meant to bring me back into the world, but it didn't really work because I just stayed home more and just read comic books for a year."

He also developed an interest in making home movies, starring his brothers, which eventually led to Gunn moving to New York to study creative writing at Columbia. It was during that time he began working for Troma, penning the script for the raunchy Shakespearean send-up "Tromeo and Juliet."

His screenwriting career began to gain traction with films including two "Scooby-Doo" movies and Zack Snyder's remake of zombie classic "Dawn of the Dead." His first feature as a writer-director was the 2006 horror comedy "Slither," which he followed with the boundary-pushing black comedy "Super," featuring Rainn Wilson.

Despite its oddball trappings, "Guardians" now appears likely to become the first film in a new franchise. Feige confirmed that Gunn would direct a sequel should Marvel plan to move forward with one, and Gunn said he's already begun thinking about further adventures for the team. Gunn believes "Guardians of the Galaxy" succeeds largely because lurking beneath its action movie trappings is a heartfelt sincerity.

"In today's world, it's very cool to not care," Gunn said. "This is about a bunch of characters who do not care and over the course of the movie they find themselves backed into a corner where they discover who they really are — creatures and people who care."



DISNEY-MARVEL/AP

The "Guardians of the Galaxy" have arrived.



CASEY CURRY, INVISION/AP

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

US adds 209K jobs; jobless rate up

By Christopher S. Rugaber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—U.S. employers extended their solid hiring into July by adding 209,000 jobs. It was the sixth straight month of job growth above 200,000, evidence that businesses are gradually shedding the caution that had marked the 5-year-old recovery.

Still, July's gain was less than in the previous three months and probably wasn't strong enough to intensify fears that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates soon to curb inflation.

The unemployment rate ticked up to 6.2 percent from 6.1 percent as more Americans started looking for work. Most didn't find jobs, but the increase suggests that they're more optimistic about their prospects. The jobless aren't counted as unemployed unless they're actively seeking work.

Average job gains during the past six months have averaged 197,000 in July, the best such average in eight years.

The pickup in hiring has yet to translate into larger paychecks for most Americans, a key factor that has hobbled the recovery. In July, average hourly earnings ticked up just a penny to \$24.45. That's just 2 percent higher than it was 12 months earlier and is slightly below current inflation of 2.1 percent. In a healthy economy, wages before inflation would rise 3.5 percent to 4 percent annually.

Weak pay gains are restraining the housing market, usually a key driver of growth. A measure of signed contracts to buy homes slipped in June, the National Association of Realtors said this week. That suggests that home sales will decline in coming months.

Still, Friday's report echoes other data that point to an economy picking up speed. Growth accelerated during the April-June quarter, the government said Wednesday, after contracting sharply in the first three months of the year. Last quarter's bounce-back assuaged fears that growth was too weak to support

this year's rapid hiring. And on Friday, the government said consumer spending and income picked up in June.

Investors remain anxious about whether the broad economic gains would lead the Fed to raise its benchmark short-term rate sooner than expected. Such fears likely contributed to Thursday's 317-point plunge in the Dow Jones industrial average — its worst day since February.

In addition to reporting July's solid gain, the government on Friday revised up its estimate of the job increases in May and June by a combined 15,000.

Higher-paying jobs showed strong increases in July. Manufacturing added 28,000 jobs, the most in eight months. Construction added 22,000 and financial services 7,000, its fourth straight gain.

In the April-June quarter, the economy expanded at a seasonally adjusted 4 percent annual rate after a steep 2.1 percent contraction in the first quarter. Ameri-

cans stepped up their spending, particularly on autos, furniture and other big-ticket items. Businesses also spent more on plants, office buildings and equipment.

Americans are also gradually gaining confidence in the economy, which means spending could accelerate in coming months. The Conference Board's consumer confidence index jumped to its highest level in nearly seven years in July.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 4)	\$1.3767
Dollar buys (Aug. 4)	€0.7264
British pound (Aug. 4)	\$1.73
Japanese yen (Aug. 4)	100.00
South Korean won (Aug. 4)	1,006.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
Canada (dollar)	\$1.6836/0.9340
China (Yuan)	6.1798
Denmark (Krone)	5.9663
Euro	7.5151
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3420/0.7453
Hungary (Forint)	232.95
Israel (Shekel)	3.4190
South Korea (Won)	102.72
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2833
Norway (Krone)	6.2808
Philippines (Peso)	43.80
Poland (Zloty)	3.12
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2472
South Korea (Won)	1,033.07
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9064
Thailand (Bath)	32.17
Turkey (New Lira)	0.1335

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

MARKET WATCH

July 31, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-317.06
Nasdaq Composite	-93.13
Standard & Poor's 500	-39.40
Russell 2000	-26.50
1,200.07	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
90-day T-bill	0.09
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.32

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Saturday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	85	68	Cldy	Fort Wayne	79	58	Cldy	Louisville	84	67	Cldy	Pocatello	91	55	PdCdy	Sioux City	83	58	Cir
Arlene, Tex	89	66	PdCdy	Cheyenne	78	53	Cldy	Fresno	105	74	Cldy	Lubbock	83	64	Cldy	Portland, Maine	73	55	Cldy	Sioux Falls	82	58	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	79	62	Cldy	Chicago	80	63	Cldy	Goodland	88	60	PdCdy	Macon	86	70	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	83	61	PdCdy	South Bend	79	58	Cldy
Albuquerque	78	63	Cldy	Cleveland	78	63	Cldy	Grand Rapids	82	60	Cldy	Medford	97	65	Cir	Pueblo	83	58	PdCdy	Springfield, Ill.	82	62	PdCdy
Allentown, Pa.	81	62	Cldy	Colorado Springs	79	53	PdCdy	Great Falls	88	61	PdCdy	Memphis	87	67	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	81	70	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	83	63	Cir
Amarillo	84	61	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	86	70	Rain	Green Bay	78	56	PdCdy	Miami Beach	89	73	Cldy	Rapid City	87	59	Cir	Syracuse	82	66	PdCdy
Anchorage	68	52	PdCdy	Columbus, Ga.	87	71	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	78	66	Cir	Midland-Odessa	89	67	Cldy	reno	96	62	Cir	Tallahassee	94	70	PdCdy
Asheville	73	62	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	81	63	Cldy	Harford	79	63	Cldy	Milwaukee	77	62	Cldy	Richmond	83	68	Rain	Tampa	92	77	Rain
Atlanta	83	68	Rain	Concord, N.H.	78	61	Cldy	Hartford	89	61	PdCdy	Mpls-St Paul	83	62	PdCdy	Roanoke	79	62	Rain	Texas City	80	61	Cldy
Atlantic City	80	67	Rain	Corpus Christi	92	76	Cldy	Helena	91	61	PdCdy	Missoula	93	58	Cldy	Rochester	79	62	Rain	Topeka	88	63	PdCdy
Austin	87	70	PdCdy	Dallas-Ft Worth	91	70	PdCdy	Houston	90	73	Cldy	Mobile	93	59	Cldy	Rockford	77	59	PdCdy	Tucson	95	78	Rain
Baltimore	81	68	Rain	Dayton	80	62	Cldy	Houston	90	73	Cldy	Montgomery	90	71	Rain	Sacramento	99	66	Cir	Tulsa	85	65	PdCdy
Baton Rouge	90	71	Cldy	Daytona Beach	89	76	Cldy	Huntsville	86	67	Rain	Nashville	87	66	Cldy	St Louis	86	65	PdCdy	Tulsa	85	65	PdCdy
Bilings	82	60	PdCdy	Denver	84	59	PdCdy	Indianapolis	81	62	Cldy	New Orleans	90	75	Cldy	St Petersburg	81	60	Cldy	Tulsa	85	65	PdCdy
Birmingham	86	69	Rain	Des Moines	84	61	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	88	69	Rain	New York City	79	68	Cldy	St Thomas	81	81	Rain	Waco	92	69	Cldy
Bismarck	87	69	Cir	Detroit	82	63	Rain	Jacksonville	91	74	Rain	Newark	88	68	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	80	60	Cir	W. Palm Beach	89	79	Rain
Boise	89	70	PdCdy	Duluth	80	66	PdCdy	Janeau	72	49	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	82	72	Rain	Salt Lake City	94	68	Rain	Wichita	88	65	PdCdy
Boston	75	66	Cldy	El Paso	85	71	Rain	Kansas City	85	63	PdCdy	North Platte	89	58	PdCdy	San Antonio	91	67	Cldy	Wichita Falls	87	67	Cldy
Bridgeport	67	67	Cldy	Elkins	76	59	Rain	New York	82	62	Cldy	Oklahoma City	88	66	PdCdy	San Diego	91	74	Cldy	Wilkes-Barre	77	62	Cldy
Brownsville	94	78	Cldy	Erie	76	65	Cldy	Knoxville	83	66	Cldy	Omaha	86	63	PdCdy	San Francisco	79	70	Cldy	Wilmington, Del.	82	67	Rain
Buffalo	77	63	Cldy	Eugene	87	57	Cir	Lake Charles	85	73	Cldy	Orlando	93	75	Cldy	San Jose	88	63	Cldy	Wilmington, N.C.	82	67	Rain
Butte	80	65	PdCdy	Fargo	85	64	Cldy	Las Vegas	100	85	Cldy	Pendleton	98	66	PdCdy	Santa Fe	75	56	PdCdy	Yonkers	97	65	PdCdy
Caribou, Maine	80	59	Cldy	Fairbanks	67	54	Cldy	Las Vegas	100	85	Cldy	Peoria	82	62	Cldy	St. Ste Marie	75	54	Cldy				
Casper, Wyo.	87	54	PdCdy	Fargo	85	64	Cldy	Lexington	81	64	Cldy	Peoria	82	62	Cldy	St. Ste Marie	75	54	Cldy				
Charleston, S.C.	87	73	Rain	Flagstaff	77	54	Rain	Lincoln	88	63	PdCdy	Philadelphia	82	68	Rain	Savannah	88	74	Rain				
Charleston, W.Va.	83	63	Rain	Flint	82	57	Cldy	Little Rock	87	63	PdCdy	Phoenix	101	87	Cldy	Seattle	83	61	Cldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	78	67	Rain	Fort Smith	86	65	PdCdy	Los Angeles	86	68	PdCdy	Pittsburgh	79	62	Cldy	Shreveport	85	69	Cldy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Thu., 118, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Thu., 32, Old Faithful, Wyo.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Pro soccer

MLS

Table with columns for Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and NWSL. Rows include teams like Sporting KC, New England, Toronto FC, Philadelphia, Chicago, Houston, Seattle, Los Angeles, Colorado, Vancouver, Portland, Chivas USA, and San Jose.

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

Friday's games

Philadelphia at Sporting Kansas City
Portland at Los Angeles
FC Dallas at Montreal
New England at New York
Columbus at Chicago
Real Salt Lake at Colorado
D.C. United at San Jose
D.C. United at Houston
FC Bayern Munich at M.L.S. All-Stars
San Jose at Los Angeles
Montreal at Philadelphia
Colorado at FC Dallas
D.C. United at Real Salt Lake
Sporting Kansas City at Vancouver
Houston at Seattle FC

NWSL

Table with columns W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Rows include Seattle, FC Kansas City, Portland, Chicago, San Jose, Boston, and Sky Blue FC.

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

Washington, 2, FC Kansas City 1
Seattle FC, 1, Houston 1
Sky Blue FC, 1, Western New York 0
Chicago at Washington
Seattle FC at FC Kansas City
Boston at Washington
Boston at Portland
Western New York at Boston
Houston at Seattle FC
FC Kansas City at Portland
Sky Blue FC at Houston
Washington at Seattle FC

Pro basketball

WNBA

Table with columns Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and WNBA. Rows include Atlanta, Indiana, Washington, Chicago, Connecticut, Phoenix, Minnesota, and Los Angeles.

Bridgestone Invitational

World Golf Championships
Thursday
At Firestone Country Club, South Course
Akron, Ohio
Purse: \$9 million
Yardage: 7,400; Par 70 (35-35)
First Round

Table with columns Name, Score, and other stats. Players include Marc Leishman, Ryan Moore, Henrik Stenson, Justin Rose, Patrick Reed, Francesco Molinari, Graham Donaldson, Frankie Fowler, Jamie Donaldson, Brandlmeister, Keegan Bradley, Sergio Garcia, Tiger Woods, Branden Grace, Harris English, David Howell, Sung Yul Noh, Jimmy Walker, Miguel A. Jimenez, Rory McIlroy, Steven Bowditch, Adam Scott, Jim Furyk, Bubba Watson, Adam Scott, Thomas Bjorn, Matt Jones, Hideki Matsuyama, Faly Zanoni, Gary Zanoni, Jason Dufner, Brandl Johnson, Pablo Larrazabal, Louis Oosthuis, Graeme McDowell, Hunter Mahan, Phil Mickel, Matt Kuchar, Steve Stricker, Ernie Els, Keegan Bradley, Henrik Stenson, Bill Haas, Tim Clark, Alexander Levy, Brian Harman, Webb Simpson, Matt Kuchar, Victor Dubovskoy, Scott Stallings, Russell Henning, Brendon de Jonge, Andrew Carnie, Luke List, Justin Leonard, Dakota Maruyama, Ben Curtis, and Peter Dinklage.

Barracuda Championship

At Montreux Golf and Country Club
Thursday
Purse: \$3 million
Yardage: 7,472; Par 72
First Round

Table with columns Name, Score, and other stats. Players include Matt Kuchar, Steve Stricker, Ernie Els, Keegan Bradley, Henrik Stenson, Bill Haas, Tim Clark, Alexander Levy, Brian Harman, Webb Simpson, Matt Kuchar, Victor Dubovskoy, Scott Stallings, Russell Henning, Brendon de Jonge, Andrew Carnie, Luke List, Justin Leonard, Dakota Maruyama, Ben Curtis, and Peter Dinklage.

Fight schedule

At Revel Resort, Atlantic City, N.J.
Sergey Kovalev vs. Blake Gassparis, 12
for Kovalev's WBO cruiserweight title;
Isaac Chilemba vs. Cory Cummings, 10
At Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas, Brandon
Rios vs. Diego Gabriel Chavez, 12, welter
weights; Jessie Vargas vs. Anton Novikov,
10, for the WBA World junior welter
weight title.

Boxing

At American Bank Center, Corpus
Christi, Texas, Jerry Belmontes vs. Abner
Cotto, 10, junior middleweight.
At CONSOL Energy Center, Pittsburgh,
James Stevens vs. Samuel Vasquez, 12,
for the vacant USBA welterweight title.
At Circus Circus, Las Vegas, Sergio
Patron vs. Willie Nelson vs. Luis Guejara,
10, junior middleweight.

At Barclays, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Daniel Jacobs vs. Jarrod Fletcher, 12, for
the vacant WBA World middleweight title.
Lamont Peterson vs. Edgar Serrano, 12,
for Peterson's IBF junior welterweight title.
Danny Garcia vs. Rod Salka, 12, for
Garcia's WBC-WBA Super World junior
welterweight title.
At Sands Bethlehem (Pa.), Wlacheslav
Glazkov vs. Derrick Rossy, 10, heavy-
weights; Vasilio Vasip vs. Robert Bern-
ridge, 10, cruiserweights.
At Ica, Peru, Nelson Cermeno vs.
Carlos Zambrano, 12, for Cermeno's in-
terim WBA World junior middleweight
title.
At Monterrey, Mexico, Kazsanari
10, for Kazsanari's WBC-WBA Super
World junior welterweight title.
At Chumash Springs Casino, Santa
Ynez, Calif., Rustam Nugayev vs. Denis
Shafikov, 12, lightweights.

At Erfurt, Germany, Yoan Pablo

Ernst vs. Firat Arslan, 12, for Arslan's
IBF super flyweight title.
At StubbHub, Fremont, Calif.,
Shawn Porter vs. Keil Brock, 12, for Por-
ter's IBF welterweight title.
At Sunbelt, San Antonio, Texas,
Anthony Dirrell, 12, for Salka's WBA super
middleweight title.
Omar Figueroa, vs.
Andrey Gvozdenko, 12, for Figueroa's WBC
lightweight title.
At Pechanga Resort & Casino, Tem-
culac, Calif., Austin Trout vs. Daniel Daw-
son, 10, junior middleweight.
At Tecate, Mexico, Javier Mendoza vs.
Ramon Garcia Hiraltes, 12, for the vac-
ant IBF light flyweight title.

Pro football

NFL preseason

AMERICAN CONFERENCE
W East Pct PF PA
Buffalo 0 0 0.000 0 0
Miami 0 0 0.000 0 0
New England 0 0 0.000 0 0
N.Y. Jets 0 0 0.000 0 0

Table with columns Name, Score, and other stats. Players include Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Tennessee, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Denver, San Diego, Oakland, and Tampa Bay.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Table with columns Name, Score, and other stats. Players include Dallas, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Washington, Atlanta, Carolina, New Orleans, Tampa Bay, Chicago, Green Bay, and Minnesota.

Sunday's games

N.Y. Giants at Baltimore
Thursday
Thursday's games
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets
New England at Washington
San Francisco at Baltimore
Uncle Sam at Kansas City
Seattle at Denver
Miami at Atlanta
Buffalo at Carolina
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville
Philadelphia at Cincinnati
Oakland at Minnesota
New Orleans at St. Louis
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants
Green Bay at Tennessee
Houston at Arizona

Friday, Aug. 8

Atlanta at Tampa Bay
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Chicago at Green Bay
Minnesota at Green Bay
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants
Green Bay at Tennessee
Houston at Arizona

Saturday, Aug. 9

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants
Green Bay at Tennessee
Houston at Arizona

bet-at-home Cup

At Mercedes-Benz Sportpark Kitzbuehel
Thursday
Purse: \$57,000 (W7250)
Single
Surfaced Hard-Outdoor
Second Round
Garbino Mavrouza, Spain, def. Daniela
Hantuchova, Spain, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.
Angelique Kerber (3), Germany, def.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.
Anastasija Pavluchenko (5), Russia, def.
Hiroko Hatanaka (6), 6-3, 6-3.
Vania King, United States, def. Christ-
ina McHale, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Ekaterina Makarova (2), Russia, def.
Lauren Davis, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

Quarterfinals

Heather Watson, Scotland, def. Jarkko
Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Quarterfinals

Daniele Briosi, Argentina, def. Paolo
Bianchi, Italy, 6-3, 6-4.
Henri Kontinen and Jarkko Niemenen,
Finland, def. Kristian Plesch and Philipp
Kohlschreiber, Germany, 7-5, 2-6, 10-6.

Citi Open

A U.S. Open Series event
Thursday
At William H.G. Paterkoff Tennis Center,
Washington
Purse: Men, \$14 million (W7500);
Women, \$2,000,000 (W1000)
Surfaced Hard-Outdoor
Single

Men
Kevin Anderson (7), South Africa, def.
Malek Jaakaj, Tunisia, 6-3, 6-4.
Nicola Pietrangeli (6), Italy, def. Ivo
Karlovic (9), Croatia, 3-6, 7-6 (7), 6-7.
Milos Raonic (2), Canada, def. Denis
Istomin (15), Uzbekistan, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.
Mikhail Kukushin (2), Canada, def. Lleyton
Hewitt (14), Australia, 7-5 (1), 7-6 (7), 6-4.
Richard Gasquet (6), France, def. Tim
Smyczek, United States, 6-3, 6-2.
Vasek Pospisil (13), Canada, def. Tom-
mas Berdych (1), Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-4.
Santiago Giraldo (10), Colombia, def.
Nicola Pietrangeli (6), 6-3, 6-3.

Women

Svetlana Kuznetsov (6), Russia, def.
Kirsten Flipkens (6), Belgium, 7-5, 6-3.
Anastasia Pavluchenko (5), Russia,
def. Hiroko Hatanaka (6), 6-3, 6-3.
Vania King, United States, def. Christ-
ina McHale, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Ekaterina Makarova (2), Russia, def.
Lauren Davis, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

Double

Men
Heather Watson, Scotland, def. Jarkko
Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Quarterfinals

Heather Watson, Scotland, def. Jarkko
Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Women

Heather Watson, Scotland, def. Jarkko
Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Bank of the West Classic

A U.S. Open Series event
Thursday
At The Taube Family Tennis Center
Stanford, Calif.
Purse: \$7,000 (Premier)
Surfaced Hard-Outdoor
Single

Second Round
Garbino Mavrouza, Spain, def. Daniela
Hantuchova, Spain, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.
Angelique Kerber (3), Germany, def.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.
Anastasija Pavluchenko (5), Russia, def.
Hiroko Hatanaka (6), 6-3, 6-3.
Vania King, United States, def. Christ-
ina McHale, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Ekaterina Makarova (2), Russia, def.
Lauren Davis, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

Quarterfinals

Heather Watson, Scotland, def. Jarkko
Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Quarterfinals

Heather Watson, Scotland, def. Jarkko
Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Quarterfinals

Heather Watson, Scotland, def. Jarkko
Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Tennis

Citi Open

A U.S. Open Series event
Thursday
At William H.G. Paterkoff Tennis Center,
Washington
Purse: Men, \$14 million (W7500);
Women, \$2,000,000 (W1000)
Surfaced Hard-Outdoor
Single

Men
Kevin Anderson (7), South Africa, def.
Malek Jaakaj, Tunisia, 6-3, 6-4.
Nicola Pietrangeli (6), Italy, def. Ivo
Karlovic (9), Croatia, 3-6, 7-6 (7), 6-7.
Milos Raonic (2), Canada, def. Denis
Istomin (15), Uzbekistan, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.
Mikhail Kukushin (2), Canada, def. Lleyton
Hewitt (14), Australia, 7-5 (1), 7-6 (7), 6-4.
Richard Gasquet (6), France, def. Tim
Smyczek, United States, 6-3, 6-2.
Vasek Pospisil (13), Canada, def. Tom-
mas Berdych (1), Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-4.
Santiago Giraldo (10), Colombia, def.
Nicola Pietrangeli (6), 6-3, 6-3.

Women

Svetlana Kuznetsov (6), Russia, def.
Kirsten Flipkens (6), Belgium, 7-5, 6-3.
Anastasia Pavluchenko (5), Russia,
def. Hiroko Hatanaka (6), 6-3, 6-3.
Vania King, United States, def. Christ-
ina McHale, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Ekaterina Makarova (2), Russia, def.
Lauren Davis, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

Double

Men
Heather Watson, Scotland, def. Jarkko
Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Quarterfinals

Heather Watson, Scotland, def. Jarkko
Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Women

Heather Watson, Scotland, def. Jarkko
Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Bank of the West Classic

A U.S. Open Series event
Thursday
At The Taube Family Tennis Center
Stanford, Calif.
Purse: \$7,000 (Premier)
Surfaced Hard-Outdoor
Single

Second Round
Garbino Mavrouza, Spain, def. Daniela
Hantuchova, Spain, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.
Angelique Kerber (3), Germany, def.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.
Anastasija Pavluchenko (5), Russia, def.
Hiroko Hatanaka (6), 6-3, 6-3.
Vania King, United States, def. Christ-
ina McHale, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Ekaterina Makarova (2), Russia, def.
Lauren Davis, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

Quarterfinals

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Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
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Quarterfinals

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Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Quarterfinals

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Niemenen (7), Finland, 6-3, 6-4.
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Jiri
Senechal (6), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.
Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, def. Di-
ego Sebastian Santos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.

Deals

Thursday's transactions

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BOSTON RED SOX - Traded LHP Jon
Lester, OF Jonny Gomes and cash consid-
eration to Oakland for OF Yoenis Cespedes
and a 2015 compensatory pick.
BALTIMORE ORIOLES - Traded RHP John
Lackey, LHP Brett Lawrie and cash consid-
eration to the Yankees for OF Andrew Miller
and RHP Travis for OF/1B Brian Craig and RHP
Cody Ross.
BOSTON RED SOX - Traded RHP Eduardo Rodriguez
to Seattle for SS Stephen Drew and cash con-
sideration.
BOSTON RED SOX - Traded RHP Jarrod Cosart,
INF Kiki Hernandez and cash consideration
to Miami for 2B Co-
lin Moran, OF Jake Marisnick, RHP Fran-
cisco Martes and a 2015 compensatory
pick.

MINNESOTA TWINS

Traded OF Sam
Fuld to Oakland for LHP Tommy Milone
and optioned Mikey to Rochester (IL).
RECALLED 1B Kenys Vargas from New
Britain (IL). Agreed to terms with Kurt
Suzuki on a two-year contract.
NEW YORK YANKEES - Released INF
Scott Kazmir unconditionally. Claimed
RHP Emilio Yaguer off waivers from To-
ronto.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Designated
SS Jake Elmore for assignment. Optioned
OF Billy Burns to Sacramento (PCL).
REAL SALT LAKE - Traded RHP David
Price to Detroit, who sent LHP Drew Smyth
to Montreal. Released RHP Jeff Bauman
and OF Austin Jackson to Seattle. Seattle
sent RHP Kyle Lohme to Oakland.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS - Placed 1B Dan
Johnson on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP
Chad Green from the minors.

ARIZONA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Traded OF
Gerardo Parra to Milwaukee for OF
Miguel Montero and LHP Anthony Bar-
bera. Traded INF Brandon Crawford to
Yankees for C Pete O'Brien and cash con-
sideration. Released RHP Matt Garza.
Selected the contract of INF Andy Marte
from the minors. Released RHP Matt
Cespedes from Reno.
CHICAGO CUBS - Traded INF/OF
Emilio Bonifacio to LHP Russel Stewart
and cash to Atlanta for C Victor Caratini.
RECALLED RHP Chris Rusin from Iowa.

RECALLED RHP CHRIS RUSIN

FROM IOWA TO COLORADO SPRINGS FOR A REHAB ASSIGNMENT.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS - Transferred
RHP Tyler Thornburg to the 90-day DL.
RECALLED RHP Ryan Braun from the
minors.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES - Designated
RHP Josh Wail for assignment. Claimed
RHP Andrew McCutchen off waivers from
Chicago White Sox and optioned him to
Altoona (EL).
SAN DIEGO PADRES - Traded OF Chris
Denorfia to Seattle for RHP Stephen
Parker and cash consideration.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS - Optioned
RHP Ryan Spangola from the minors.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS - Traded
SS Zach Walters to Cleveland for INF
Austin Jackson. Released RHP Ryan
Reed. Recalled RHP Blake Treinen from
Syracuse.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

DENVER NUGGETS - Signed C Jusuf
Nurkic and G Gary Harris.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS - Named Jeff
Zetzel assistant coach. John Townsend
designated as player development coach.
Pittsburgh named Mike Tomlin as head
coach/advance scout and Drew Graham
to trainer and vice president of player
development.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS - Signed G Jerry
Bayless.

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - Announced
the retirement of DT Peria Jerry.
RECALLED RB Ryan Hill from the
minors.
RECALLED RB DL Graham
Pocic and T Dennis Rodie to one-year
contracts. Released RB Lineker to one year
with an injury condition. Waived T Cody
Brown.

DENVER BRONCOS

Signed DT Cody
Larsen and DE Will Perick.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS - Waived C
David Snow from injured reserve.
RECALLED RB Ryan Spangola from the
minors.
RECALLED RB Ryan Hill from the
minors.
RECALLED RB DL Graham
Pocic and T Dennis Rodie to one-year
contracts. Released RB Lineker to one year
with an injury condition. Waived T Cody
Brown.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

BOSTON BRUINS - Renewed their at-
tention agreement with forward
Christian Ehrlich.
HALL LARS STARS - Re-signed F Scott
Clemm to a one-year, two-way contract.
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS - Agreed to
terms with F Nick Spink on a two-year
contract.
COLLEGE
AUSTIN PEAY - Announced the resign-
ing of head coach Mike Anderson.
CHESTNUT HILL - Named Michael
Gooden as head coach.
CLEMSON - Named Kyle Stiles pre-
mium coordinator/major gifts coordi-
nator for IPTAY.
JACKSON STATE - Named Maurice
Johnson as head coach.
WAKE FOREST - Suspended RB
Diondre Gibson from the football team.

AP spotlight

Aug. 2
Five American boxers won gold
medals at the Olympics, marking the first
time the U.S. won the unofficial team
title. The five U.S. fighters are: Ryan
Light Brooks; light welterweight Charley
Adkins; middleweight Amir Khan; fly-
weight lightweight Norvell Lee and heavy-
weight Anthony Joshua.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Rice: His actions 'totally inexcusable'

The Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Ray Rice stepped to the microphone, took a deep breath and spoke for 17 minutes about what he called "the biggest mistake of his life."

His arrest for domestic violence against his then-fiancee last February is something Rice figures will haunt him long after his NFL career has ended.

The Baltimore Ravens running back was arrested on assault charges following a Feb. 15 altercation in New Jersey in which he allegedly struck Janay Palmer. Rice has been accepted into a diversion program, which upon completion could lead to the charges being dropped.

"My actions that night were totally inexcusable," said Rice, who during Ravens training camp Thursday spoke publicly for the first time since receiving a two-game suspension from the NFL.

"My daughter is 2 years old now. One day she's going to know the power of Google. Me having to explain that to her, what happened that night, that's something I have to live with the rest of my life."

Rice was referring to a grainy video in which he is shown dragging Palmer, now his wife, from an elevator at an Atlantic City casino. He did not address the incident at an impromptu news conference in May, and although he refused to divulge details on Thursday, he dismissed the notion that he was provoked.

"I don't want to keep re-living this incident. I'm trying to move forward," he said. "What happened that night was a huge mistake, and that's what I'll keep it at. I don't condone any of my behavior. I take full responsibility for my actions. My wife can do no wrong."

Rice realizes how many people were hurt by his actions.

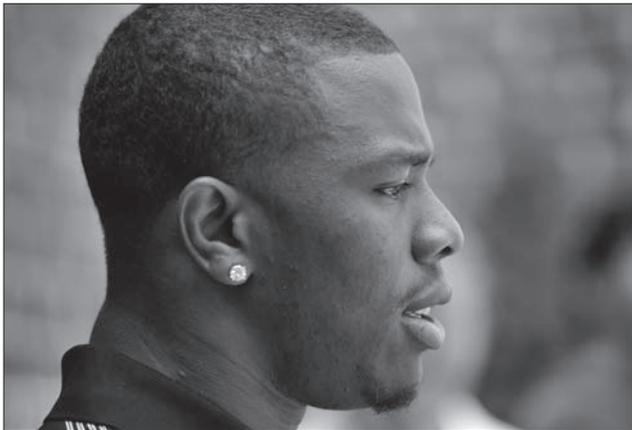
"That's not who I am as a man. That's not who my mom raised me to be," he said. "I let her down, I let my wife down, I let my daughter down, I let my wife's parents down, I let the whole Baltimore community down, and I got my teammates here to support me. I let them let me down. I let so many people down because of 30 seconds of my life that I know I can't take back."

Goodell defends 2-game suspension of Rice

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says his decision to suspend Ray Rice for only two games following a domestic violence arrest is consistent with the league's previous arrests.

Goodell says the Baltimore Ravens' running back has taken responsibility, has no history of assault and is following a court order to enter a diversionary program.

Goodell spoke Friday in Canton, Ohio, leading to this weekend's Pro Football Hall of Fame induction ceremony. It was his first opportunity to answer questions



GAIL BURTON/AP

Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice answers questions during a news conference at training camp Thursday in Owings Mills, Md. Rice made his first public comments since receiving a two-game suspension from the NFL following a domestic violence arrest.

regarding Rice since the league disciplined him on July 24.

The length of the suspension has been criticized as too lenient. Goodell says he felt it was appropriate and calls it important that Rice has expressed regret and assumed responsibility.

Lynch ends holdout, arrives at camp

RENTON, Wash. — Marshawn Lynch's holdout is over, ending one distraction so far for the Super Bowl champions.

Lynch arrived at the Seattle Seahawks practice facility on Thursday afternoon following the team's morning practice. The team confirmed Lynch had reported for camp, ending a holdout that spanned a week.

Lynch was caught by television cameras talking on his phone out near the Seahawks practice fields wearing a hooded "Beast Mode" sweatshirt and knit cap on an 85 degree day.

Lynch missed the first week of training camp unhappy with his contract status. Lynch is scheduled to make up to \$5.5 million this season in base pay and roster bonuses. It's the third year of a four-year deal Lynch signed before the 2012 season.

Lynch has been the workhorse for Seattle's offense since his arrival via trade during the 2010 season. Lynch has 1,066 carries for 4,624 yards and 41 touchdowns in the regular season since joining the Seahawks.

Browns' Gordon meeting with NFL

BEREA, Ohio Browns receiver Josh Gordon is meeting with NFL officials in New York to

appeal a possible indefinite suspension for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

Gordon's attorney is expected to argue that Gordon tested positive for marijuana because of second-hand smoke.

Gordon has not been at training camp the past two days. Cleveland coach Mike Pettine does not know if the Pro Bowler will be at Thursday's scrimmage in Akron.

The Browns are eager to resolve the matter. Gordon is the team's top playmaker and led the league in yards receiving last season.

Steelers sign K Suisham through 2018 season

LATROBE, Pa. — The Pittsburgh Steelers have given kicker Shaun Suisham a four-year contract extension that runs through the 2018 season.

The team made the announcement on Friday. He's made 95 of 109 field goals and all 128 extra points for 412 points since 2010.

Suisham established a team record in 2013, connecting on 30 of 32 field-goal attempts for a 93.8 percent conversion rate. He ranks first in team history with an 87.2 percent field-goal conversion mark and fifth in field goals made with 95.

Suisham, an undrafted free agent out of Bowling Green, entered the league with Pittsburgh in 2005 before two stints with the Dallas Cowboys and Washington Redskins.

Lions' Nick Fairley gets probation, fine for DUI

MOBILE, Ala. — Detroit Lions defensive tackle Nick Fairley won't spend time in jail after

being convicted of drunken driving and reckless driving in his hometown of Mobile, Ala. District Judge George Hardesty ordered Fairley to spend one year on probation and pay \$750 in fines plus court costs during a hearing Thursday.

The judge's order says the punishment is typical for first-time offenders, and the former Auburn standout must also attend driving school.

The convictions stemmed from Fairley's arrest in 2012.

Fairley wasn't in court. The judge says he accepts a defense attorney's explanation that the player didn't know about the hearing.

Prosecutors asked the judge to issue an arrest warrant for Fairley since he failed to appear, but Hardesty refused.

Jaguars rookie WR sidelined by hamstring

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville Jaguars rookie receiver Allen Robinson will miss extended time with another hamstring injury.

Robinson strained his right hamstring in practice Thursday. It's the same leg that kept him out during organized team activities.

A second-round draft pick from Penn State, Robinson had been one of the stars of training camp. But his injury may keep him out for the rest of camp and maybe the entire preseason.

Spurs sign Parker to extension

The San Antonio Spurs have signed point guard Tony Parker to a multi-year contract extension. The Spurs made the announce-

ment on Friday. Terms of the deal were not immediately available.

Parker averaged 16.7 points and 5.7 assists in 29 minutes per game last season to help the Spurs to the franchise's fifth NBA title.

Parker has spent all 13 seasons of his career in San Antonio and was due to make \$12.5 million next season in the final year of his existing contract. But the Spurs made sure he will stick around longer than that, locking up the 32-year-old Parker, who is one of the elite point guards in the league.

LB coach taking sabbatical from Miami

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Miami linebackers coach Micheal Barrow is taking a sabbatical and will not be with the Hurricanes this season to tend to an undisclosed family matter.

The Hurricanes announced the move Friday, four days before the team will have its first practice of training camp.

Hurlie Brown is moving from running backs coach to replace Barrow with the linebackers. Tim Harris will replace Brown with the running backs, and former Hurricanes wide receiver Kevin Beard has been hired to fill Harris' role as assistant director of football operations.

Barrow played for the Hurricanes for more than 13 seasons in the NFL and was part of the team's coaching staff for seven seasons.

Phelps to compete in 4 events at nationals

Michael Phelps will match his most grueling program since coming out of retirement, entering four events at next week's U.S. national championships.

The winningest athlete in Olympic history will compete in the 100-meter freestyle, 100 butterfly, 100 backstroke and 200 individual medley at the meet that begins Wednesday in Irvine, Calif.

"I feel good," Phelps told The Associated Press on Thursday. "Just staying relaxed is the biggest thing, not putting too much pressure on myself. I'm just going out and continuing what I've been doing throughout the year — just having fun. That's how I've been able to swim my best."

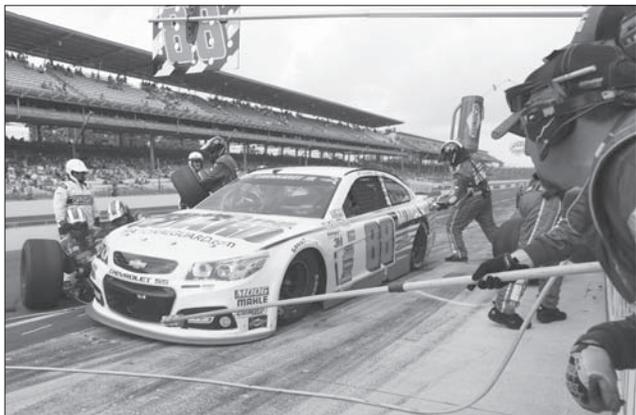
The national championships, along with the Pan Pacific Championships in Australia a couple of weeks later, will determine the American team for next year's world championships.

Phelps retired after the London Olympics, having won a record 18 gold medals and 22 medals overall. He had accomplished all his goals and said he had no desire to swim into his 30s.

But he began plotting his comeback less than a year later, and began serious training last September.

Since announcing a return to competition in April, the 29-year-old Phelps has competed in four meets.

AUTO RACING



ROBERT BAKER/AP

Dale Earnhardt Jr. pits during the Brickyard 400 on Sunday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Ives an easy choice as Earnhardt's crew chief

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — There was no shortage of candidates to replace Steve Letarte as Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s crew chief.

The list of applicants was long, but Hendrick Motorsports has always liked to groom its own talent. So the organization didn't have to look very far for the next leader of the No. 88 Chevrolet.

Greg Ives, who was shipped over to Earnhardt's Nationwide Series team at the end of 2012 to gain his first experience as crew chief, was chosen Wednesday as Letarte's replacement with NASCAR's most popular driver. Letarte will move to an analyst's role with NBC Sports and Ives will move from JR Motorsports to crew chief for Earnhardt.

"Not only is he the most talented candidate for the job, but it will be the most seamless transition," Earnhardt said Wednesday. "I don't see how it couldn't go any smoother, being that he has that past history and understanding of the building."

"When Greg comes into that position, the boat won't rock. Everybody already knows Greg, is comfortable with him."

Ives was race engineer for Jimmie Johnson's record run of five consecutive championships, and worked under Johnson crew chief Chad Knaus and alongside Earnhardt's No. 88 team. When he told Hendrick management he wanted to be a crew chief, there were no openings in the organization. Ives was instead moved to JRM, which is co-owned by both Hendrick and Earnhardt.

The move helped Ives strengthen his rapport with Earnhardt, even though the two had been trashing each other for some time in their Fantasy Football league. Ives has been successful at JRM, winning two races last year with Regan Smith, and guiding rookie Chase Elliott to three wins and the top of the Nationwide Series points standings this season.

He'd paid his dues and earned the right to return to HMS with a Sprint Cup team.

"When we looked at the attributes that we would want for that crew chief, there's two key parts: One is the relationship with Dale. The other is the relationship with Chad," Hendrick general manager Doug Duchardt said.

Said Hendrick: "Greg was our No. 1 choice. This



AJ Mast/AP

Dale Earnhardt Jr. won the season-opening Daytona 500 and currently sits in second place in the Sprint Cup Series points standings.

is a talented guy who already has a terrific rapport with Dale Jr. and is a fit with the organization."

Ives, from Bark River, Mich., joined Hendrick Motorsports as a mechanic in 2004. He moved into an engineering role on the No. 48 team in 2006. In seven years of working with Knaus, he contributed to 42 wins, 113 top-five finishes and 21 pole positions in the Sprint Cup Series.

"This is an incredible opportunity for me and my family," Ives said. "Dale Jr. and I have a great relationship from being in the same shop at Hendrick Motorsports and my time at JRM."

"We have a lot left to do this season in the Nationwide Series, but I'm excited about what's ahead and look forward to sharing some wins with JR Nation in the future. I couldn't ask for a better situation than working with one of the best drivers and teams in racing."

Around the tracks

SPRINT CUP

This week: GoBowling.com 400 at Long Pond, Pa.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday Central European Time.

Track: Pocono Raceway (triangle, 2.5 miles).

Race distance: 400 miles, 160 laps.

Last year: Kasey Kahne won the last of his two 2013 victories, passing Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jeff Gordon with two laps left.

Last week: Gordon raced to his record fifth Brickyard 400 victory, passing Kahne on the final restart.

Next race: Cheez-it 355, Aug. 10, Watkins Glen International, Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon	717
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	693
3. Brad Keselowski	666
4. Matt Kenseth	661
5. Jimmie Johnson	628
6. Kyle Busch	609
7. Ryan Newman	606
8. Carl Edwards	603
9. Joey Logano	591
10. Clint Bowyer	577
11. Kevin Harvick	565
12. Kyle Larson	562
13. Austin Dillon	559
14. Kasey Kahne	555
15. Paul Menard	551
16. Greg Biffle	550
17. Brian Vickers	532
18. Tony Stewart	529
19. Marcos Ambrose	511
20. Jamie McMurray	499

Driver to watch

DRIVER TO WATCH



Besides setting the race record average speed of 145.384 mph on June 12, 2011, **Jeff Gordon** has won six times at the track — the most of any driver.

Coming off a victory last weekend with the Brickyard, Gordon sits atop the standings with 717 points, 24 points ahead of Dale Earnhardt Jr. And he hasn't been lower than fifth in the standings all season.

Gordon has won twice this season, already guaranteeing his spot in the Chase for the championship. He also has two second-place finishes, seven top-five finishes and 14 top-10 finishes.

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: U.S. Cellular 250 at Newton, Iowa.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m. Sunday Central European Time.

Track: Iowa Speedway (oval, 0.875 miles).

Distance: 218.75 miles, 250 laps.

Last year: Brad Keselowski raced to the third of his seven 2013 victories.

Last week: Ty Dillon won at Indianapolis for his first Nationwide victory.

Next race: Zippo 200, Aug. 9, Watkins Glen International, Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Honda Indy 200 at Lexington, Ohio.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 4 a.m. Monday Central European Time.

Track: Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course (road course, 2.258 miles).

Distance: 203.22 miles, 90 laps.

Last year: Charlie Kimball raced to his first series victory.

Last races: KVSH Racing's Sebastian Bourdais and Ed Carpenter Racing's Mike Conway won doubleheader races at Toronto on July 20.

Next race: ABC Supply Wisconsin 250, Aug. 17, Milwaukee Mile, West Allis, Wis.

Online: indycar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

This week: Pocono Mountains 150 at Long Pond, Pa.

Track: Pocono Raceway (triangle, 2.5 miles).

Distance: 150 miles, 60 laps.

Last year: Ryan Blaney won on the second attempt at a green-white-checkered finish.

Last week: Darrell Wallace Jr. won the Mudsummer Classic on the dirt at Eldora.

Next race: Careers for Veterans 200, Aug. 16, Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn, Mich.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Belgian Grand Prix, Aug. 24, Spa-Francorchamps Circuit, Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium.

Last week: Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo won the Hungarian Grand Prix for his second victory of the season.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: NHRA Northwest Nationals at Kent, Wash.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 1 a.m. Monday Central European Time.

Track: Pacific Raceways.

Last year: Matt Hagan earned the fourth of his five 2013 Funny Car victories. Morgan Lucas won Top Fuel and Vincent von Pro Stock.

Last week: Courtney Force beat father John Force at Sonoma, Calif., for her female-record fifth career Funny Car victory. Khalid Al-Baloshi won in Top Fuel, Jason Line in Pro Stock and Eddie Krawiec in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Next event: Lucas Oil Nationals, Aug. 14-17, Brainerd International Raceway, Brainerd, Minn.

Online: nhra.com

NFL/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker Derrick Brooks tackles Denver Broncos wide receiver Eddie Royal in Denver on Oct. 5, 2008. Brooks, the heartbeat of the Bucs' defense, will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday in Canton, Ohio.

Brooks set standard for NFL LBs

By FRED GOODALL
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Eighteen years later and now headed to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Derrick Brooks laughs at the memory of sitting in a hotel room the morning of a game early in his career.

He was turning on a TV and being riled by a national commentator who not only forecast another loss for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers but jokingly referred to the struggling team as the "Yucks."

The young, undersized linebacker who went on to become the heartbeat of a Super Bowl champion turned to roommate Warren Sapp, another second-year pro embracing the challenge of transforming one of the worst franchises in pro sports history into a title contender, and the two of them locked angry eyes.

"I was upset. Sapp was beyond upset. ... We thought we were turning the corner," Brooks recalled. "We kind of looked at each other and I said: 'This has got to stop. We're not going to be defined by this.'"

As first-round draft picks in 1995, Brooks and Sapp entered the league with a team that suffered through 12 consecutive seasons with 10 or more losses before their arrival.

Along with hard-hitting safety John Lynch, they formed the cornerstone of a dominant defense that keyed a Super Bowl run in 2002 and ranked among the best in the NFL for more than a decade.

It's difficult, though, for Brooks to talk about where he helped lead the Bucs during

a Hall of Fame career without remembering that Sunday in San Diego.

That was when the "Yucks" rallied from an early 14-0 deficit to beat the heavily favored Chargers under a first-year coach named Tony Dungy, architect of the cover-2 defensive scheme the Bucs played so well it became known as the "Tampa 2."

"The way we were able to come back and win that game, I attribute a lot of that to our turnaround," Brooks said.

"Coach Dungy as a coach was about excellence. He had his quiet way of challenging us," the 2002 NFL defensive player of the year added. "Some days I'd look at my grade sheet, thinking it had been a pretty good work day. He'd crumble it up and say it's not good enough."

At 6 feet, 235 pounds, Brooks was deemed by many to be too small to excel at outside linebacker in a league where bigger, stronger athletes such as Lawrence Taylor and Derrick Thomas set a standard for the position as ferocious pass rushers.

That was a role Brooks rarely was asked to fill in 14 seasons with Tampa Bay.

Instead, he transformed the position by developing into one of the best all-around linebackers in league history, using his speed and

quickness to make plays all over the field and ending his career with 25 interceptions, 13½ sacks and 11 Pro Bowl selections.

The six-time All-Pro scored four touchdowns off turnovers in 2002, then capped the greatest season in franchise history with a 44-yard interception return for a TD during Tampa Bay's rout of the Oakland Raiders in the Super Bowl.

"People say he didn't rush the passer. He didn't have to. That was my job. You can't have one guy doing everything," said Sapp, who was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2013, his first year of eligibility.

Brooks, a first-ballot selection this year, will be inducted on Saturday, joining his long-time friend and former roommate, as well as 1995 inductee Lee Roy Selmon as the only Buccaneers enshrined in Canton, Ohio.

"People ask me all the time, who was the best? Brooks was. He could touch every person on your team and they'd walk away feeling like: 'Oh yeah, I'm going to follow him and go through the wall,'" Sapp said. "He's the greatest outside linebacker that never rushed the passer. Period. It's not even close."

Shortly after arriving in Tampa Bay, Dungy sat down with Brooks and Sapp individually and expressed his belief that they had the potential to mean just as much to the Bucs as Hall of Famers Jack Ham and Joe Greene did to the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1970s.

Both of them took the challenge to heart, with Brooks emerging as the unquestioned leader in a locker room featuring dominant personalities, including the boisterous Sapp, Lynch, Keyshawn Johnson and Simeon Rice.

Fla. State ranked No. 1 by coaches

By BRENDAN SONNNE
Orlando Sentinel

Florida State will open the 2014 season as the top team in the country.

The Amway/USA Today coaches' poll was released Thursday afternoon, and FSU was listed as the No. 1 team in the nation after going 14-0 en route to winning the BCS National Championship last season.

The Seminoles received 56 of 62 first-place votes.

"I'd much rather be there than think we can't win," FSU coach Jimbo Fisher said earlier in the month when asked about being the preseason favorite to win another national title. "Whether you go undefeated or not depends on how you play, you control what happens to you. You have to embrace the expectations, you have to live it, live in the moment and understand you have the capabilities of doing things."

"We have done that, we have gone to an elite level. That's why I want to be at Florida State, I want that culture. But we've also developed it."

Amway/USA Today coaches poll

1. Florida State
2. Alabama
3. Oklahoma
4. Oregon
5. Auburn
6. Ohio State
7. UCLA
8. Michigan State
9. South Carolina
10. Baylor
11. Stanford
12. Georgia
13. LSU
14. Wisconsin
15. USC
16. Clemson
17. Notre Dame
18. Arizona State
19. Mississippi
20. Texas A&M
21. Kansas State
22. Nebraska
23. North Carolina
24. Texas
25. Washington



MLB

Disputed call helps Reds beat Marlins

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Cincinnati Reds got the pitching they needed at the start and the finish.

Starter Johnny Cueto (12-6) struck out nine and allowed one run in seven innings and Aroldis Chapman pitched the ninth for his 24th save as the Reds beat the Miami Marlins 3-1 on Thursday night.

"Hopefully things will turn around," Cueto said as the Reds won for only the third time in their last 13 games.

The Reds were the beneficiaries of a controversial call in the eighth inning and they took full advantage of the play.

A long delay resulted in a run scored by Zack Cozart to tie the game after he was initially ruled out by home plate umpire Mike Winters on a play at the plate.

With the inning extended, Ryan Ludwick delivered a two-run single for a 3-1 lead.

With the Marlins leading 1-0 in the top of the eighth, the Reds loaded the bases with one out. Bryan Morris got Todd Frazier to fly out to right fielder Giancarlo Stanton whose throw to the plate easily beat Cozart for what appeared to be the final out of the inning when catcher Jeff Mathis tagged out Cozart, who trotted in without a slide.

"I really didn't know what to do because he was in front of the plate," Cozart said. "It was kind of an awkward thing not being able to slide. I had a good idea that the call was going to be overturned."

After a 6-minute, 10-second review, the call was overturned because Mathis was ruled to be blocking the plate and Cozart was called safe tying the game 1-1.

Marlins manager Mike Redmond was immediately ejected after throwing his hat to the ground and arguing with the umpires. Redmond kicked his hat on his way back to the dugout for good measure.

"As a former catcher in this league for 13 seasons, as a grinder, as a guy who loves this game and respects this game so much, this game has been a part of my life forever, but to lose a ballgame tonight on that play is a joke, it's an absolute joke," Redmond said.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw celebrates what he thought was the end of the game as the Atlanta Braves' Justin Upton reached first on a close play during the ninth inning Thursday in Los Angeles. The play was reviewed and Upton was called safe. Nonetheless, Kershaw finished the Dodgers' 2-1 victory.

Roundup

Pujols delivers in 13th as Angels avoid sweep by O's

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Albert Pujols hit an RBI single in the 13th inning, and the Los Angeles Angels averted a three-game series sweep with a 1-0 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Thursday night.

Tyler Skaggs and six relievers combined on a five-hitter, and David Freese matched a career high with four hits to help Los Angeles improve to 3-10 in one-run games on the road.

In the 13th, Kole Calhoun drew a lead-off walk from Ryan Webb (3-2) and Mike Trout singled before Pujols lined a single past the drawn-in infield.

Hector Santiago (3-7) pitched two shut-out innings and Huston Street got three

outs for his fourth save since joining the Angels on July 18.

Phillies 10, Nationals 4: Ben Revere tied a career-high with four hits as visiting Philadelphia defeated Washington but might have lost starter Cliff Lee, who left in the third inning with an elbow injury.

White Sox 7, Tigers 4: Moises Sierra had four hits and Jose Abreu and Adam Eaton added three apiece to lift Chicago over host Detroit.

Cardinals 6, Padres 2: Shelby Miller and three relievers combined on a three-hitter, and Oscar Taveras hit a two-run homer for visiting St. Louis, which avoided a three-game sweep.

Cubs 3, Rockies 1: Jake Arrieta (6-2) struck out seven in seven innings to lead

Kershaw wins 10th straight

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clayton Kershaw would have welcomed a little help from the umpires in the ninth inning, if only to end the game a bit sooner. When he didn't get it, the Dodgers' ace finished the Braves on his own.

Kershaw scattered nine hits and struck out nine while tying his career-best winning streak of 10 games in a 2-1 victory Thursday night that completed Los Angeles' three-game sweep of Atlanta.

"Fortunately for us a lot of times he comes out on top," catcher A.J. Ellis said. "He's an amazing talent who is just as strong in the ninth as he is in the first. There's no drop-off ever. We're spoiled rotten."

Kershaw (13-2) notched his second consecutive complete game for the second time in his career following his three-hit shutout at San Francisco last weekend. He is unbeaten in his last 11 starts with a 10-0 record since June 2. The left-hander beat the Braves for the first time during the regular season in his career.

"You want to be the same from the first inning to the ninth," Kershaw said. "I got hurt this year at the beginning, but now I feel pretty strong."

Kershaw had to work to close out the Braves in the ninth, when he finally gave up a run. With one out, B.J. Upton singled and advanced to third on Tommy La Stella's single. Freddie Freeman went down swinging for the second out, bringing the cheering crowd of 51,163 to its feet.

But the Braves closed to 2-1 on Justin Upton's infield single to third.

Juan Uribe charged to field the ball and fired to first, where Adrian Gonzalez stretched for the throw. Upton was called safe by umpire Mike Estabrook. Manager Don Mattingly challenged the call as the crowd grew rowdier. Kershaw crouched behind the mound waiting for a decision.

It took 2½ minutes before the umpires upheld the call, putting the potential go-ahead run on first. Evan Gattis grounded out to shortstop to end the game.



ALAN DIAZ/AP

The Reds' Zack Cozart protests to ump Mike Winters as he attempts to score the tying run in the eighth inning Thursday in Miami. Cozart was safe upon review because Marlins catcher Jeff Mathis was ruled to be blocking the plate.

host Chicago. The right-hander has a 1.73 ERA in his last 11 starts, holding opponents to a .162 batting average.

Blue Jays 6, Astros 5: Nolan Reimold hit two home runs, including a tiebreaking solo shot in the ninth, as visiting Toronto rallied for a victory.

Diamondbacks 7, Pirates 4: Andy Marte hit a two-run home run and Aaron Hill added a solo shot in the sixth inning to power host Arizona.

Royals 6, Twins 3: Alcides Escobar hit a two-run triple and Yordano Ventura pitched seven effective innings for host Kansas City.

Mariners 6, Indians 5: Mike Zunino's two-run homer in the eighth inning lifted visiting Seattle.

MLB

Potent: Staff provides Tigers with best shot at World Series

FROM BACK PAGE

anyway, giving Detroit a collection of stars on the mound that could be tough to match in any postseason series.

"The question that we asked ourselves is: What gives us the best chance of winning the world championship this year?" Dombrowski said. "We thought adding him to our rotation at this point would give us the best chance to do that."

The deal came just hours after the Oakland Athletics got an ace of their own, Jon Lester from the Boston Red Sox.

Price joins Max Scherzer and Justin Verlander in the Detroit rotation, giving the Tigers the last three American League Cy Young winners.

The Tigers are the first team with three pitchers on the staff who have all won Cy Young Awards over the previous three seasons, according to STATS.

"Today it's great, it's nice, it's fine. I love to have David Price," Dombrowski said. "If we win, then I'll be very satisfied."

Jackson was removed from the Tigers' game against the Chicago White Sox with one out in the top of the seventh inning. As he jogged in from center field, he got a nice hand from the home fans, many of whom no doubt understood the significance of the substitution moments before the trade deadline.

Price's departure became a clear possibility when the Rays fell way behind in the AL East race earlier this season. Tampa Bay has played much better over the last month and entered Thursday only 3½ games behind a wild card — but the Rays decided to deal their ace anyway.

"Compared to the other possibilities, it was by far the most prudent thing that we could do for the best interests of the franchise," said Andrew Friedman, Tampa Bay's vice president of baseball operations. "If you look ahead to next year, it would have been really challenging to be as good as we want to be within our situation, with David taking up that meaningful of a percentage of our payroll. So everything we do is in the vein of how to be competitive in the near term and also the long term."

Tweeted Rays manager Joe Maddon: "No fun losing a David Price. Hate it. But we have to do what is best for our group. Continue to move it forward and that's what we've done."

Tampa Bay signed Price to a \$14 million deal for this season, avoiding arbitration, but he isn't eligible for free agency until after next season. That means Detroit's rotation — which also includes Anibal Sanchez and Rick Porcello — should be impressive in 2015 even if Scherzer leaves via free agency this offseason.

The Tigers are without a World Series championship since 1984. Last season's team lost to Boston in the AL championship series.

Detroit had to give up quite a bit to get Price. Smyly actually started Thursday's game and pitched five innings. The 25-year-old left-hander is 6-9 with a 3.93 ERA this season.

Jackson is hitting .273 and has been Detroit's regular center fielder throughout this run of division titles.

The 23-year-old Franklin hit .294 in 75 games this season with Triple-A Tacoma. He appeared in 17 games with the Mariners, hitting .128.



JAC C. HONG/AP

Outfielder Matt Kemp stayed put despite rumors that the Dodgers might move him to make room in their crowded outfield.

No big moves for Dodgers

NL West leaders prefer to stand pat

BY BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The NL West-leading Dodgers stood pat at Thursday's trade deadline, making no major moves as they try to stretch their lead in the division race.

Their only new addition was infielder Darwin Barney, acquired from the Cubs on Monday.

That doesn't mean the Dodgers won't be active in August, when they have a history of making deals.

But for now general manager Ned Colletti said the team can win with its current roster.

"Had we done something of major consequence it doesn't guarantee you're going to win," he said.

Colletti said the Dodgers had a small list of players they were interested in, but other teams wanted top-level prospects Joe Pederson, Corey Seager and Julio Urias that Los Angeles wasn't willing to trade.

"This franchise's greatest years were really built around people who came up in the system," Colletti said.

The Dodgers talked to Boston, who sent pitcher Jon Lester to the Oakland Athletics, but the Red Sox's demands were too high, Colletti said.

Right fielder Matt Kemp stayed put after his name had been bandied about,

and his mood appeared lighter after the trade deadline had passed. He's been part of a crowded outfield, but has stood out since the All-Star break. Kemp came into Thursday night's game leading the NL with a .436 batting average and .744 slugging percentage.

"We're good," he said. "I'm playing." Kemp had two major surgeries last year, and has been working to regain his stroke and speed.

"We need Matt Kemp to help our club," Colletti said. "Right-handed power is tough to find. He was willing to make adjustments with his stance, and I felt it was worth giving him a chance."

Starters Josh Beckett and Dan Haren were mentioned in trade speculation because of their recent struggles, but didn't go anywhere.

"Our starting pitching, no matter how you hold it up to the light, it's a real good staff," Colletti said.

One of the biggest trades Colletti has pulled off since taking over in 2006 occurred in August. He acquired Beckett, Carl Crawford, Adrian Gonzalez and Nick Punto from Boston two years ago. All but Punto are still with the team.

Some of his other August acquisitions included Greg Maddux in 2008, Jon Garland in 2009 and Michael Young last year.

"We may know more than as to what we need," Colletti said about the new month.



HARRY E. WALKER/MCT

Starter Josh Beckett, acquired from Boston two years ago, was mentioned as possible trade bait because of his recent struggles, but the Dodgers decided to keep him on their pitching staff.

MLB

TRADE DEADLINE ROUNDUP

David Price, Jon Lester and John Lackey were among the big names changing teams in a flurry of deals on baseball's trade deadline day Thursday.

With all but a few teams still in genuine contention for the playoffs in what is a remarkably even season, many made upgrades to their roster. World Series champion Boston, mired in last place in its division, was the most busy. The Red Sox sent Lester and outfielder Johnny Gomes to Oakland in exchange for slugger Yoenis Cespedes, traded Lackey to St. Louis, dealt shortstop Stephen Drew to the New York Yankees and moved pitcher Andrew Miller to Baltimore.

Miami, often sellers as deadline day approaches, became buyers when they acquired pitcher Jared Cosart from Houston in a six-player trade.

Teams can still make trades through Aug. 31 to have players eligible for the postseason, but it becomes tricky. Now a player must first clear waivers, meaning every club in the majors has a chance to claim him before he can be traded.

AL EAST

Baltimore Orioles

Entering Thursday: 1st place.
Their moves: Fortified their bullpen, obtaining left-handed reliever Andrew Miller (2.34 ERA in 50 appearances) from the Boston Red Sox for minor league left-hander Eduardo Rodriguez. Miller provides the Orioles another solid arm among a crop of relievers that has flourished this season, led by Darren O'Day (3-1, 1.10 ERA) and lefty Zach Britton (3-2, 1.65 ERA, 21 saves).
 "With the two really talented left-handed relievers at the end of the game, along with Darren O'Day, it gives us a very, very formidable backend of the bullpen," Orioles vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette said.

Toronto Blue Jays

Thursday: 2nd, 2½ game back; 2nd in wild-card standings.
Their moves: None.

New York Yankees

Thursday: 3rd, 5½ back; 5th in wild-card standings.
Their moves: Acquired infielder Stephen Drew and infielder-outfielder Martin Prado in deals meant to help boost a foundering offense for a playoff run. Drew (1.76, 4 HR, 11 RBIs in 39 games) was acquired from the Red Sox with \$500,000 for 3B Kelly Johnson, and Prado (.270, 5 HR, 42 RBIs) came from the Arizona Diamondbacks for minor league slugger Pete O'Brien and cash or a player to be named.
 Yankees GM Brian Cashman said Drew would start at second base, a position he's never played at the major league level. Struggling 2B Brian Roberts will be designated for assignment to make room for Drew. The acquisitions come about a week after New York dealt for 3B Chase Headley. The Yankees also obtained pitchers Brandon McCarthy and Chris Capuano in the past few weeks.

AL CENTRAL

Detroit Tigers

Thursday: 1st place
Their moves: The Tigers added another Cy Young Award winner to their star-studded rotation, acquiring Price from Tampa Bay in a three-team deal. The Rays received left-hander Drew Smyly and minor league infielder Willy Adames from the Tigers. Tampa Bay also got infielder Nick Franklin from Seattle, with Detroit outfielder Austin Jackson going to the Mariners.
 (See story on Back page.)

Kansas City Royals

Thursday: 2nd, 5 back; 4th in wild-card standings.
Their moves: None.

Cleveland Indians

Thursday: 3rd, 6½ back; 6th in wild-card standings.
Their moves: Sent SS Asdrubal Cabrera to the Washington Nationals for infielder Zach Walters. Walters, 24, batted .205 with three homers and five RBIs in 32 games for the Nationals this season. He replaced Nick A. Columbus. Walters has primarily played shortstop, but also can play second and third.

AL WEST

Oakland Athletics

Thursday: 1st place.
Their moves: Determined to take the next step after losing in each of the past two Octobers in five-game division series to Detroit, the small-budget A's won the Lester sweepstakes.
 "Once again, players like this really don't come along too often," A's GM Billy Beane said. "When you get a guy who's a legitimate No. 1 starter in the middle of the season and we currently sit in first place, we're excited. ... There's no looking ahead. The way the playoff system is now, you want to win the division."

Oakland, with the best record in baseball at 66-41, also received cash from Boston. The Red Sox also receive a draft pick. Lester, 30, is 10-7 with a career-best 2.52 ERA in 21 starts, but the Sox put him on the trading block because he can become a free agent after the season. In nine major league seasons, Lester is 110-63 with a 3.64 ERA. He's also 3-0 in two World Series. Beane believes in starting pitching depth, and the A's sure have it. Lester joins Gray (12-3), Scott Kazmir (12-3) and recently acquired Jeff Samardzija and Jason Hammel, obtained in a July 4 trade with the Chicago Cubs.

Gomes, a fan favorite who grew up in nearby Petaluma, Calif., was invaluable during the A's run to the AL West title in 2012. He is hitting .234 with six homers and 32 RBIs in 78 games. Cespedes, 28, won the past two Home Run Derby titles at the All-Star Game. The Cuban left fielder is in the third season of a \$36 million, four-year contract he signed before spring training 2012. Cespedes is batting .256 with 17 homers and 67 RBIs. Oakland sent lefty Tommy Milone to the Twins for OF Sam Fuld, who will help fill a void in center field with Coco Crisp and Craig Gentry sidelined.

Los Angeles Angels

Thursday: 2nd, 2½ back; 1st in wild-card standings.

Their moves: None.
 The Angels appeared OK with the prospect of playing a pat hand.
 "We're very happy with the way our pitching staff lines up," GM Jerry Dipoto said. "Our bullpen is deeper and much improved over the last month-and-a-half. Our starting rotation has been steady throughout."
 The Angels tweaked the roster with trades in late June and early July that added relievers Joe Thatcher, Huston Street and Jason Grilli.

NL WEST

Los Angeles Dodgers

Thursday: 1st place.
Their moves: None.
 Although the Dodgers passed on making a move Thursday, they have a history of striking deals in August. GM Ned Colletti said the club had a small list of players they were interested in, but those names wanted top-level prospects Joe Pederson, Corey Seager and Julio Urias that Los Angeles wasn't willing to trade.
 "This franchise's greatest years were really built around people who came up in the system," Colletti said.
 The Dodgers talked to Boston about Lester, but the Red Sox's demands were too high, Colletti said.

San Francisco Giants

Thursday: 2nd, 3 back; 1st in wild-card standings.
Their moves: None.
 The Giants stood pat, although they bolstered their rotation for the stretch run by acquiring right-hander Jake Peavy from the Red Sox last weekend for a pair of minor league pitchers.

NL EAST

Washington Nationals

Thursday: 1st place.
Their moves: With Ryan Zimmerman sidelined indefinitely (strained right hamstring), they moved to bolster their infield by acquiring two-time All-Star Asdrubal Cabrera and cash from the Cleveland Indians for SS Zach Walters. Cabrera, 28, has spent most of his career at SS but has played 162 games at 2B, most recently in '09. Of injured, the switch-hitter has a career .270 average with 82 home runs and a .331 on-base percentage in eight seasons. He is batting .246 with 33 extra-base hits this season.
 "He's battle-tested," Nationals GM Mike Rizzo said of Cabrera. "He's been in the playoffs before. He's been through pennant races. He's a terrific two-way player. He's a great defensive middle infielder."

Atlanta Braves

Thursday: 2nd, 1½ back; 3rd in wild-card standings.
Their moves: Bolstered their bench and bullpen, acquiring utilityman Emilio Bonifacio and left-hander James Russell in a trade with the Chicago Cubs. The Braves also got cash back from the Cubs in exchange for catching prospect Victor Caratini.
 "These are two pieces that we really like," Atlanta GM Frank Wren said. "In Bonifacio, we got a really versatile bench player who can do a lot of things well. In Russell's case, it's another veteran bullpen arm."
 Bonifacio, 29, hit .279 with 14 steals in 69 games for the Cubs. He played for Atlanta manager Fredi Gonzalez when they were with the Marlins. Russell, 28, is 0-2 with one save and a 3.51 ERA in 44 games.

Miami Marlins

Thursday: 3rd, 6 back; 6th in wild-card standings.
Their moves: In addition to Cosart, Miami acquired INF-OF Kike Hernandez and OF Austin Watts for 3B Colin Moran, OF Jake Marisnick, right-hander Francis Martes and a 2015 compensatory draft pick.
 "Jarrod Cosart will help us win more games and be a better ballclub, and hopefully that winds up with a playoff spot," Marlins president of baseball operations Mike Hill said.
 Cosart, 24, is 9-7 with a 4.41 ERA in 20 starts this year.

NL CENTRAL

Milwaukee Brewers

Thursday: 1st place.
Their moves: Acquired two-time Glove OF Gerardo Parra from the Arizona Diamondbacks for minor league OF Mitch Haniger and left-hander Anthony Banda. Parra was hitting .259, about 25 points lower than his career average, with six homers and 30 RBIs. The Brewers could use him in a platoon with righty bat Kris Davis, who is hitting just .232 against right-handers.

Pittsburgh Pirates

Thursday: 2nd, 2 back; 4th in wild-card standings.
Their moves: None.
 "We looked at various points to add to this club ... but in the final decision process we felt that our best move was to stay as we were at this point," GM Neal Huntington said.

St. Louis Cardinals

Thursday: 3rd, 2½ back; 2nd in wild-card standings.
Their moves: Acquired right-hander Lackey from the Red Sox for right-hander Joe Kelly and OF Allen Craig. The Red Sox also sent cash and minor league left-hander Cory Lictner to St. Louis.
 Lackey, who has had two strong seasons since being sidelined for all of 12 after Tommy John surgery, is 11-7 with a 3.60 ERA. The Cards got Justin Masterson from the Indians on Wednesday.
 "When you look at adding a top of the rotation starter with Lackey, getting somebody like Masterson, who has a history of eating innings, when you look at our rotation prior to this deal, sometimes our third, fourth and fifth starters were having trouble going deep in games, putting a lot of pressure on our bullpen. I think this will help alleviate some of that," GM John Mozeliak said.

Cincinnati Reds

Thursday: 4th, 6 back; 5th in wild-card standings.
Their moves: None.



Jon Lester
 CHRIS O'NEARA/AP

SPORTS



First poll released
 Defending national champs
 are No. 1 | **College football, Page 27**

MLB

Rich get richer

According to STATS, the Tigers are the first team in history to have the past three Cy Young Award winners on their pitching staff at the same time. David Price, right, the 2012 winner, joins Max Scherzer, top, (2013) and Dustin Verlander, bottom (2011).



Tigers acquire Price

Rays' Cy Young winner joins potent staff

By NOAH TRISTER
The Associated Press

DETROIT — When David Price was finally traded, it was to an unexpected bidder.

The Detroit Tigers added another Cy Young Award winner to their star-studded rotation, acquiring Price from Tampa Bay in a blockbuster deal Thursday. The Rays received left-hander Drew Smyly and minor league infielder Willy Adames from the Tigers. Tampa Bay also got infielder Nick Franklin from Seattle, with Detroit outfielder Austin Jackson going to the Mariners.

Inside:

- Who wound up where, Page 31
- Dodgers stay the same, Page 30
- Kershaw streak hits 10, Page 29

The AL Central-leading Tigers are trying for their fourth consecutive division title, and their starting rotation was already a strength. General manager Dave Dombrowski decided to trade for Price

SEE POTENT ON PAGE 30

CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Ives takes over as crew chief for Earnhardt Jr.

Auto racing, Page 26

Ravens' Rice calls actions 'totally inexcusable'

Sports briefs, Page 25