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STARS AND STRIPES®

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MIDEAST EDITION

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stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Disabled vets conquer injuries at 13,700 feet

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ANGEL CANALES/ABC News

Army veteran and above-knee amputee Tommy Carroll ascends Grand Teton in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park. The climb was organized by Paradox Sports, which leads a variety of expeditions with the intention of empowering disabled veterans to help them reintegrate into civilian life. Carroll has been climbing with Paradox for eight years.

Officials say Fort Polk's water is safe, experts say otherwise

BY CHRIS CARROLL
AND JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Despite reassurances from officials at Fort Polk, La., that the water is safe, a number of toxicology and health experts say residents could be at risk from lead exposure.

Tests have shown concentrations in residential tap water that ranged up to 36 parts per billion, more than twice the "action level" for lead set by the En-

vironmental Protection Agency that triggers further investigation and possible remediation.

The EPA's acceptable level for lead, a neurotoxin that causes worsening effects as it accumulates in the body and can disrupt development in young children, is 0 ppb in water.

Testing also showed elevated levels of copper, less concerning but still capable of kidney and liver damage if consumed in large doses.

SEE POLK ON PAGE 4



Stars and Stripes

Water from a Fort Polk, La., home is shown in an April photo sent by a resident who asked to remain anonymous.

Israel batters Gaza as it searches for soldier

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK
AND ARON HELLER
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel bombed the southern Gaza town of Rafah on Saturday as troops searched for an officer they believe was captured by Hamas in an ambush that shattered a humanitarian cease-fire and set the stage for a major es-

calation of the 26-day-old war. The Israeli military has said it believes the soldier was grabbed in a Hamas ambush about an hour after an internationally brokered cease-fire took effect Friday morning. The Hamas military wing on Saturday tried to distance itself from the soldier's alleged capture, which has prompted widespread international condemnation.

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QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“I don’t see how it serves the interests of the Democratic Party to be supportive of a candidate that has been so blatantly false in his representations of his military record.”

— Rickey Cole, head of Mississippi’s Democratic Party, of false claims by a congressional candidate that he was a member of Special Forces

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Science & Medicine
Study: Women in red stir female rivalries



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MIDEAST

General: Taliban magnifies successes

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Reports of the Taliban gaining ground as U.S. troop levels fall and Afghan soldiers take on more fighting duties are more about public relations than battlefield realities, the general set to take over command of the NATO combat mission in Afghanistan suggested.

Gen. John F. Campbell, who spoke to reporters at the Pentagon on Friday, said insurgents are talking a better game than they’re fighting and receiving credit for victories they’re not winning. Campbell is wrapping up a term as Army vice chief of staff and is scheduled to arrive in Afghanistan late next month.

The Taliban have reportedly surged out of strongholds in remote areas of the south and taken over strategic territory around Kabul as well as elsewhere in the

country. Campbell said many of the claims were based on propaganda by the insurgents trying to intimidate the Afghan public into supporting them.

“A lot of what you’re getting on how bad it may have been down in the south, or this attack there, or some of the things in the east, is we have kind of lost the information war here,” he said. “(T)he Taliban are trying to go

do what they couldn’t do for the elections with these spectacular attacks.”

Campbell, who has been tapped as the final commander of the NATO combat mission, which

ends this year, acknowledged the Taliban are making Afghanistan pay a heavy price.

“It’s not much ado about nothing,” he said. “There is very much some concern because of the numbers of civilians that have been attacked and killed is much higher.”

But, he said, there’s a fundamental difference between the war now and when he last commanded troops in Afghanistan in 2011. Then, he said, the Taliban could take and hold positions, while now, the improved Afghan security forces are usually able to retake lost ground quickly.

Campbell will also likely oversee the planned post-2014 advisory mission to support the Afghan military, which would include 9,800 U.S. advisers and an additional 3,000 to 4,000 NATO troops. About 22,000 U.S. troops are currently stationed in Afghanistan, he said.

A bilateral security agreement between the two countries authorizing the mission remains unsigned while the results of the recent presidential election are hashed out. Campbell said the existing status of forces agreement could allow the U.S. contingent to remain if President Barack Obama approves that course. Allied NATO troops, however, would have to withdraw because the SOFA that covers them expires Dec. 31.

Asked what part of his upcoming assignment makes him lose sleep at night, Campbell said it was balancing the demands of the advisory mission with the imperative of force protection as U.S. troop numbers drop toward zero by the end of 2016, a time frame specified earlier this year by Obama.

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Campbell

Poll: Most Americans view 2 wars as failures

By DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three in four Americans think history will judge the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as failures, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll that shows that about the same percentage think it was right to pull forces from the two countries.

Americans surveyed in last month’s poll were not optimistic about the chance that a stable democratic government will be established in either country. Seventy-eight percent said it was either not too likely or not at all likely in Afghanistan and 80 percent said the same about Iraq.

Roughly three out of four Americans polled think that in hindsight, each war will be deemed as an outright “complete failure” or “more of a failure than success.”

A majority of those polled, or 70 percent, said the United States was right to withdraw American troops from Iraq in 2011 and pull most U.S. forces out of Afghanistan by December. The two conflicts have consumed the nation for more than a decade and claimed the lives of 6,800 U.S. troops.

Nelson Philip, 73, of Oswego, Ill., is of two minds. He judges the Afghan War a failure, but wants U.S. troops to stay in countries that remain in turmoil.

“What’s so successful about it? We didn’t do anything there. The Taliban. They’re still there. We haven’t done anything, and now we’re pulling everybody out of there,” Philip said. “And now this Islamic group is over there taking over Iraq.”

The situations in Afghanistan and Iraq are distinct. But in each, the U.S. has spent more than a decade trying to set up democratic governments that could effectively police their own territories and stamp out threats to the American homeland. And in both countries, that objective is in peril — their futures threatened by a combination of poor leadership, weak institutions, interethnic rivalry, insurgencies and extremist rebellions.

Americans surveyed in the poll think more bad news is on the horizon.

Fifty percent — up 18 points in the past seven months — think the situation in Afghanistan will get worse. Fifty-eight percent — up from 16 percent in December

75
The percentage of Americans who think history will judge the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as failures, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll. Seventy-eight percent were not optimistic about the chance that a stable democratic government will be established in Afghanistan. Eighty percent felt the same about Iraq.

2009 — expect conditions in Iraq will worsen. The poll was conducted shortly after Sunni extremists conducted an offensive that shattered security in Iraq.

The rapid advance by the extremist Islamic State group, which captured Iraq’s second-largest city, Mosul, and overran much of northern and western Iraq, has plunged the country into its worst crisis since the withdrawal of U.S. troops at the end of 2011.

Melody Fisher, 58, a midwife from Prescott, Ariz., was among the roughly 25 percent who didn’t think it was time yet for American troops to return from Afghani-

stan, where about 2,340 U.S. servicemen and women have been killed. She said she wasn’t convinced that the U.S. had finished its work there.

“I used to work with refugees, so I’m very aware of the conditions that people have to live in,” said Fisher, who spent time helping resettle Cambodian refugees. “Our country, our nation, has no idea about the day-to-day things that people have to go through in many places.”

Older Americans are more likely to think the U.S. war in Afghanistan will be judged a failure in the future; 86 percent of those 50 or older feel that way, compared with 64 percent among those under age 50.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted July 24-28 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.

DODD'S SPORTS

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY ANGEL CANALES/ABC NEWS

Climbers with the disabled veterans group reach the midway point to the Lower Saddle Hut on their ascent of Grand Teton Peak in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

Disabled vets overcome obstacles en route to Grand Teton summit

By ANGEL CANALES
ABC News

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. — Veterans often struggle to reintegrate into civilian life. Finding the special bonds, friendships and camaraderie they once experienced in the military can be difficult. They share similar stories — some of them are disabled, some were injured in combat, others diagnosed with illnesses — but their desire and courage to overcome their obstacles is extraordinary.

That's the story of a group of disabled veterans who conquered a two-day rock climb in one of the most breathtaking places in America, Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. The climb to the Grand Teton peak was organized by Paradox Sports, an adaptive-focus organization that provides backpacking, mountaineering, river rafting and rock climbing trips with the intention of empowering disabled veterans to help them reintegrate into civilian life.

"On these trips we have people talk. Being vulnerable, saying, 'I need help,' saying, 'I don't know how to do this,' and by expressing your vulnerability it encourages courage," said Timmy O'Neill, who cofounded the Boulder, Colo., nonprofit organization in 2007 with DJ Skeleton, an Army captain injured in Iraq.

U.S. Army veteran Nick Colgin, 29, suffered a serious traumatic brain injury in Afghanistan in 2007 after the Humvee he was riding in was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. The former Bravo Company 82nd Airborne Combat Medic and Bronze Star recipient was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

He could barely speak, write and walk, but he started to reach out to nonprofits seeking help. "I did my physical, occupational and speech therapy through the VA, but what really changed my life was organizations like Paradox Sports," he said. "Climbing for the first time with a community of veterans I didn't know really changed my life."

Colgin and other veterans spent a week training and ultimately climbing the 13,770-foot mountain. The main goal, however, was healing, sharing their stories and finding themselves during the journey.

Paradox Sports' mission is to challenge veterans to find their potential and strength and to understand that they can live a productive life regardless of disabilities. It schedules several trips throughout the year for veterans.

For former U.S. Air Force jet mechanic and military training instructor Kurt Volker, 44, this was the second time he attempted to



Above: Michael Abbey, with Exum Mountain Guides, explains how to hook and fit master carns into tight spots with Air Force veteran Elizabeth Christie and Army veteran Tommy Carroll.



Left: Members of the group pose for a photo at the Grand Teton summit.

and slowly regained confidence. "I will get home and realize that I never thought about my fibromyalgia all day and I was living and enjoying my success," she said.

There are risks associated with rock climbing, but nothing this group couldn't handle. "Just regular hiking is exciting, but when you take hiking and you add a giant peak like the Grand Teton and you introduce risk, it becomes much more applicable to the veteran mindset," said O'Neill, who is a professional climber.

ABC News' video editor Arthur Niemynski contributed to this report.



SECOND TOUR

This ABC News series profiles military veterans excelling in the civilian world. Photo gallery and video, plus a profile of Paradox Sports co-founder DJ Skeleton stripes.com/go/secondtour

More stories at abcnews.go.com/US/second_tour

climb Grand Teton. The father of four suffers from Meniere's disease, a disorder of the inner ear that can affect hearing and balance.

"You can get more therapy from simply going on a nature walk with a bunch of guys than a year's worth sitting inside a head shrink's office. We talk about what is bothering us. We understand

why it's bothering us," said Volker, who lives in Boise, Idaho.

Elizabeth Christie, 42, suffers from severe fibromyalgia and this is her first time climbing Grand Teton. The former U.S. Air Force weather observer found out about her condition while in service.

Christie started to walk and hike in Yosemite National Park

MILITARY

Polk: Expert says lead levels in water 'not safe, not by any stretch'

FROM FRONT PAGE

In all, 20 percent of houses randomly selected last summer for heavy metals monitoring had unacceptable lead levels, forcing the installation and the private company that manages the water system to implement a more stringent testing regime.

In the most recent testing early this year, less than 10 percent of monitored homes, 3 out of 40, had problematic lead levels. As a result, although it's unclear why lead levels apparently dropped, no further testing for lead and copper is required until 2016, officials say. There are plans in the works for late this year to add a chemical to the water system to stop lead from leaching into pipes, but the proposal is being reviewed by Louisiana state regulators.

Lead levels observed in Fort Polk water are too low to cause obvious poisoning or acute symptoms, experts said. By contrast, tests in the nation's capital in recent years have shown lead levels more than 100 times higher than the maximum values recorded at Fort Polk.

But residents on the section of Fort Polk where lead was found still should think twice before drinking the tap water, experts said. Recent studies indicate that even low exposures of the sort found in the most recent tests at Fort Polk are subtly damaging—particularly in children—an authority on lead poisoning told Stars and Stripes.

"Even at these low levels, we can see evidence of lead toxicity that might look like conduct disorder, ADHD, or a learning problem," said Dr. Bruce Lanphear, a professor in the health science faculty at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia.

That's not the message residents of Fort Polk have received.

Instead, in community forums and messages from command, residents were told that the water on post posed no health concerns at all.

Fort Polk Directorate of Public Works personnel "emphasize that Fort Polk's water is safe to drink.

If it were not, they'd be shut down immediately by EPA and Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals," according to a summary of a town hall meeting last December posted on Facebook by the Fort Polk Guardian, a command-directed newspaper.

The article also repeated claims by the private water system operator that the water was safe to drink in tests for lead and copper on post was "NOT a contaminated or unsafe level."

And in an email to Stars and Stripes, a Fort Polk spokeswoman wrote: "It is the Fort Polk command's position that the water in housing is safe to drink."

The rigorous testing conducted here and our communications to the community about that testing are designed to leave no doubt as to the safety of the water."

The issue arose in July 2013 after state-mandated random tests of 20 residences in the North Fort Polk housing area, where over 3,500 troops and family members



Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

A bottle containing discolored tap water, left, stands next to prepackaged bottled water in April at the Fort Polk, La., home of a resident who asked to remain anonymous. Fort Polk officials have maintained that the water is safe to drink, despite the fact that high levels of lead and copper have been found in some of the homes on post.

‘Even at these low levels, we can see evidence of lead toxicity that might look like conduct disorder, ADHD, or a learning problem.’

Dr. Bruce Lanphear

professor in the health science faculty at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia

are served by a self-contained water system. Tests turned up enough lead in tap water at four of the houses that the post and the private operator of the Fort Polk water system, American Water, had to expand the testing.

The July tests were the first time lead had been found in tap water at Fort Polk, post officials say.

Aside from specific concerns about lead and copper, many people who live on the post have complained on social media about the look and smell of the water coming out of their faucets.

A resident provided Stars and Stripes several photos of discolored water coming from taps at home. Another resident said that their clothes have even been stained brown by the water in their washing machine.

Last year, a video was posted on Facebook showing brown water coming out of a shower at

an Army barracks at Fort Polk. Water lines in two barracks were flushed and cleaned after officials saw the footage on social media.

Subsequent tests of 40 houses in October found no houses with lead levels that exceed the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion, and tests in February of this year found only three of the houses surpassed the level. Because less than 10 percent of residences were found to have lead and copper concentrations above the action level, state and federal agencies no longer require an enhanced testing schedule.

Lead problems in the Fort Polk community haven't been confined to post housing. In August 2013, water samples were taken at five Child Development Centers, two youth activity centers, and two elementary schools.

Of the 149 water delivery points tested, 101 were water fountains and 48 were food preparation

bottled water for drinking and cooking.

Avoiding water at or above the action level for lead is a good idea, the Environmental Protection Agency said in an emailed statement to Stars and Stripes.

"Lead can cause a variety of adverse health effects when people are exposed to it at levels above the action level for relatively short periods of time," the agency said. "These effects may include interference with red blood cell chemistry, delays in normal physical and mental development in babies and young children, slight deficits in the attention span, hearing, and learning abilities of children, and slight increases in the blood pressure of some adults."

Although no law requires it, Fort Polk and state health officials should consider implementing a blood-lead monitoring program to ensure water is as safe as claimed by officials, said Deborah Cory-Slechta, professor of environmental medicine and pediatrics at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

"I'm a little astounded by their message, because if you don't know the [blood-lead concentration], I don't know how you can say it's safe," said Cory-Slechta, who sat on a Centers for Disease Control committee that in 2012 declared that very small quantities of lead in children's bodies could cause harm.

The 15 ppb action level was set decades ago, she said. But as science had demonstrated that ever-lower levels of lead have an effect, she said, policies and laws governing lead pollution in water have not kept up.

"We can't seem to find a point, a blood-lead concentration, that's without effect," she said. "And it's also not that clear any more that adults are safe at low levels, either."

Residents shouldn't panic because of lead levels found at Fort Polk, said David Bellinger, a professor of neurology and environmental health at Harvard University and Boston Children's Hospital.

"These levels are not alarmingly high," he said.

But science doesn't support base officials' contention there is no health risk, he said.

"It's hard to make an overall comment like that because for some children who are exposed to lead in paint or other sources, the amount in the water may be enough to put them into a range where there would be demonstrable adverse effects," he said.

Even as they work to rectify the issue, Simon Fraser University's Lanphear said Fort Polk and water company officials should be more careful how they communicate public health issues with residents.

"No, it's not safe, not by any stretch," he said. "If the levels in my home were 15 or 16 parts per billion, I would stop using the tap water until I got a filter or the problem was rectified."

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MILITARY

US Army to force out 550 majors

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About 550 Army majors, including some serving in Afghanistan, will soon be told they have to leave the service by next spring as part of a budget-driven downsizing of the service.

Gen. John Campbell, the vice chief of the Army, acknowledged Friday that telling troops in a war zone that they're out of a job is a difficult task. But he said some of the soldiers could join the National Guard or the Army Reserve.

The decision to cut Army majors comes on the heels of a move to slash nearly 1,200 captains from the ranks. Army leaders were criticized at the time for giving 48 of them the bad news while they were deployed to Afghanistan.

The Army declined to say how many majors will be notified while they are at the battlefield.

The ones that are deployed are certainly the hardest," Campbell told reporters. "What we try to do there is, working through the chain of command, minimize the impact to that unit and then maximize the time to provide to that officer to come back and do the proper transition, to take care of himself or herself and the family."

Campbell said it's difficult to avoid cutting deployed soldiers because of the timing schedules.

All the soldiers being forced to leave have probably already been given a heads up that they were at risk of the job cut and will meet with a senior officer, according to the Army.

Those who are cut have nine months to leave the Army. And the soldiers who are deployed, including those in Afghanistan, will generally have about a month to move out of that job and go home to begin to transition out of the service.

The cuts have been difficult for many young officers, particularly captains, who tend not to have enough years in service to retire.

To make the cuts, the Army looked at about 8,500 majors who joined the service between 1999 and 2003. Some may have about 15 years of service, depending on all factors that go into credit for years of service, and might be able to retire, but many won't have enough time in the job, Campbell said.

Guard and reserve leaders are looking for officers, especially captains, so there could be opportunities for the soldiers to continue to serve, he said.



JIM HUDELSON, THE SHREVEPORT (LA.) TIMES/AP

First female bomb wing commander

Col. Kristin Goodwin, who took charge of the Barksdale Air Force Base, La., 2nd Bomb Wing, smiles after unveiling her name on the wing's flagship B-52, the "Spirit of Bossier and Shreveport," during the change-of-command ceremony at the base on Friday. Goodwin is the nation's first female bomb wing commander.

Congress expands visas for Afghan interpreters

By THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In a rare show of bipartisanship, the Senate on Friday passed legislation that will grant an additional 1,000 visas to Afghan interpreters who have worked for the U.S. military and are seeking a chance to come to the United States.

The measure was passed on a voice vote following passage of similar legislation in the House last week.

"Passage of this legislation en-

ables us to continue visa issuances for these deserving individuals who faithfully served with us," Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement.

As the war in Afghanistan comes to a close, an increasing number of interpreters have applied to come to the United States, in some cases out of fear of Taliban reprisal for their work with U.S.-led forces.

With the Special Immigrant Visa program set to end in September, the new legislation expands the number of visas available to 4,000 for fiscal year 2014. As of

July, there were about 6,000 applicants in the midst of the process, with about 300 whose cases were close to completion.

"The Senate's quick approval of additional visas for Afghan translators is a testament to bipartisanship, hard work, and a commitment to keeping our promises to our allies," Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., a former Air Force pilot who served in Afghanistan, said in a statement.

The State Department's issuing of visas slowed to a trickle in the fall of 2012, when it awarded

just 32 visas for more than 5,700 applicants. Last year, Secretary of State John Kerry ordered a review of the visa program, and in recent months interpreters have faced shorter wait times and a surge in available visas.

While advocates welcomed the expansion of the visa program, Kerry and other lawmakers hope to extend it through 2015 to help additional interpreters.

"More than 11,000 Afghans and their family members have benefited from SIV programs, and we are eager to welcome many more," Kerry said.

Candidate advised to withdraw over Green Beret claim

The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The head of Mississippi's Democratic Party said he has advised the party's nominee to pull out of the 1st District congressional race because of exaggeration of his military service — calling himself a "Green Beret veteran of Desert Storm" when he was a food service worker at Fort Bragg during the 1991 campaign in Iraq — has cost him support.

Rickey Cole said he told Ron Dickey on Tuesday that it would be in his best interest to withdraw. The Clarion-Ledger reported Friday.

"I don't see how he can sustain his family and be the full-time candidate he needs to be to be able to change the discussion back to where he wanted it on veterans' issues and mental health issues and not these others that have emerged because of his embellishments,"

Cole said.

Dickey said he's staying in the race against incumbent Republican Alan Nunnelee and two other candidates.

"Prior to all of these issues happening, I took quite a bit of time to think about running for the office. ... I haven't done anything illegal to keep me from continuing to run," he said.

Dickey was a food service worker for the 3rd Special Forces Group when workers such as cooks and mechanics could wear the beret of the unit they supported. It was during Desert Storm, he has written on a Facebook page that he opened July 24, acknowledging that he did not go through the Army's Special Forces qualification course.

Dickey came under fire from the Special Forces community after a post on guardianofvalor.com profiled him and his earlier statements. He has since removed

the Facebook page where the phrase was used.

"I don't see how it serves the interests of the Democratic Party to be supportive of a candidate that has been so blatantly false in his representations of his military record," Cole said.

Dickey has said that his claims on the Internet, in news articles and on social media of being a Green Beret were generalized be-

cause most civilians wouldn't understand the difference between support personnel and those who have passed Special Forces qualifying courses.

"I do apologize if I offended anyone, but to be crystal clear, the only problem with my bio is how it came out, not only to the constituents in Mississippi but also to the Special Forces community," Dickey said.

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NATION

Obama planning measure to let immigrants stay

By DAVID NAKAMURA
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is preparing to announce new measures that would potentially allow millions of illegal immigrants to remain in the United States without fear of deportation, a politically explosive decision that could jolt Washington just weeks before the midterm elections, according to people who have been in touch with the White House.

Administration officials have told aides in private meetings that both the current surge of Central American children crossing the border and Congress' failure this year to pass a broader immigration overhaul have propelled the president toward taking action on his own by summer's end.

Obama aides have discussed a range of options that could provide legal protections and work permits to a significant portion of the nation's more than 11 million undocumented residents, said Democratic lawmakers and immigrant advocates who have met recently with White House officials. Ideas under consideration could include temporary relief for law-abiding undocumented immigrants who are closely related to U.S. citizens or those who have lived in the country a certain number of years — a population that advocates say could reach as high as 5 million.

Some Senate Democrats running for re-election in traditionally conservative states, such as

Arkansas and Louisiana, have expressed misgivings about Obama going too far on his immigration order, fearing it will not play well among voters in their states.

But supporters of executive action said the president has little to lose by embracing a broad legalization program that could become a signature achievement in a second term defined by legislative gridlock on Capitol Hill.

Though politically charged, such a move would allow Obama to present a sharp contrast with Republicans — who have remained staunchly opposed to loosening immigration enforcement — and cement Hispanic support for the Democratic Party for years to come, supporters said.

Obama appeared to relish the differences between the two parties Friday as the Republican-led House later that day passed a largely symbolic border crisis funding bill with provisions to end his 2012 program that deferred deportations of many immigrants who had been brought to the country illegally as children. The action was popular with Hispanic voters and was seen as a key factor in Obama's ability to win 70 percent of that crucial electorate in his re-election.

Calling the House measure "extreme and unworkable," Obama signaled in a news conference that he believes Congress has opened the door for him to act.

"House Republicans suggested that since they don't expect to pass a bill I can sign, that I should go ahead and act on my own to solve the problem," Obama said.



Guatemala's President Otto Perez Molina listens as President Barack Obama speaks after Molina and other Central American leaders met to discuss immigration Friday at the White House in Washington.

The anticipation that Obama is preparing to sign off on a major expansion of the 2012 relief program — which has delayed deportations of more than 550,000 younger immigrants — has prompted Republicans to begin framing such a move as more evidence of an imperial White House intent on circumventing Congress.

White House officials emphasized that Obama has not made a final decision, noting that aides are still working on a formal menu of options for him on potential policy changes. But the president's general counsel, chief domestic policy adviser and Homeland Security secretary have been closely involved with the internal deliberations, as the administration maps out the implications of the president's next move.

During a series of private meetings at the White House, Obama's advisers have peppered immigration lawyers and advocates

with questions in an attempt to define a broader population of immigrants that might be eligible for a similar kind of relief that was granted to the young immigrants in 2012, a program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

The discussions, according to those involved, have included a focus on the estimated 4 million to 5 million illegal immigrants whose children are either U.S. citizens or current beneficiaries of the 2012 deferred action program. Another area of focus was on how long an immigrant must live in the United States to establish deep ties.

"They didn't say no to the things we were raising," said Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, who attended one of the meetings last week. "The conversation was about the need for the program to be as bold as possible."

House OKs GOP border crisis bill

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans passed legislation late Friday to address the crisis on the U.S.-Mexico border by sending migrant youths back home without hearings, winning over conservatives with a companion bill that could lead to deporting more than half a million immigrants whom the Obama administration granted temporary work permits. President Barack Obama condemned the Republican action and said he'd act unilaterally, as best he could.

A day after GOP leaders pulled the border bill from the floor in a chaotic retreat, tea party lawmakers were enthusiastically on board with the new \$694 million version and a companion measure that would shut off a program created by Obama granting work permits to immigrants brought here illegally as kids. The second bill also seemed designed to prevent the more than 700,000 people who've already gotten work permits under the program from renewing them, ultimately making them subject to deportation.

The moves in the House came days after Senators had already left Washington after killing their own legislation on the border crisis, so there was no prospect of reaching a final deal. But three months before the midterm elections, House Republicans were determined to show that they, at least, could take action to address the crisis.

"It would be irresponsible and unstatesmanlike to head home for the month without passing a bill to address this serious, present crisis on the border," said Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Ky., chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Veterans, Israel, highways manage to break Hill gridlock

By DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In more than five years in Congress, Republican Rep. John Fleming of Louisiana recalls voting only once for emergency spending that raised the federal deficit.

That was this week, on a bill to improve health care for veterans, as it helps explain the lineup of winners and losers in the hours before Congress began a five-week break from the Capitol.

Veterans, Israelis and governors and local officials who want their highway money — all groups with demonstrated political clout — were able to break through Congress' customary gridlock. On the other side of the ledger, a proposal to spend more money fighting forest fires in the West and raise the deficit in the process did not make the cut in the Senate or even reach the House floor.

"It wasn't a perfect bill, no question about it," Fleming said of the veterans

health care measure in a brief interview just off the House floor. But without a way to change it, he said, "I had to weigh the benefits for the veterans."

Fleming wasn't the only deficit hawk to make that decision.

Rep. Steve King, an Iowa Republican, did, as well. "Forty dead veterans ... that was enough for me," he said, referring to reports of numerous deaths of former servicemembers while waiting for appointments at overwhelmed facilities operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A third Republican, Rep. Tom Rooney of Florida, said he couldn't recall any other deficit-raising bill that has received his vote since he came to Congress in 2009. "It's all part and parcel of going to war," he said, adding that if Congress is willing to raise deficits to finance combat, it should be willing to do the same to care for the troops it sends to carry out the mission.

In that, Rooney sounded surprisingly like Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent, one of the most liberal lawmakers in Congress and one not known as a deficit hawk.

"Planes and tanks and guns are a cost of war," Sanders said as he shepherded the bill through the Senate in his capacity as Veterans Affairs Committee chairman. "So is taking care of the men and women who use those weapons and fight our battles."

The highway measure will avert slowing or shutting down construction projects in all 50 states. Unlike the veterans' bill, all of the road bill's costs are covered, mostly from fees and temporarily higher tax revenues.

More than \$6 billion comes from more taxes that will be paid by companies that will be allowed to temporarily reduce contributions to their pension funds. Higher fees paid to the Customs Service will remain in effect through 2024 rather than 2023 as is now the case, to provide another

\$3.5 billion.

Aid to Israel trumped the deficit in both parties and both houses, although at a far smaller cost than the veterans' measure.

House Republicans originally wanted to wait until September to send more missile defense money to Israel, now in the fourth week of a war against Hamas in Gaza. Democrats and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell had other ideas.

In this case, the trade-off with the deficit was explicit. Republican Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma blocked passage of the bill on Thursday evening because it didn't include offsetting cuts elsewhere in the budget.

"I want to fund Israel. I want to supply them. I also want to make sure our children have a future. It is not hard to find \$225 million out of \$4 trillion," he said, referring to the size of the United States' budget.

Republicans privately outlined accounts that could be trimmed to keep deficits steady, but Democrats rejected the overtures.

NATION

North Korea holds California man called shy, smart

By SCOTT SMITH
AND MATT HAMILTON
The Associated Press

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — One of the three Americans detained in North Korea and charged with “anti-state” crimes is a California man raised in the Central Valley oil town of Bakersfield by parents who were petroleum engineers.

Matthew Todd Miller, 24, told the Associated Press in an interview Friday that he was in good health and treated well. It is unknown how he spoke to on his own or if his comments were coerced.

“I expect soon I will be going to trial for my crime and be sent to prison,” Miller told a local AF Television News crew. “I have been requesting help from the American government, but have received no reply.”

Miller is the youngest of Bill and K.C. Miller’s four sons and is a 2008 graduate of Bakersfield High School. A handwritten note on the front door of his family home in Bakersfield asked for privacy.

Neighbor Carol Stewart said Matthew Miller first traveled to South Korea about four years ago to visit a brother stationed there with the U.S. Air Force. He

found work teaching English and learned Korean, Stewart said in a July 1 interview. She has since declined to comment out of respect for his parents’ wishes.

“He liked it a lot, and he’s been there ever since,” said Stewart, describing Matthew Miller as the shy one of the four brothers.

North Korea authorities say they are preparing to put Miller and Jeffrey Edward Fowle, 56, of Ohio, on trial, but have not yet specified what illegal activity they did or the potential punishment.

A third American, Kenneth Bae, has been held there since November 2012.

The country’s state-run media have said Miller entered the country April 10 with a tourist visa but tore it up at the airport and shouted that he wanted to seek asylum.

“I wouldn’t have expected him to do that,” said Raymond Stewart, Carol Stewart’s husband. “It’s just hard to believe.”

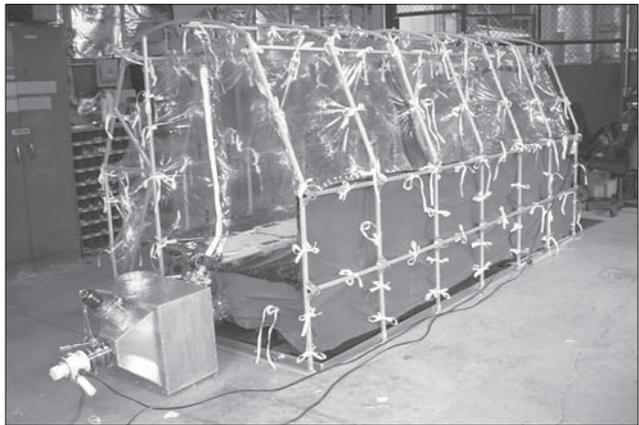
Melissa Morris, 24, who went to high school with Miller, recalled him being “very quiet but extremely intelligent.” She said the two worked on a class project together, which was the last time they interacted.



Miller



Fowle



PROVIDED BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL/AP

An Aeromedical Biological Containment System is shown in an undated photo.

US aid workers heading to Atlanta for Ebola care

By MIKE STOBBE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An American doctor infected with the Ebola virus was the first being flown to the U.S. for treatment and was expected to arrive Saturday in Atlanta, a missionary group said.

Two seriously ill American aid workers will be treated at Atlanta’s Emory University Hospital. Samaritan’s Purse missionary group spokesman Todd Shearer tells The Associated Press that a plane carrying Dr. Kent Brantly had left West Africa. Brantly works for the group that is paying for the trip.

The private jet outfitted with a special, portable tent designed for transporting patients with highly infectious diseases was due to arrive at Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta, Georgia, just outside Atlanta. From there, the doctor will be whisked into one of the most sophisticated hospital isolation units in the country at the hospital about 15 miles away. The second patient will follow a few days later.

It will be the first time anyone infected with the disease is brought into the country. U.S. officials are confident the patients can be treated without putting the public in any danger.

The specialized unit at Emory University Hospital was opened a dozen years ago to care for federal health workers exposed to some of the world’s most dangerous germs.

Now it’s being pressed into service for the two seriously ill Americans who worked at a hospital in Liberia, one of the three West Africa countries hit by the



COURTESY OF JEREMY WRITEBOL/AP

Nancy Writebol stands with children in Liberia in October 2013. Writebol is one of two Americans working for a missionary group in Liberia who have been diagnosed with Ebola.

largest Ebola outbreak in history. The Emory hospital unit is just down a hill from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is one of about four such units around the country for testing and treating people infected with dangerous, infectious germs.

The two Americans — Brantly and Nancy Writebol — worked for U.S. aid groups Samaritan’s Purse and SIM at a Liberian hospital that treated Ebola patients. Late last week, the North Carolina-based Samaritan’s Purse said Brantly, 33, had been diagnosed with Ebola. Then, Writebol’s infection was disclosed.

The government is working to ensure that any Ebola-related evacuations “are carried out safely, thereby protecting the patient and the American public,” State Department spokeswoman Marie

Harf said in a statement Friday. Ebola is considered one of the world’s deadliest diseases. The outbreak in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone has sickened more than 1,300 people and killed more than 700 this year.

The virus is spread through contact with blood, urine, saliva and other bodily fluids from an infected person. It is not spread through the air so it is not as infectious as a germ like the flu.

The Americans will travel on a Gulfstream jet fitted with a collapsible, clear tent built to transfer CDC employees exposed to contagious diseases. The CDC said the private jet can only accommodate one patient at a time.

An Emory emergency medical team in Liberia has evaluated the two aid workers, and deemed both stable enough for the trip to Atlanta, said Emory’s Dr. Bruce Ribner. Hospital spokesman Vincent Dollard said the first patient was scheduled to arrive Saturday.

“If there’s any modern therapy that can be done,” such as better monitoring of fluids, electrolytes and vital signs, workers will be able to do it better in this safe environment, said Dr. Philip Brachman, an Emory University public health specialist who for many years headed the CDC’s disease detectives program.

“That’s all we can do for such a patient. We can make them feel comfortable” and let the body try to beat back the virus, he said.

There’s no specific treatment for Ebola so doctors try to ease the symptoms, which include fever, headache, vomiting and diarrhea. Some cases suffer severe bleeding.

Fires force evacuations in West Coast states

The Associated Press

ALTURAS, Calif. — Wildfires burning through dry terrain in West Coast states have forced scores of evacuations as fire teams worked to corral the blazes.

Lightning sparked dozens of fires in Northern California, including one in rural Modoc County that spurred some 120 people to evacuate, and the threat of more strikes along with winds from looming thunderstorms could aggravate the firefright.

Authorities in Siskiyou County near the Oregon border issued an evacuation notice late Friday.

The most dangerous of the fires was near the community of Day and had burned through nearly 18 square miles of brush and heavy timber and was threatening 150 structures Friday, two days after it began. It was only 10 percent contained.

Officials were expected to send additional fire crews to supplement the 700 or so firefighters battling the blaze, which is burn-

ing in heavy brush and steep terrain amid the thunderstorm threat, said state fire spokesman Dennis Mathisen.

“It’s a challenging firefright due to the extreme fire conditions we’re experiencing,” Mathisen said. The fire was among more than 40 that have broken out as a result of lightning strikes since Wednesday. Most were in remote areas and were not threatening homes, and many of them were quickly contained.

In Washington state, a new wildfire burning intensely amid high winds forced the evacuation of about 200 homes Friday.

Officials ordered the evacuations and closed part of state Highway 20 because of the surging fire that started in north-central Washington halfway between Twisp and Winthrop.

Janet Pearce, a spokeswoman for Washington’s Department of Natural Resources, said some structures had burned. It was not known whether they were homes or other buildings.

NATION



PHOTOS BY DON HELBIG, COURTESY OF KINGS ISLAND/AP

Hair stylists from 26 Great Clips Ohio salons shave the heads of more than 200 people on Friday at Kings Island amusement park in Mason, Ohio, in an attempt to set a new Guinness world record and to raise cancer awareness.

New shaved heads record set?

By LISA CORNWELL
The Associated Press

MASON, Ohio — With wide grins and a few apprehensive looks, more than 200 people lost their hair Friday at an amusement park as they worked to break the Guinness record for most heads shaved simultaneously.

Hair littered the ground at Kings Island as 213 people had their heads shaved at part of the park's Kicks Cancer campaign to raise cancer awareness and money to fund a cure. The current record of 182 heads shaved simultaneously was achieved by a cancer charity in Canberra, Australia, on March 29, Guinness World Records said.

Stylists from Great Clips salons around the state did the shaving at the park north of Cincinnati as males and females of all ages sacrificed their tresses. For some, there were personal motivations as well.

Eric Gagliano and his son, Ben, said they especially wanted to participate because Ben's grandmother is fighting brain cancer. "We just felt this was something



Daquette McClure, top left, shaves the head of Eric Gagliano, while Samantha House, top right, shaves the head of his son, Ben Gagliano, 11.

we needed to do for my mother-in-law, and we also have a good friend who lost a child to brain cancer," said Eric Gagliano, 42, of Beavercreek, near Dayton. "I think everyone knows someone who has been touched by cancer."

Ben, who has never had his head shaved before, said he would probably do it again to help others.

But when his dad jokingly talked of shaving the rest of the stubble from his son's newly shorn head for a completely bald look, Ben's response was a grinning, but emphatic, "No way."

A Guinness spokeswoman said Friday that it will take about six to eight weeks to certify the park's claim.

NYC sees push for charges in police choke hold death

By JAKE PEARSON
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New Yorkers enraged by a man's death in police custody see a medical examiner's ruling that blames a prohibited choke hold as a clear indication that the officers involved should face criminal charges.

"They killed somebody," neighbor Charlene Thomas said after the city's medical examiner deemed Eric Garner's death a homicide. "Why? Because they're cops, they gotta get away with this?"

Garner, 43, was killed by neck compressions from the chokehold and "the compression of his chest and prone positioning during physical restraint by police," city medical examiner spokeswoman Julie Bolcer said Friday.

Ramlee Orta, a friend of Garner's who videotaped his struggle with police, said the medical examiner's ruling wasn't surprising. "I knew that was the cause because I saw it," he said. "Now somebody should get charged."

Asthma, heart disease and obesity were contributing factors in the death of Garner, a 6-foot-3, 350-pound father of six, according to the medical examiner's office.

His videotaped arrest and final pleas of "I can't breathe!" sparked outrage and led to the overhaul of use-of-force training for the na-

tion's largest police department. The confrontation between the white police officer who used the chokehold, Daniel Pantaleo, and Garner, who is black, prompted calls by the Rev. Al Sharpton for a federal civil rights investigation.

Garner's family will join Sharpton on Saturday to address the medical examiner's ruling, a spokeswoman said.

The finding increases the likelihood that the case will be presented to a grand jury to determine whether Pantaleo or any other officers involved in the confrontation will face criminal charges.

Pantaleo's attorney, Stuart London, declined to comment.

Garner's wife, Essay Garner, told the Daily News, "Thank God the truth is finally out."

Mayor Bill de Blasio extended his sympathies to Garner's family in a statement and pledged to continue repairing the relationship between minority communities and the New York Police Department.

"I've said that we would make change, and we will," he said.

Choke holds are prohibited by the NYPD, but partial video of the July 17 confrontation shows an officer placing a chokehold on Garner, who was being arrested on suspicion of selling untaxed, loose cigarettes. Garner then apparently lost consciousness.

Two crashes minutes apart injure 40 in San Francisco

By SUDHIN THANAWALA
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Forty people were injured and more than half of them were hospitalized in two separate San Francisco transit collisions just minutes apart — a bus and a dump truck crashed, then a light-rail train and a tractor-trailer collided across town.

The San Francisco Municipal Railway bus and the dump truck collided at about 1:30 p.m. Friday in the Japantown neighborhood, leaving the bus with a smashed windshield. Twenty people were examined at the scene and a dozen of them went to hospitals, including one with serious injuries, fire spokeswoman Jennifer Balestrieri said. Five had moderate injuries and six had minor injuries. Two of the injured were bus passengers. Municipal Transportation Agency spokesman Paul Rose said. The two drivers weren't hurt.

Less than 10 minutes later, a Muni light-rail train collided with a tractor-trailer in the Bayview neighborhood. The train was de-

railed but its two cars remained upright.

Television reports showed the truck cab and trailer sitting at right angles, with the train squeezed between and its front pushed up against the cab.

Nine people were taken to hospitals with minor and moderate injuries, and 11 others were examined but declined to be taken to a hospital, authorities said.

Investigators told the San Francisco Chronicle that the big rig made an illegal left turn. However, the driver was not immediately cited, Officer Albie Esparza said.

Light-rail passenger Robert Williams said he suffered neck and shoulder pain.

Williams told the Chronicle that the train was full of passengers and had been slowing down as it pulled into a stop.

"The next thing you know, I heard a loud screech and the train came to a sudden stop," Williams said. "It was like an earthquake. Lots of people fell down."

Got a car accident were under investigation.

LA's burst pipe repairs almost complete

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Utility crews were fitting and welding a nearly century-old pipe that burst and made a mucky mess of UCLA with hopes of finishing the fixes and restoring heavily traveled Sunset Boulevard above it on the weekend.

At the site of the broken main that spewed 20 million gallons of water earlier in the week, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power crews cut away 66 feet of the damaged steel pipe Friday. The ruptured section will be sent to DWP corrosion experts for analysis.

The repairs on the pipe that broke open Tuesday were expected to continue through late Friday or early Saturday, with work then beginning to repair a gaping hole in the street.

Earlier Friday, the school announced that the famed Harvard court at Pauley Pavilion will be replaced because of water damage. Athletic Director Dan Guerrero said in a statement that the entire floor at Pauley will be replaced by the end of October, and no regular season basketball games would be affected.

No details were provided on the cost of replacing the floor.

Pauley Pavilion underwent a \$136 million upgrade just two years ago.

New flooring also will be installed at the Hall of Fame at the J.D. Morgan Center and at a court in the John Wooden Center that is used for women's volleyball games, Guerrero said.

Elsewhere on campus, a parade of tow trucks removed about 400 vehicles that were submerged in the deluge, school spokesman Tod Tamberg said. The process could take several days because workers were still pumping out water and digging through muck and debris.

WORLD

Gaza: Hamas says missing soldier killed by Israeli airstrike

FROM FRONT PAGE

President Barack Obama, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon and others have accused Hamas of violating the cease-fire and have called for the soldier's immediate and unconditional release.

At least 35 Palestinians were killed in the bombardment and shelling in and around the city of Rafah early Saturday, said Palestinian health official Ashraf al-Kidra, adding that the area's main hospital was evacuated because of the strikes, which killed dozens of people on Friday.

Elsewhere in Gaza, Palestinian officials reported more than 150 airstrikes, including several against mosques and one against the Hamas-linked Islamic University in Gaza City. Heavy shelling continued along the border area.

The Israeli military said it struck 200 targets over the previous 24 hours. It said it attacked five mosques that concealed weapons and that the Islamic University was being used as a research and weapons manufacturing site for Hamas.

The fiercest battles took place near the site of Friday's attack and purported abduction, near Rafah, about 2 miles inside the strip and close to the borders with Israel and Egypt. Officials have reported that dozens of houses have been damaged or destroyed in airstrikes.

The Hamas military wing said on its website that it is "not aware until this moment of a missing soldier or his whereabouts or the circumstances of his disappearance."

"We believe all members of this group have died in an (Israeli) strike, including the Zionist soldier the enemy says disappeared."

Hamas military wing website post

"We believe all members of this group have died in an (Israeli) strike, including the Zionist soldier the enemy says disappeared," it said.

The Israeli military declined comment on the statement.

It also could be withholding information about the soldier in order to extract concessions from Israel, a strategy used in the past by the Lebanese Hezbollah group, which did not disclose whether two Israeli soldiers it seized in 2006 were alive or dead until their remains were handed over in a prisoner exchange.

The Israeli Cabinet met for an exceptionally long and rare Friday night session to discuss the missing soldier. There was no immediate announcement on a course of action, but an official in the prime minister's office said Israel "expects the United States and the international community to respond strongly to a terror organization that so blatantly defies them."

The official, who spoke anonymously because there was no official Israeli announcement, said "Hamas and other terrorist groups will bear the consequences of their actions."

The disappearance of the soldier, 2nd Lt. Hadar Goldin, and the heavy clashes that followed it ended an internationally brokered cease-fire that was to have been in place for three days and open the way for talks in Cairo on a more sustainable truce. Israel and Hamas have accused each other of violating the humanitarian pause.



Jack Guez/AP

An Israeli army officer gives journalists a tour July 25 of a tunnel at the Israel-Gaza border allegedly used by Palestinian militants for cross-border attacks.

Israel's tunnel vision was limited

By SHANE HARRIS
Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON — Israel launched its bloody offensive in Gaza to stop Hamas from lobbing missiles at major cities like Tel Aviv. The biggest challenge to the vaunted Israeli army, though, is coming from the ground, not the air: a sophisticated network of Hamas tunnels that have surprised Israeli security officials, caused a huge number of military fatalities and struck fear into the hearts of many ordinary Israelis.

Israeli military, intelligence and political officials have known for years that Hamas fighters were burrowing into their country from Gaza through underground tunnels. An Israeli army spokesman said this month that the military had discovered four tunnels just in the past 18 months, well before Israel's current ground offensive began.

But in interviews, current and former Israeli officials said the military and intelligence services didn't realize the extent of Hamas' subterranean operations, nor did political leaders act to counter a threat that has become the central focus of Israel's Gaza campaign and stands as potentially the biggest Israeli intelligence failure in years.

A senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the military has so far discovered far more tunnels — 40 and counting — than Israel had previously thought existed.

The number came as a surprise, as did the sophistication of the tunnel network.

Current and former officials said that Israeli intelligence and political leaders knew that the tunnels were fortified with concrete and had space to store weapons and food. But Israeli intelligence analysts and political leaders didn't comprehend that the tunnels were wide enough to move several Hamas fighters into the country at a time, and they didn't realize how many of the tunnels ended up in Israel, particularly near civilians.

"Of course, we didn't know all the details and how complex was the network below the ground. I don't think we had the full picture," said Giora Eiland, a retired major general in the Israel Defense Forces who served as Israel's national security adviser from 2004 to 2006. "But I would emphasize that we did not fully understand the operational consequences of the use of tunnels by [Hamas]."

Eiland said Israeli intelligence knew the locations of some tunnels, but that analysts didn't understand some key details such as the strength of the concrete used to build the tunnels. That's important for knowing what it would take to destroy the tunnels, understanding how they could be used to store rockets and explosives and knowing whether the tunnels are wide enough to accommodate large numbers of fighters.

All these technical details were crucial for predicting whether Hamas was likely to use the tunnels to launch aggressive strikes inside Israel. Eiland said — which is just what Hamas has done.

Netanyahu tells US to back off on truce

By MATTHEW LEE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Following the quick collapse of the cease-fire in Gaza, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the White House not to force a truce with Palestinian militants on Israel.

Sources familiar with conversations between Netanyahu and senior U.S. officials, including Secretary of State John Kerry, say the Israeli leader advised the Obama administration "not to ever second guess me again" on the matter. The officials also said Netanyahu said he should be "trusted" on the issue and about the unwillingness of Hamas to enter into and follow through on cease-fire talks.

"[The U.S. is] not to ever second-guess me again."

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli prime minister, condemned "outrageous violations of an internationally brokered Gaza cease-fire by Palestinian militants and called the apparent abduction of an Israeli soldier a 'barbaric' action."

The strong reaction came as top Israeli officials questioned the effort to force the truce, accusing the U.S. and the United Nations of being naive in assuming the radical Hamas movement would adhere with its terms. The officials also blamed the Gulf state of Qatar for not forcing the militants to comply.

President Barack Obama called the situation in Gaza a "heartbreaking" and repeated calls for Israel to do more to prevent Palestinian civilian casualties.

Despite the collapse of the truce, Obama credited Kerry for his work with the United Nations to forge one. He lamented criticism and "nitpicking" of Kerry's attempts and said the effort would continue.

An Israeli official said the Netanyahu government viewed both Hamas and Qatar as having violated the commitment given to the U.S. and the U.N. and that it expected the international community to take practical steps as part of a "strong and swift response," especially regarding the return of the abducted soldier.

In a phone call with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro, Netanyahu vented his anger, according to people familiar with the call.

Netanyahu told Shapiro the Obama administration was "not to ever second-guess me again" and that Washington should trust his judgment on how to deal with Hamas, according to the people. Netanyahu added that he now "expected" the U.S. and other countries to fully support Israel's offensive in Gaza, according to those familiar with the call. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter by name.

WORLD

UK general: Crisis in Ukraine holds lessons for NATO

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Russian meddling in Ukraine has shown that NATO needs a more responsive quick-reaction force that could be deployed in the event Moscow made aggressive military threats against a NATO nation, the alliance's No. 2 general said Friday.

"Simply put, if they range several tens of thousands of conventional armed forces alongside the border of a NATO member nation like they've done to Ukraine, in a coercive manner, that member nation needs to know that NATO will put the appropriate defensive pressure on their territory to off-set that pressure for as long as it's required," Sir Adrian Bradshaw, a British army general, said in an Associated Press interview at the Pentagon.

Bradshaw said there is no sign that Russia intends to put military pressure on any NATO country.

"We're not saying they're planning to do it, we're not saying there are any indications that they've got a NATO nation in mind right now," Bradshaw said. "But what we're saying is that against that possibility, we just need to have our forces at the right responsiveness."

NATO already has a designated crisis-response group, known as the NATO Response Force, but Bradshaw said it lacks a "very high readiness" element of combat forces.

He said NATO's military leaders believe such a quicker-reaction force is appropriate, but that creating it would be up to the alliance's political leaders, who meet in Wales in early September to discuss Ukraine and other issues.

Ukraine is not a NATO member but has a partnership arrangement, as does Russia. So the U.S. and other alliance members

would be under no treaty obligation to defend Ukraine if it were invaded by Russia. Still, the U.S. and other countries are keeping a close eye on the capabilities of Russian forces along the Ukrainian border and have repeatedly called on Moscow to move its forces away from the border.

At a news conference Friday, the Pentagon's press secretary, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby, said the U.S. estimates that Russia has more than 10,000 troops along that border. He described them as "very capable, very ready" forces and said they are positioned within 30 miles of the border. Kirby said that puts them closer to Ukrainian territory than when Russia began sending large numbers of troops to the area last spring.

"Just as critically, the Russian government continues to support the separatists in eastern Ukraine," Kirby said. "So, taken as a whole, their activities continue to destabilize the region."

The British general said NATO cannot rule out future surprises from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Mr. Putin, in doing what he's done in Ukraine, he's mounted the tiger of Russian nationalism and his popularity ratings are sky high," Bradshaw said. "That begs the question where he might go, what he might feel he needs to do to shield his popularity in the future start to decline. This is dangerous behavior."

Bradshaw called Russia's intervention in Ukraine, including its annexation of the Crimea region and its support for separatist forces in eastern Ukraine, reminiscent of Europe in the 1930s, when Nazi Germany was on the march.

"This is not the way that we expect international relations to be conducted in Europe in the 21st century, and it represents a change of the security paradigm in Europe, and NATO has to respond," the general said.



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

Australian and Dutch investigators examine pieces of the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 plane on Friday near the village of Hrabove, Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine: Body parts, items retrieved at jet crash site

By MYSYSLAV CHERNOV
AND PETER LEONARD
The Associated Press

HRABOVE, Ukraine — Wearing gloves and carrying blue plastic buckets, international investigators finally began gathering up body parts and victims' belongings Friday in the fields where Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 came down.

Artillery boomed in the distance as the 70-member team of Dutch and Australian experts painstakingly combed a patch of scrubland not far from the site of bloody clashes between Ukrainian soldiers and pro-Russian separatist rebels.

The team's top priority: collecting the remains of as many as 80 victims that have been lying out in the open, baking in the mid-summer heat, for more than two weeks because investigators were prevented by the fighting from reaching the scene.

Pieter-Jaap Aalbersberg, head

of the Dutch recovery mission, said in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev that the experts were able to gather some of the human remains. He would not give details out of respect for the victims' relatives.

The pace set Friday hinted at the magnitude of the task ahead. Aalbersberg said a team of 30 experts spent two hours after lunchtime searching an area of just 30 square yards. The overall area to explore covers more than 8 square miles.

"If we have maximum capacity, we think we need at least three weeks to do a full search, but that's a very thin prospect," he said.

The objects collected included papers and books belonging to some of the 298 people killed aboard the Boeing 777 that was shot down on July 17 with what the West says was a Russian-made missile fired by the rebels.

In a haphazard effort overseen by the rebels, more than 200

bodies were collected by rescue workers and were turned over to Dutch authorities last week for examination and identification.

Everything discovered Friday was first identified and photographed, then put into bags by recovery workers wearing protective gear. The bags then were placed into the blue buckets. Some recovery experts photographed pieces of the plane's fuselage and tail. Rebel fighters guarded the perimeter of the zone and kept their distance from the investigators.

The remains will be put into refrigerated train cars Saturday, taken 190 miles to the city of Kharkiv and then flown to the Netherlands. Nearly 200 of the victims were Dutch.

Several hours before the team arrived at the crash site outside the village of Hrabove, at least 10 Ukrainian soldiers were killed when their convoy was ambushed by rebels in a town 12 miles to the south.

North Korea seeks UN meeting on US-South Korea drills

By EDITH M. LEDERER
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — North Korea said Friday it has asked for an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting to protest upcoming U.S.-South Korean military exercises, warning the drills increase the danger of war on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea's deputy ambassador Ri Tong Il criticized the council for its failure to respond to the country's July 21 letter requesting a meeting. He said the

joint exercises are a threat to international peace and security that must be addressed.

If there is any "spark" during the exercises, Ri warned, "it will easily and immediately turn into war" and the U.S. and the Security Council will be responsible for the deaths.

He said Washington and Seoul are hinting they will push ahead with the mid-August exercises involving between 400,000 and 500,000 U.S. and South Korean forces, despite Pyongyang's opposition.

Ri accused the U.S. of engaging in "nuclear blackmail" by bringing nuclear-armed ships, submarines and bombers to South Korea for military exercises.

He warned that North Korea will respond to any nuclear or missile attack with nuclear weapons or missiles.

North Korea has already "made clear" that its long-range ballistic missiles "are targeted at the U.S. since the U.S. is targeting Pyongyang," Ri said.

Kurtis Cooper, spokesman for the U.S. Mission to the United Na-

tions, said the annual joint military exercises "are transparent, defense-oriented" and have been carried out openly for about 40 years. He said 10 countries will be participating in the exercises, which are planned months in advance and monitored to ensure full compliance with the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

A Security Council diplomat said the council received North Korea's letter but no discussion has taken place because none of the 15 council members has re-

quested it. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because there has been no official council action.

Ri said if the council doesn't discuss the danger from the exercises, it will be abandoning its responsibility for ensuring international peace and security.

He said North Korea will respond to every "annual and routine" military exercise in South Korea, "and it can take the form of all types of options starting from missile launches, nuclear test."

WORLD

Tribesmen force jihadis out of Syrian villages

By BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Tribesmen have risen up against the extremist Islamic State group in eastern Syria, forcing it to withdraw from three villages after heavy clashes that killed more than a dozen people, activists said Saturday.

The violence in eastern Syria came amid tension on the border with Lebanon after an ambush killed dozens of opposition fighters, activists said. The Lebanese army said in a statement that troops also detained Syrian citi-

zen Imad Ahmad Jomaa, who identified himself as a member of Syria's al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front.

A Lebanese army general told The Associated Press that after Jomaa's capture, gunmen deployed in Lebanon's border village of Arsal near army positions. He said the government sent reinforcements to the area. He spoke on condition of anonymity as he wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

Arsal is home to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees, and rebels enjoy wide support among its

population. Syria's civil war has spilled over to Lebanon on several occasions, leaving scores dead.

The tribesmen's rise against the Islamic State group was the first sign of local resistance to the extremists since its fighters captured large parts of the oil-rich eastern province of Deir el-Zour in recent weeks.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Turkey-based activist Mustafa Osso said the group was forced to bring in reinforcements from neighboring Iraq after members of the Shueitat tribe drove jihadi fighters out

of the villages of Kishkiyeh, Abu Hamam and Granji.

The Observatory, a Britain-based group relying on activists inside Syria, said tribesmen torched the local headquarters of the Islamic State group in the nearby town of Achara and that residents demonstrated against the group.

Osso and the Observatory said fighting first broke out Wednesday after jihadis detained three tribesmen, allegedly breaking an agreement between the two sides reached after Islamic State fighters captured the villages.

The al-Qaida breakout Islamic State group took over large swaths of western and northern Iraq in June. The group has declared a self-styled caliphate in territory it controls along the Iraqi-Syrian border, imposing a harsh interpretation of Islamic law.

"There has been wide resentment recently because of Islamic State's acts," said Osso, who is in contact with activists in different parts of Syria. He said one of the group's top commanders, an ethnic Chechen known as Omar al-Shishani, is believed to be leading the jihadis in the area.



Rafiq Maqbool/AP

Chandrakant Zanjare, who said he lost 13 family members to a landslide, walls Friday near the site where his house stood in Malin village, in the western Indian state of Maharashtra

Hopes fade for missing in India landslide

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Hope was fading of finding scores of people still missing three days after a landslide in western India buried a village, killing at least 76 people, an official said Saturday.

Intermittent rain during the past few days had turned the site of the landslide into a swamp, making it extremely difficult for workers to locate bodies in the mud, said Alok Awasthy, the official in charge of the rescue operation.

Wednesday's landslide engulfed Malin village, in Pune district of Maharashtra state. Workers have pulled 76 bodies from the more than 15 feet of heavy mud and debris that submerged the village.

Awasthy said at least 88 people were missing and that hope of finding them alive was fading. The search, however, will continue for another two days, he said.

Volunteers helped prepare funeral pyres and a mass cremation for some of those who died in the disaster was held Friday evening

after the rain stopped for a while.

Landslides are common in the area during the monsoon season, which runs from June through September.

The area around the village has been deforested extensively, increasing its vulnerability to landslides.

Similar deforestation and environmental damage have caused floods and landslides in other parts of India.

Pune district is about 95 miles southeast of Mumbai, India's commercial capital.

Explosion, fire at car parts factory in China kills 65

By GILLIAN WONG
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Sixty-five people were killed and dozens were seriously burned Saturday by an explosion at an eastern Chinese automotive parts factory that says it supplies General Motors, state media reported.

The blast at the factory in an industrial zone of the city of Kunshan also left more than 100 people injured, with many suffering severe burns, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Kunshan, in Jiangsu province, is about 600 miles southeast of Beijing. Authorities have taken away two company executives.

State broadcaster CCTV showed footage shot by residents of large plumes of thick, black smoke rising from the plant. Several fire-fighting trucks were shown in the factory compound. News websites posted photos showing survivors or victims being lifted onto the backs of large trucks, their bodies black presumably from burns or being covered in soot.

Some survivors were seen sitting on wood slat cots on platforms on the road outside the factory, their clothes apparently burned off and skin exposed, or being carried into ambulances.

The explosion occurred at 7:37 a.m. at a workshop in the factory

that polishes wheel hubs. There were more than 200 workers at the site when the blast occurred, Xinhua cited the city government as saying. Rescuers pulled out more than 40 bodies while another 20 or so other people died in hospital, Xinhua said.

More than 120 people who were injured have been sent to hospitals in Kunshan and the nearby city of Suzhou. Burn experts from a Shanghai hospital arrived in Kunshan to help, Xinhua said.

The factory is operated by the Kunshan Zhongrong Metal Products Co., which according to the company's website was set up in 1998 and has a registered capital of \$8.8 million. Its core business is electroplating aluminum alloy wheel hubs, and it supplies GM and other companies, the company said on its website.

Authorities have taken two company executives away to assist in the investigation, Xinhua said, without providing details.

A woman who answered the phone at the Zhongrong listed number said the company is a Taiwanese enterprise. She refused to give her name, any other information, or the contact numbers of company staffers handling the case.

In a statement, GM confirmed that Zhongrong is part of its network of suppliers.

Greek frigate returns after evacuation from Libya violence

The Associated Press

PIRAEUS, Greece — A Greek navy frigate carrying embassy staff and nearly 200 people from Greece, China and other countries evacuated from the conflict in Libya returned early Saturday to a port near Athens.

Passengers on the frigate Salamis described a deteriorating security situation in the Libyan

capital Tripoli, with frequent power and water cuts.

The Greek Defense Ministry the ship transported 77 people from Greece, 78 from China, 10 from Britain, seven from Belgium, one each from Russia and Albania.

The Greek evacuation followed similar action by a number of European countries amid fighting between militias in recent weeks.

Poland's Foreign Ministry said Friday that it has evacuated two dozen Poles and citizens of two other countries. All of Poland's diplomats have now left the country. Britain says it will suspend work at its consulate in Tripoli once it has completed assisting the departure of British nationals.

"We were hearing explosions all the time, but the fighting was

on the outskirts of Tripoli," said Mustafa Avocat, a Greek-Libyan accountant, who was holding his crying infant son, moments after stepping off the Greek frigate.

"Things are getting worse. The power is cut 5-7 hours every day. There are water cuts too ... and the shops are closed."

Constantine Koutras, a spokesman for the Greek Foreign Min-

istry, said moving embassy staff to the port was the most difficult part of the operation.

"I was on the phone to our charge d'affaires at the embassy to get an update and I could hear the sound of gunfire in the background," he told state TV. In Malin, about 20 Chinese arrived Saturday after escaping from Libya through Tunisia.

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OPINION

Obama does not accept war for what it is

By ELIOT A. COHEN

The Washington Post

Abraham Lincoln hated war as much as Barack Obama does. He saw so much more of it firsthand, and most friends in it and waged it on an immensely vaster scale than Obama has. And yet, almost exactly 150 years ago (Aug. 17, 1864, to be precise), he wrote this to the squat, stolid general besieging the town of Petersburg, south of Richmond: "I have seen your dispatch expressing your unwillingness to break your hold where you are. Neither am I willing. Hold on with a bull-dog gripe, and chew & choke, as much as possible." And so Ulysses S. Grant persevered.

Therein lies the difference between Lincoln and Obama, which explains much of the wreckage that is U.S. foreign policy in Gaza and elsewhere today. Lincoln accepted war for what it is; Obama does not. The Gaza war is a humanitarian tragedy for Palestinian civilians caught in the crossfire. It is also a barbaric conflict, as leaders of Hamas hide their fighters behind children while baiting their enemy to kill innocents. But first and foremost, it is a war, a mortal contest of wills between two governments and two societies.

By 1864, Lincoln, Grant and Grant's no-less-grim lieutenant, William Tecumseh Sherman and Philip Sheridan had concluded that their conflict had shifted to what historians call "the hard war." They knew not only that they would have to destroy the armies of the Confederacy but also that they would have to break the will of the people of the South to wage war. That is precisely what they did — in the siege of Petersburg, the devastation of the Shenandoah Valley, the march through Georgia and North Carolina, a close blockade and cavalry raids deep into the South.

And the gentle, humane and often grief-stricken president pushed them hard to do it. When, earlier in August, Grant ordered Sheridan to drive the Confederates out of the Shenandoah — which he burned out thoroughly as he went — Lincoln commented, "I repeat to you it will neither be done nor attempted unless you watch it every day, and hour, and force it."

The Israelis, having left Gaza only to be showered by rockets and harried by border raiders, have concluded that they are waging that kind of war, a rare spirit of unity, they seem determined to break Hamas in Gaza. A more sensible U.S. administration would understand that and stand with our tough little ally, rather than attempt to stop its destruction of this Islamist partner



President Barack Obama



President Abraham Lincoln

of Iran and enemy not only of Israel but of Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well.

The problem is not the reported antipathy between President Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. It is that the Obama administration simply cannot accept that war is war. This explains, among other things, the debacle of our Libya policy, in which the administration studiously insisted that its bombing to help overthrow Moammar Gadhafi was not a war and left in its wake chaos that rolls to the present day. It explains the administration's declarations that drone strikes in Pakistan and the assassination of Osama bin Laden had brought al-Qaida to the edge of strategic defeat — even as the ideology of the group and similar ones has metastasized and Islamist movements have extended their sway in the Middle East and Africa.

It explains one hand-wringing over the slaughter of some 200,000 people in Syria as if there was a massive Ebola outbreak, when what is going on is, in fact, a war pitting Iran and its allies in Syria and Lebanon against an increasingly Islamized foe. It explains the low, disgraceful appeasement of Vladimir Putin and the administration's continuing reluctance to say, simply, that Russia is waging war against a sovereign neighbor.

The president famously said in 2011 that "the tide of war is receding" in Iraq and Afghanistan, when in fact all that was happening was that we were (temporarily, perhaps)

withdrawing from our wars, which entered new and more violent phases among the people we were leaving behind.

The most curious thing about this president is that he was elected in the midst of three open wars — the struggle against al-Qaida and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan — and several more covert conflicts, including Iran's long and bloody effort to drive the United States from the Middle East, and yet he could not conceive of himself as a war president. He cannot give the speeches that explain these wars, that call for sacrifice, that bring his domestic opponents along to confront a foreign foe, that rally foreign friends and strike fear in the hearts of common enemies. And he appears to have little capacity for empathy with an ally whose population must seek shelter when sirens wail.

War is war. We may wish that it could be waged like an 18th-century duel, with exquisite protocols and rules, and scrupulously circumscribed uses of violence, but it stubbornly remains what it became in the 19th and 20th centuries: a ferocious struggle among nations.

That does not mean discarding the constraints of decency and civilization, but it is a dark truth to be faced. Lincoln understood it; if only the man who holds the presidency 150 years later did.

The writer was counselor of the State Department from 2007 to 2009.

Congress shirks duty to deal with humanitarian crisis

The Washington Post

Opening the preposterous when summoned to do the practical, House Republicans rallied Wednesday behind a measure to sue President Barack Obama, then threw up their hands. The bill called on to resolve the crisis of tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors streaming across the southwestern border. Having postponed its planned Friday adjournment, the House now faces the choice of redeeming itself by acting on the humanitarian emergency or slinking away in disgrace.

The Republican immigration effort in the House was derailed by tea party backbenchers who, at the behest of their champion, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, refused to support any bill that did not also preemptively bar President Obama from shielding more undocumented immigrants from deportation. In service to partisan warfare against the president, conservatives opted to do nothing for the Central American children crossing Mexico and entering the Border Patrol

determined to deal with the immediate problem. What they had in mind, according to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., was to use any legislation that passed the House as a vehicle to force negotiations over broader immigration reform legislation that the Senate approved last year.

That was a good bill, and it deserves to become law. But Reid knows full well that, as a matter of political reality, it's a non-starter with House Republicans.

Incredibly, both sides are digging in their heels in a place precisely calibrated to confound any near-term chance of compromise with one another. And so the current crop of lawmakers reaffirms its notorious inability to solve problems — even an urgent one, which the current crisis surely is.

In the face of President Obama's \$3.7 billion request to deal with the underage migrants, House Republicans on Tuesday proposed a cheaper and shorter-term fix — \$659 million over two months. (The president's bill would have extended over 15 months.) In addition to providing funding for the Border Patrol and more immigration judges to handle the

current influx, the GOP bill would also have made deportations of minors from Central America easier by removing special protections that were extended to them under a 2008 law intended to combat human trafficking.

That was the rub for Senate Democrats, who think immigration judges, not Border Patrol agents, should handle asylum claims from the youthful immigrants, many of whom are fleeing violence in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. As a practical matter, that has meant housing thousands of children in temporary shelters and placing them for indefinite periods with relatives and private sponsors while their cases await adjudication.

The truth is this country cannot maintain a policy that encourages vulnerable Central American children to risk their lives in a highly dangerous trek north. It's politically unsustainable and morally indefensible. What's needed, immediately, are resources to handle the influx at the border and accelerate the adjudication of their cases. Congress needs to provide them would be nothing short of shameful.

OPINION

We must outsmart Putin, assist Ukraine

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

The Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 disaster should have been a wake-up call for Vladimir Putin. It wasn't.

Instead of decreasing aid for pro-Russian separatists who almost certainly shot the plane down with a Russian missile, Putin is upping the ante. While denying any responsibility for the 298 dead, he is sending additional troops to the Ukrainian border and preparing to send more deadly weapons to the separatists.

This despite the fact that the air tragedy has finally jolted the European Union into imposing new and tougher economic sanctions on Russia — matched by Washington. These sanctions will curb capital flows to Russian banks and hamper the development of key oil fields.

But sanctions alone are insufficient to move Putin. A firmer U.S.-European response is needed at this critical moment, including helping Ukraine target the types of Russian-supplied missiles that destroyed the Malaysian plane.

As a debate reportedly rages among Russia's elites over Putin's tactics, he still appears unwilling to relinquish his obsession with dragging Ukraine back into Russia's orbit. He can't give up his grandiose pipe dream of a Eurasian empire and seems oblivious to the rising popular anger in Europe at his threat to decades of peace.

However, Putin is not immune to Western pressure. After his seizure of Crimea, and the first imposition of U.S. and European sanctions, he appeared to drop plans to invade eastern and southern Ukraine and pulled his troops back from the border. Those sanctions, although mild, seriously affected Russia's growth projections, which worried the nation's business class.

Europe's previous reluctance to impose stiff sanctions, and its fear of targeting Russia's gas sector, seems to have convinced Putin that he could resume operations in Ukraine. He may also have been surprised at Ukraine's stiff military re-



MIKHAIL KLIMIYEV, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin looks on during a meeting outside the Tzar Pushka (Tzar Cannon) at the Kremlin in Moscow on Thursday.

sistance to the separatists and decided he must prevent their defeat. He knows they would be routed without Russian support.

So Putin is testing Obama and the Europeans by doubling down on the rebels. The impact of current sanctions on the Russian economy will be long-term; in the short term, he hopes to persuade Ukraine that it must kowtow or Russia will keep it permanently unstable and drowned in military expenses.

In other words, Putin doesn't want a "negotiated solution" (unless Kiev gives in to Moscow's demands). He wants to keep the pot boiling. That's why it is critical that the White House rethink its reluctance to give Kiev more military help.

"Considering the external threat, military assistance to Ukraine is of essential

importance," I was told by Olexander Motysk, Ukraine's ambassador to Washington.

So far, U.S. aid has consisted of nonlethal items such as body armor and meals ready-to-eat, and even that was slow in coming.

On Tuesday, Obama sharply rebuffed a journalist's question on lethal aid to Ukrainian forces. "They are better-armed than the separatists," he snapped. That's clearly untrue when it comes to the missiles Russia has supplied. According to U.S. intelligence, that weaponry has shot down at least four Ukrainian aircraft, in addition to the Malaysian plane.

It's absurd that the administration has refused to share intelligence on specific locations of surface-to-air missiles controlled by the separatists, which would allow Ukrainian forces to target them.

Sen. Sherrod Brown is a progressive with punch

By GEORGE F. WILL

WASHINGTON — If Ohio's senior senator were named Sharon Brown instead of Sherrod Brown, progressives would have a plausible political pin-up and a serious alternative to the tawdry boredom of Hillary Clinton's joyless plod toward her party's presidential nomination. Drop the name of Brown's consonants and change another and a vowel, and we might be spared the infatuation of what Howard Dean called "the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party" for Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Sherrod Brown won't be considered because the Democratic Party's activist core is incurably devoted to identity politics — the proposition that people are whatever their gender is (or their race or ethnicity or sexual orientation or whatever seems stupendously important at the moment). And the party's base seems determined to nominate and elect a woman, thereby proving that what has occurred in Britain, Germany, Israel, India, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and other nations can happen here. Feel the excitement.

Brown, however, looks, sounds and acts like a real, as opposed to faculty club, leftist. Although he is a Yale graduate, he has the rumpled look and hoarse voice of someone who spent last night on Paris

barricades, exhorting "les miserables" to chuck cobblestones at the forces defending property. And he is not just talk.

Last summer, before the botched rollout of HealthCare.gov, and the rest of the continuing cascade of President Barack Obama's debacles, there occurred a little-noted episode that was a harbinger of the president's coming difficulties. It was then clear that Obama's preferred choice to replace Ben Bernanke as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board was not Janet Yellen but Larry Summers, who many Democratic senators opposed.

Some may have been hostile because Summers' abrasive manner offended senatorial self-esteem. Others, however, were opposed because of policy rather than vanity: They thought that as Bill Clinton's treasury secretary and as Obama's principal economic adviser, Summers had been insufficiently adversarial toward big financial institutions, from some of which he had found remunerative employments since leaving government.

One Democratic senator quickly got 20 colleagues to sign a letter expressing support for Janet Yellen, thereby compelling Obama to retreat on his exercise of a core presidential power — that of making nominations. The impudent perpetrator of this act of lese-majeste was Brown, who said

that given more time, he could have gotten the signatures of up to 27 members of the Democratic caucus.

He has sponsored legislation to codify, with caps on insured deposits, the principle that a bank too big to fail is too big to exist. He is impeccably wrong, meaning progressive, about free trade. He is for "fair trade," aka protectionism disguised in Pecksniffian sanctimony demanding that less-developed nations adopt stronger labor and environmental standards. And in 2012, a sign outside the Ohio Democratic Party headquarters proclaimed: "Only vehicles assembled by union workers in North America are welcome in this parking lot."

As a congressman on the House Committee on International Relations in 2003 he, unlike Sen. Clinton, was impeccably right in opposing what became the worst foreign policy blunder in U.S. history, the invasion of Iraq. He was persuaded by the supposed evidence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, and said President George W. Bush had not answered questions about the war's cost, the occupation and probable Iraqi civilian deaths (which turned out to be more than 125,000).

Warren's status as the progressives' heartthrob stems from the theatricality with which she has alighted upon the obvi-

ously insisted on the "pesky" journalist that the best way to influence Russia's behavior was to target its economy.

Never mind that Putin has made clear that this won't be sufficient in the short term.

What better way to show Putin that the West is serious than to help Ukrainians defend against the very weapons that blew up Flight 17? And what better time than now, when it might affect the debate within Russia? If Putin finally believes that Washington is serious, he might consider a face-saving way to exit Ukraine.

The counterargument is that any military help to Ukraine might corner Putin and make him even more dangerous. Along those lines, I was referred to a passage in a fascinating book of Putin interviews conducted in 2000, just after he took power, in which the Russian president recalled a childhood incident with relevance to his conduct in Ukraine.

In his family's communal apartment, hordes of rats had gathered in the entryway, and Putin drove one huge rat into a corner. With nowhere to run, the rat threw itself at the startled boy, then jumped the landing and ran past him. "There on that stair landing, I got a lasting lesson in the meaning of the word cornered," said Putin.

"He said that experience taught him a good lesson. Never to put yourself in a corner," recalled Natalya Gevorkyan, one of the interviewees who compiled "First Person: An Astonishingly Frank Self-Portrait by Russia's President."

"He's exactly the same now," she told me. "When he's in a corner, he jumps."

Yet, at the end of this anecdote, Putin added that he outsmarted the rat. "I was a little faster, and I managed to slam the door shut in its nose," he said.

If Obama and EU leaders want to make Putin reverse course, they need to outrun and outsmart him. That is the only way to slam the door on Russian aggression in Ukraine.

with a sense of original discovery, and has studiously not drawn the obvious but inconvenient conclusion. She is incandescent with fury about the fact, which it certainly is, that government is a tireless servant of the strong. She is scandalized by the process by which the regulatory state, progressivism's achievement, is manipulated by those sufficiently affluent, articulate and confident to hire manipulative lawyers and lobbyists.

In 1996, Bill Clinton ran for re-election promising to "build a bridge to the 21st century." Today, here comes Hillary Clinton, trailing clouds of seediness and promising to build a bridge back to the 20th century, promising, evidently, restoration of the 1990s prosperity based on commercialization of the Internet. Asked recently about marijuana, she said she was about to commit "radical candor." She proceeded to say we should "wait and see" what happens where it is legalized.

Are progressives so preoccupied with gender that they prefer Clinton's risk-averse careerism, or Warren's astonished tantrums about the obvious dynamics of big government, to Brown's authentic progressivism? Yes.

George F. Will is a member of The Washington Post Writer's Group.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

2 swimming in river attacked by otter

WA SEATTLE — State and federal wildlife agents are trying to trap the otter that attacked a boy and his grandmother as they were swimming in the Pilchuck River about 30 miles northeast of Seattle.

Because it has pounced on people, the otter will likely be killed unless it is a female with pups, said Capt. Alan Myers, of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"We're doing everything possible to capture that animal as soon as possible," Myers said Friday. "This is an extremely rare incident. Otters are not known to be aggressive toward people."

The boy needed stitches for bites, and his grandmother could lose an eye from the attack Thursday morning in the river near Lake Connor Park, which is between Lake Stevens and Machias.

Argument over fire pit leads to sword stabbing

MT BILLINGS — A man who apparently was upset about his neighbor's fire pit has been arrested on suspicion of stabbing the neighbor in the arm with a novelty sword.

Billings Police Sgt. Shane Winden told The Billings Gazette that the 28-year-old victim took himself to the hospital. His wounds were not life-threatening.

Officers arrested Robert Green, 43, on suspicion of assault with a weapon, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest just after 1:30 a.m. Friday.

Winden said Green was screaming and yelling at his neighbor about the fire pit. When the neighbor knocked on Green's door to talk to him about it, Green opened the door and lunged at him with a sword that had a pointed tip.

Officers had to use a stun gun on Green when he would not move away from the sword.

Town demolishes home in which hoarder died

CT CHESHIRE — The town of Cheshire has demolished the trash-filled house where a reclusive woman died under the tons of junk she had hoarded over years.

The Republican-American newspaper reported that the town has agreed to spend \$22,000 on the clean-up effort, which began Thursday with the demolition of Beverly Mitchell's former home on Winslow Street.

Mitchell's body was found in the home's basement after a three-day search in June, under debris that had collapsed on top of her. The medical examiner ruled she suffocated.

The town decided to demolish the home and clean the site after health officials declared it a hazard.

Man bitten by snake might end up jailed

FL LEHIGH ACRES — A southwest Florida man

THE CENSUS

35K

The approximate number of marijuana plants officials are cutting down in Altamont, Tenn. The Grundy County Sheriff's Office began the eradication on a tree farm on Wednesday night, and the process carried on into Thursday. The sheriff's office called in members of the Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication to help remove and dispose of the plants. Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokesman Josh Devine said officials don't yet have an estimate for the weight and potential street value for the plants.



PATRICK RECORD, THE ANN ARBOR (MICH.) NEWS

Clearing the hurdle together

Chad Moorman, 17, of Dexter, Mich., clears 23 inches with his llama, Spike, during the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show at the Washtenaw County Fair Grounds in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Wednesday. Moorman said the best thing to do when jumping with a llama is to get a running start.

could land in jail after recovering from a poisonous snake bite.

Eddie Chamberlain, 19 told the News-Press of Fort Myers that he was at his girlfriend's house July 23 and saw the snake threatening a neighbor's son and cat. He said he grabbed the snake and put it in a fish tank.

Days later, it bit his thumb. When Chamberlain's parents realized it was a coral snake, they rushed him to the hospital where he was treated with anti-venom.

He is on probation for a 2013 breaking and entering charge. If the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission charges him with keeping the snake as a pet and issues a fine, he could be jailed for violation of probation.

Health violations found at beach concessions

RI PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island's Health Department found more than 70 violations in July in concession stands at three state beaches. The Woonsocket Call reported

that the violations at Misquamicut, Scarborough and Roger Wheeler beaches included fish filets thawed in stagnant water, cans of clam chowder being stored in restrooms and fly strips hanging over food preparation areas.

The stands are run by Beachcomber Concessions, the company of former Democratic Party Chairman David Caprio. He stepped down this week amid a state police investigation into the awarding of the concession contract.

The newspaper reported that the violations were found during five inspections in July, and the company had until Friday to correct the problems.

Semi crashes, coating highway with butter

IN INDIANAPOLIS — A semitrailer has overturned on an Indianapolis interstate, spilling what police say are 45,000 pounds of packages of butter and other dairy products.

The crash happened at about 3:30 a.m. Friday in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 465.

The crash left perhaps thousands of butter tubs strewn on the highway, many broken open and coating the roadway.

Police said the truck driver apparently fell asleep and hit a highway barrier. No injuries were reported.

Crews cleaned the mess using a small front-end loader to scoop the butter tubs and whipped cream containers into large trash bins.

Blood, dead chickens found in a cemetery

NJ LINDEN — Police are trying to determine if a bloody scene at a New Jersey cemetery is tied to a religious or gang-related ceremony.

Six bloody machetes, six dead chickens and one injured bird were found along with blood on tombstones in Rosehill Cemetery in Linden. Police Lt. Jeff Clark told the

Home News Tribune that the evidence was recovered in Sections 38 and 50.

Clark said cemetery workers said the blood can be washed off the tombstones.

Teen hit by car was startled by woodchuck

NY SYRACUSE — Police said a woodchuck is to blame for the crash that left a central New York teenager hospitalized.

Syracuse police told The Post-Standard that Phillip Lloyd, 18, was walking on a grass path along a road on the afternoon of July 11 when he was startled by the animal and went into the road to avoid it.

Officers said the teen was then hit by a vehicle.

Lloyd was originally listed in critical condition at a Syracuse hospital, but he has been upgraded to fair condition.

The driver wasn't ticketed.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE

Inked by more than a game

Chicago area burn survivors find joy in friendship forged on a golf course

By TEDDY GREENSTEIN
Chicago Tribune

His body in flames, Jamie Nieto did not think about survival. He looked down at his charring hands and wondered: How am I going to play golf tomorrow?

He fell for the game as a caddy at a country club in Oak Park, Ill., played for his high school team as a freshman and planned to play at Monmouth College near the Illinois-Iowa border.

Then came Nov. 8, 2003. It was a Saturday morning, and Nieto decided to do some yard work in the back of his family's home in the west Chicago suburb of Franklin Park. He burned some logs in a fire pit for warmth, using mineral spirits rather than gasoline because he thought it would be safer.

He was holding a can when his world changed forever.

What didn't change: his sense of humor, drier than sand in a fairway bunker.

In the ambulance speeding toward Loyola University's Burn Center, in Maywood, Ill., a paramedic asked: How are you?

"Aside from this," he replied, "a little hungry."

Nieto told them it was his 20th birthday, adding, "Isn't this awesome?"

Charred over 55 percent of his body, Nieto went into a medically induced coma for three weeks as doctors performed surgeries while trying to keep his body free of pneumonia and infections.

He stunned his family by waking up on Thanksgiving, but was not feeling particularly gracious.

Once fiercely independent, his muscles had atrophied to the point he couldn't walk. And when he learned he would need assistance in cleaning after a bowel movement, he thought: "You have these gorgeous nurses, and they have to wipe me. How am I supposed to hit on you now?"

Despite his sense of humor, they were dark times. And then a few weeks later, Nieto recalled, a "goofy" guy named Tony Gonzalez came to his room to strike up a conversation. Nieto studied his face.

"Prior to Tony coming into the room, I had never met a burn survivor," he said. "It's sad, but the only character, fictional or real, I'd ever seen was Freddy Krueger. When he walked into the room, it hit me immediately — you're not alone."

Recalled Gonzalez: "He wasn't Mr. Jolly, but who would be? Then I mentioned the word 'golf,' and he perked up."

Turns out Nieto and Gonzalez had more in common than a love of birds. They delight in humor and laughter.

Gonzalez's sister, Lisa, called humor "his coping mechanism. He'll break the ice with some



PHOTOS BY CHUCK BERMAN/Chicago Tribune

Tony Gonzalez, right, and Jamie Nieto, left, meet for golf in St. Charles, Ill., where Nieto is the head golf pro. Both men are burn victims. Gonzalez became a mentor, inspiration and later a friend to Nieto.

comment and make you laugh."

During a round at Pheasant Run Golf Course near his Naperville, Ill., home, Gonzalez was 1 under par through five holes. "Man, you're on fire," a friend told him.

"Not again!" Gonzalez replied. Gonzalez has endured more than 80 surgeries for his burns. In truth, he has no business being alive.

He and some friends went to northern Wisconsin in 1997 for a ski trip. Once inside their cabin, they smelled something foul and lit a scented candle, figuring it was a dead animal. Instead it was propane gas. The explosion killed the cabin owner and engulfed Gonzalez in a fireball, burning 93 percent of his body.

He was transported to the Burn Center at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minn., where doctors told his family that with a burn so severe, he had "zero to no chance" of surviving.

"We were stunned," Lisa recalled. "They asked, 'What would you like to do?' Tony said he wanted to live. We said, 'There is your answer.'"

His physical strength helped. He was 32 and fit from years of playing hockey, softball,

soccer and, in high school, tennis. But even more significant was his relentlessly positive attitude.

"Have you met him?" asked Dr. Richard Gamelli, the medical director of Loyola's Burn Unit. "He has this personality that wraps around life. He's able to deal with what other people could not. It's a true testimonial to the human spirit."

When Nieto was at his lowest point in 2003, and Gonzalez mentioned that he played golf, Nieto reacted this way: "I looked at his hands and was like: 'OK, I've got more fingers than he does. This shouldn't be too bad.'"

With just two full fingers on each hand, Gonzalez devised a glove that attaches to the club with Velcro. Without it, the club would fly from his hands.

Making a swing turn is a significant challenge because of, he said, "the tightness of the skin."

"I'm 6-foot, 215 pounds. Picture yourself getting into a wet suit that was made for a guy who's 5-7, 160 pounds. And then try to move around."

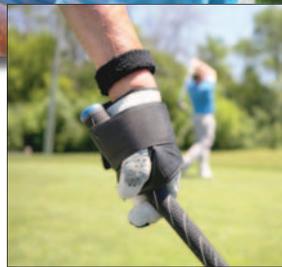
With so much of Gonzalez's skin grafted, he doesn't sweat. That makes a 75-degree day feel more like 90, and it requires him to cool with ice packs.

It was crucial to play golf again after the accident, explaining: "You lose your identity. There's disfigurement. You lose your sense of who you were, and want to get it back."

Nieto became Pheasant Run's head professional in January 2013 and competes in Illinois PGA Section events. He shot a 76 last year at Pebble Beach without a warm-up and almost no sleep because of flight delays.

Gonzalez calls it "the new normal" — the need to adapt to a world in which some parents literally shield their children from the sight of a scarred face.

"There are two types of people — curious and ignorant," Gonzalez said. "I want people to come up and ask me what happened so I can make them comfortable. I want kids to know I'm not a monster or a freak. There's a person in here. It's only my skin that was burned, not my head or my heart."



Gonzalez uses a modified golf glove of his own design to hold the club while playing at Pheasant Run Golf Course.

During a round at a course near his Naperville, Ill., home, Tony Gonzalez was 1 under par through five holes. "Man, you're on fire," a friend told him. "Not again!" Gonzalez replied.

LIFESTYLE

Glass business heats up

Seattle maker of bongos and pipes morphs into a 'lifestyle brand'



PHOTOS BY GREG GILBERT/Seattle Times

Left: Glassblower Patrick Lee, 21, contracts with Sasquatch Glass of Seattle.

Below: A playable and smokable glass guitar, one of which was recently purchased as a gift for Joe Walsh of the Eagles, sells for \$20,000 at the company, which creates products for the "legendary lifestyle."



BY KATHARINE SCHWAB
The Seattle Times

Be legendary, it's a line you might expect from an overdone action movie, but instead it's the tagline of Seattle-based smoking-glass company Sasquatch Glass, which believes that being legendary is best experienced through its products. Whether you order a \$395 bong or a \$995 wine goblet, the company's products come stamped with the promise of what they call the "legendary lifestyle."

Such ambition isn't often associated with the type of people who care enough about weed to spend that much on a bong. But that's what Sasquatch co-founder Scott Hunter is looking to change. "It's about enjoying glass art for a new age with a company that began with a cannabis focus and then discovered and is still discovering and blossoming around all these other things," said Hunter, 53.

If there were ever a time and a place to get a foothold in such a market, it's here and now. With the full legalization of marijuana and the emerging of business opportunities around it, there is a figure-it-out-as-you-go feel to many of the new outfits, Sasquatch Glass among them.

And for Hunter, one of the most important parts of living the "legendary" lifestyle means destigmatizing marijuana use, especially for the older generation. "You're not going to go from A to Z," he said. "It's not like all of a sudden for the 35- to 60-year-old, it's legal now, let's throw stuff around. People have lives and children and in-laws."

Even so, he added, "We constantly get, 'I love this stuff and I want people to see it.'"

With that in mind, Sasquatch Glass has also expanded its focus from bongos to barware and even glass art. It now sells glass products that range from margarita glasses and glass clocks to playable and smokable glass ukuleles and guitars (one of which was recently bought as a gift for Joe Walsh of the Eagles. And you can

have one, too — for \$20,000).

Despite its specialty items, glass comprises less than half of the nearly 200 products available on the company's website. It also sells floor mats, backpacks, beach towels and women's underwear — to name a few items.

Hunter, a native of Newton, Mass., founded the company in 2012 with Spencer Ward, 20, who oversees production. (The two met because Ward went to high school with Hunter's daughter.)

"From a young age I became extremely interested and involved

‘It's really just about showing people that glass is what it's about; it's just about smoking pot and getting high.’

with not only the cannabis movement but also the glass," Ward explained.

After graduating from high school, he began working for Hunter at another glass company until the two decided to go into business together.

After a difficult first year, the company received an award for

Best Glass

award for

at the High Times' 2013 Cannabis Cup in Seattle in September. Since then, its products have been in high demand. Though Hunter would not specify how many of the popular Beehive Bubbler have been sold, he said the number was "a large four-figure amount."

Glassblower Patrick Lee, 21, regularly contracts with Sasquatch, and his specialty is glass water pipes.

"Right now selling glass pipes isn't really accepted by a lot of people," said Lee. "Pipes can be artistic. It's really just about showing people that glass is what it's about; it's not just about smoking pot and getting high. There's a lot of work and artistic creativity going into it."

LIFESTYLE

The amazing super-washers

Patients at children's hospital marvel at 'Spider-Man' outside their windows

BY MICHELE MUNZ

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

On the 13-story-high roof of St. Louis Children's Hospital on a recent morning, the superheroes pulled on their hooded masks and disappeared over the ledge.

On the floors below, kids with conditions like asthma, sickle cell anemia, epilepsy and cancer were just waking up.

Brooklyn Lintz, 17, was on the eighth floor. She was telling a nurse how badly her hip hurt when a figure caught her eye. "Is that Spider-Man?" she sat up. "I have to take a picture!"

Crippled by pain, Brooklyn asked the nurse if he could open the blinds all the way. "He didn't already leave, did he?"

Two Spider-Men returned to her window, waving and striking poses, as if webs were going to shoot from their wrists. One reached into a yellow bucket and pulled out a sponge and squeegee. He cleaned her window.

Brooklyn had spent much of the previous four days in the hospital sleeping, exhausted from pain medications. She suffers from two forms of sickle cell disease, she explained, one that causes bone deterioration and another that can cause severe pain anywhere in the body.

The pain put her in a wheelchair and caused her to miss her junior year of high school. She had a hip replacement in January. She's fought gallstones, dangerous blood clots and infections.

"That's so awesome," she said softly as the Spider-Men disappeared.

Outside, temperatures climbed into the upper 80s. Window washers Matt McGehee, 41, and Andy Weeks, 31, were soaked with sweat under their full-body superhero suits, filled with thick padding to look like bulging muscles. They think the tights are inappropriate even without the safety harness around their hips, so they have jeans on, too.

They could barely breathe through the two holes cut out under the noses of their hoods, and they struggled to see through the mesh. But they didn't dare pull it off.

"You can't reveal your secret identity," Weeks said.

McGehee, 41, started ALLGLASS Window Cleaning about three years ago. For the past year and a half, he and his crew have been cleaning the windows of St. Louis Children's Hospital dressed as superheroes.

"It's just for the kids," McGehee said. "The kids look up, and their eyes get all big, and then this slow smile creeps across their face."

Weeks loves it so much, he didn't want to take off his mask on his ride home after work.

"Without the mask, without the kids, I'm just plain Andy," he said. "So, I kept it on."



Matt "Spider-Man" McGehee helps Andy Weeks with his Spider-Man suit as the window washers from ALLGLASS Window Cleaning prepare to climb over the roof of St. Louis Children's Hospital.



PHOTOS BY ROBERT COHEN/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Weeks readies his ropes as he climbs over the roof of the hospital to wash windows and surprise patients on July 22.



Left: McGehee, on right, and Weeks rappelled down the hospital's exterior.

Below: "Spider-Man" (McGehee) greets patient Isaiah Bush, 6, and his mother, Tamekia, of Belleville, Mo. The superhero shouted through the window pane, "Hey, you feel better, OK?" Isaiah shouted back, "OK!"

Isaiah Bush, 6, saw ropes hanging in front of his window, then what looked like rain and bubbles.

"What is it?" said the boy, who loves Thor and The Avengers and pretending to fight bad guys with his little sister. They have a life-size Incredible Hulk on their bedroom wall.

Isaiah has sickle cell disease, and had awakened in the middle of the night with a stomach ache and swollen spleen. A trip to the emergency room from his home in Belleville, Mo., landed him in the hospital room.

The boy crawled into the window seat with his mom, Tamekia Bush, 34, to get a better look. Spider-Man suddenly peeked around the side, and they were face-to-face. "I cannot believe it," Isaiah said.

Spider-Man took an extra long time cleaning the window, throwing suds and water at the glass. The superhero shouted through the pane, "Hey, you feel better, OK?" Isaiah shouted back, "OK!"

The boy was left wondering how Spider-Man got up there, how he disappeared so quickly. Spider webs, Isaiah concluded. "I think he jumped off the building."

Spider-Man saves the day for the grown-ups too.

Beth Damsgaard-Rodriguez, 48, said her son, Jacob Rodriguez, 10, was miserable and sore when the Marvel Comics hero waved through the window.

"That's exactly what Jacob needed at the time," she said. "That was the first smile I saw in a couple days." Two days before, the youth had an appendectomy after suffering from a painful burst appendix.

Being in the hospital is scary for Cody Mitchell, 17, of Quincy, Ill., said his mother. He has epilepsy and medication can't control his seizures. He's had surgery to disconnect the two lobes of his brain, but the seizures won't stop. Seeing Spider-Man made him happy.

"He's had a rough morning," said his mother, Linda England, 37. "For him to be able to see



that and smile, it made me feel so good."

Brooklyn's mother, Rachel Clifton, 40, can't stand seeing her daughter in pain. Only tears come when she tries to talk about Brooklyn's prognosis. Clifton can't say the words. "It kills me to think about it," she said.

When Clifton returned to her daughter's hospital room after getting breakfast, she got to see her smile. Brooklyn beamed, "Spider-Man came to wash my windows!"

Clifton does what she can to

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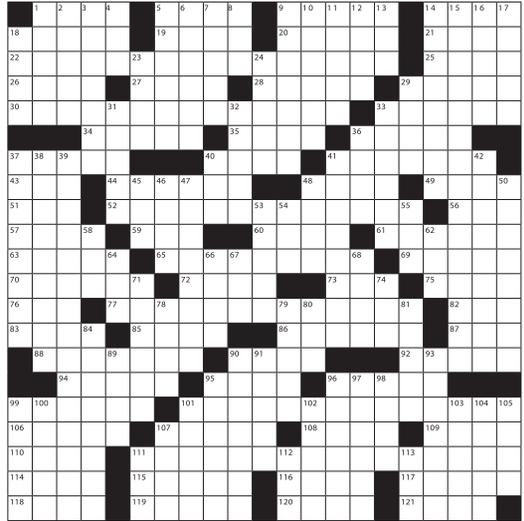


CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

WHAT'S MY LINE?
BY RANDOLPH ROSS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- | | | | |
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| ACROSS | 1 Like | 96 Hunt in "Mission: Impossible" | 12 Zipped |
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| 44 Vinyl-roofed car | | | 53 Former center of Los Angeles |
| 48 Butler's quarters? | | | 54 Affirmative action |
| 49 Tickle Me Elmo maker | | | 55 Listen here |



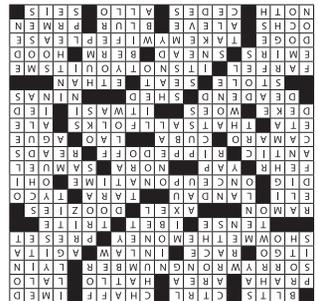
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| 78 Bang-up | | | |

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



KNOWLEDGE

IS POWER.

THE RUPTURED DUCK

STRIPES CENTRAL

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PACIFIC SPORTSBLOG

PACIFIC STORM TRACKER

OMBUDSMAN

VIDEO GAMES

TRIGGER HAPPY

'Sniper Elite 3' belongs in every shooter fan's arsenal

Overall grade: A-

If you're feeling particularly onerous, you can ease up on the presence of stealth and things your way through the levels.

There are plenty of tools available for any player style. Stealthy players can find generators scattered through the levels that can be used to provide cover for themselves. Run-and-gun players can use a variety of explosive weapons, including grenades, that can be used to clear out enemies. The game also features a variety of traps that can be used to lure enemies to their deaths. Great loadouts can be customized in between missions, so players can take advantage of the wide variety of weapons available. A lot of playing through the game is about trying to figure out how to use the different tools and weapons to your advantage.

That's not to say it's always perfect. One of the different ways the game is presented is through a certain way of looking for a bit of freedom in their action. The game does a good job of making you feel like you're in control of the situation, but it can be a bit frustrating at times. The game is a bit of a puzzle, and it can be a bit frustrating at times. The game is a bit of a puzzle, and it can be a bit frustrating at times.

By MICHAEL DONOVAN
Stars and Stripes

Just blew across my sights, obscuring my target. He was walking a ridge, 1,200 meters in front of me, with a machine gun. I dove, with a burst of speed, and I was in the distance. I dove, with a burst of speed, and I was in the distance. I dove, with a burst of speed, and I was in the distance.



Photo courtesy of 505 Games



level in particular is more combat and there are several ways to do it. You can choose to have a reasonable chance of success. Overall I was impressed by the different ways the game is presented. The game is a bit of a puzzle, and it can be a bit frustrating at times. The game is a bit of a puzzle, and it can be a bit frustrating at times.

of North Africa are rendered in gorgeous detail, with the eye candy. The anti-aircraft gun is here as of particular note. Every thing without the dreaded pop-ups or the sound of your ship's engine and the start poking of targets one by one. If

the actual game is broken into missions, a synopsis of the last to be done. After the what happens and how it happens is largely left to the player. You can sound of your ship's engine and the start poking of targets one by one. If

the actual game is broken into missions, a synopsis of the last to be done. After the what happens and how it happens is largely left to the player. You can sound of your ship's engine and the start poking of targets one by one. If

Platform: PS4 (recommended), PS3, Xbox One, Xbox 360, PC
www.505games.com

GADGETS & CHARTS

Microsoft's Cortana battles Siri in duel of digital assistants

By KATIE HUMPHREY
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Siri's got a new frenemy. Her name is Cortana, and she's bringing plenty of underdog attitude to the battle for the title of best digital personal assistant. Who can best fill out your calendar, call a friend or find the nearest Mexican restaurant on command? We shall see.

Of course, Cortana's home on the Windows Phone doesn't have the cachet of Siri's hipster digs on iPhone. In a world where Apple and Android phones dominate, Cortana's chances of widespread adoption are slim.

But Cortana is eager to please, offering friendly confidence compared with sometimes-aloof Siri. Plus, Cortana gets extra geek cred for drawing her name from the artificial intelligence character in the "Halo" video game series.

"We built Cortana to really model a real-life human personal assistant," said Greg Sullivan, director of Windows Phone product marketing at Microsoft.

When people hear a voice, even a tech-driven one like Siri or Cortana, we start wondering about — and judging — its personality.

So really, Cortana's cheery, get-to-know-you demeanor is all part of the plan. (For what it's worth, Google's personal assistant program, Google Now, has no personality whatsoever.)

Cortana will be rolling into town with the Windows Phone 8.1 upgrade next week. So we asked the digital personal assistants a few questions to get to know them better.

Meet Siri

Born: Fall 2011
Hometown: Cupertino, Calif.
Current home: iPhone
Family history: She started as an independent app, and was immediately pegged as so cool that Apple bought her. But she's made enough mistakes that people poke fun of her now.

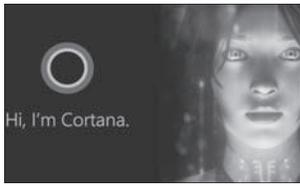
Behind the scenes: Voice-over actress Susan Bennett is Siri's voice in the United States.

Meet Cortana

Born: Spring 2014
Hometown: Redmond, Wash.
Current home: Windows Phone
Family history: She's related to (or at least named after) the artificial intelligence character Cortana from the popular "Halo" video game series.

Behind the scenes: Voice-over actress Jen Taylor is Cortana's voice, just as in "Halo."

Star Tribune: So, what's your story?
Cortana: In short, I am your personal assistant. I try to make things easier to do on your phone.
Siri: I don't really like talking about myself.



Any resemblance of Microsoft digital assistant Cortana to the blue robot of the same name from the "Halo" video games is entirely intentional.

Are you smart?
Cortana: A-squared plus B-squared equals C-squared, so I'd have to say yes.
Siri: A wise man once said, "I am so smart! S-M-R-T!"

Cortana, do you know Siri?
Cortana: I know her, but I don't KNOW her know her.

Siri, do you know Cortana?
Siri: OK, I found this: (Link to Halo video game Wikipedia entry about the Cortana character.)

Do you like Google Now?
Cortana: Hard to say. So far our conversations have been kind of one-sided.

Siri: I don't really have anything to say about Google Now. Or ever.

Tell me a joke.
Cortana: I told the doctor I broke my arm in two places. He told me not to go into those places.

Siri: If I told you a joke in my language, I'd have to explain it.

Knock knock.
Cortana: Knock knock. Who's there?? A little old lady. A little old lady who? I didn't know you could yodel.

Siri: Knock knock. Who's there?? Siri. Siri who? Siri doesn't do knock-knock jokes.

Can you speak any other languages?
Cortana: That's not on my list of skills, but I could find you the height of the Empire State Building.
Siri: I speak Cantonese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, and Spanish ... so far. If you want to change the language I speak and understand, you can do that in Siri settings.

Where do babies come from?
Cortana: I could provide a lengthy explanation, but I'm not sure if this is the time or place.
Siri: Here's some information!: (Provides link to a search result that says, "From their mothers.")

I'm drunk.
Cortana: OK, here's my advice: Don't call anyone.

Siri: I can't be your designated driver. You'd better find someone else. (Offers link to call a cab.)

I love you.
Cortana: Aw, I'll bet you say that to all the phones.
Siri: I am only here to serve you.

GADGET WATCH

Samsung's tablet a winner

By GREG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

When a brand new Samsung Galaxy Tab S arrives on the doorstep, I'd imagine most people would treat it open like a Christmas present.

In my case, I waited almost two weeks, but it took only about two seconds to find two great features (the back button and a button that turns off all running apps at once). Over the next few days, I found many more.

If you've read this column for long, you probably know that I'm an Apple user. Typically when I use a non-Apple product, I wonder why it doesn't have some of the features I'm used to. In this case, I went back to my iPad wondering why it doesn't have some of the features the Galaxy Tab S has.

The new Tab S has what Samsung calls a "4 million pixel Super AMOLED display" as its touch screen. No way to take out the dictionary; all you need to know is that the display has a crystal clear (1600 x 2560) resolution, described by Samsung as 2 times better than HDTV. The new Samsung tablet (WiFi, Bluetooth) has 16GB of internal memory, is powered by Android 4.4 KitKat and is available with an 8.4-inch screen. The actual body size is 8.37 x 10.94 x 0.26 inches and weighs just 1.37 ounces.

Another thing I've liked about most non-Apple tablets is the un-

limited removable storage with a built-in micro-SD memory card slot. SDHC/SHD and SD memory cards up to 128GB can be used (but are not included). I carry a SanDisk wireless flash drive for travel, loaded with a 128GB microUSB card. The Tab S can connect to it wirelessly like most other tablets and smartphones. But there's no need; I just removed the memory card from the flash drive and loaded it into the tablet's card reader. All of your necessary apps for setting up the tablet come preloaded, including simple connections to the Google Play store (account required). You'll even find a bunch of free apps with trial subscriptions loaded.

The built-in virtual keyboard is easy to navigate, or as in my case to pair with a portable ZAGG Keys keyboard. There's also an SMP rear camera with flash and a 2.1MP front camera, which is perfect for the selfie world as well as online face chats. Stereo speakers are built into the bottom and top of the tablet, very convenient so your hands or lap won't block the sound.

A case is snapped into the backside of the tablet. A built-in 3.8 volt, Lithium Ion, 4900 mAh rechargeable battery provides 10 hours of Internet surfing, 12 hours of video or 80 hours of music playing.

Online: samsung.com; \$399, available in white and titanium bronze



The Galaxy Tab S offers an unrivaled viewing experience with its best-in-class 4 million-pixel Super AMOLED display. That, coupled with its thin, light design, make it Samsung's best tablet yet.

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on iTunes on July 30:

1. "Shawn Mendes," Shawn Mendes
2. "Hypnotic Eye," Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers
3. "The Breeze: An Appreciation of JJ Cale," Eric Clapton
4. "5 Seconds of Summer" (Bonus Track Version), 5 Seconds of Summer
5. "The Voyager," Jenny Lewis
6. "The Essential "NSYNC," "NSYNC
7. "In the Lonely Hour" (Deluxe Version), Sam Smith
8. "Guardians of the Galaxy: Awesome Mix, Vol. 1" (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
9. "The Making of ...," Sheena
10. "Mandatory Fun," "Weird Al" Yankovic

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from July 21-27:

1. "MAGICI," "Rude"
2. Sam Smith, "Stay With Me"
3. Iggy Azalea, "Fancy"
4. Ariana Grande, "Problem"
5. "Luchu," "Luchu"
6. Nico & Vinz, "Am I Wrong"
7. Sia, "Chandelier"
8. Maroon 5, "Maps"
9. Calvin Harris, "Summer"
10. Ariana Grande, "Break Free"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for July 30:

1. "The Other Woman"
2. "Noah"
3. "Heaven Is for Real"
4. "Divergent"
5. "Snowpiercer"
6. "Transcendence"
7. "Rio 2"
8. "Salvage" (TV-14)
9. "The LEGO Movie"
10. "The Grand Budapest Hotel"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the Top 10 Wii U games for July:

1. "Shovel Knight," Yacht Club Games
2. "Guacamelee! Super Turbo Championship Edition," DrinkBox Studios
3. "Mario Kart 8," Nintendo
4. "1001 Spikes," Nicolis
5. "Child of Light," Ubisoft
6. "Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze," Nintendo
7. "PUSHIMO World," Nintendo
8. "The Lego Video Game Movie," Warner Bros.
9. "Dr. Luigi," Nintendo
10. "NES Remix 2," Nintendo

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for July 30:

ANDROID

1. Modern Combat 5: Blackout
2. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
3. Guardians of the Galaxy: TUMV
4. Leo's Fortune
5. Facelune

Top 5 paid apps for July 30:

APPLE

1. Heads Up!
2. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
3. Afterlight
4. Sleep Cycle alarm clock
5. RollerCoaster Tycoon@ 4 Mobile

— Compiled by MCT

INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Storm and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in



Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.

STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2014 VFW News Media Award – For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 National Headline Awards – Second Place: News Series (Forever After: A Warrior Wounded; A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign – Honorable Mention
Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year – Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Breaking News Photography (Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism – Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

2010 National Headline Awards – First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism – George Polk Award for Military Reporting
Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Baron

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards – Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009; Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Lower Photography; Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Series

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award – First Amendment, Finalist

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Argentina, Portuguese crises sink S&P

JOSEPH CIOLLI
AND JACOB BARACH
Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell Friday for a second day, giving it the biggest weekly drop in two years, as concern over Argentina and Portugal overshadowed data that signaled the Federal Reserve may have leeway to keep rates low.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Morgan Stanley slumped more than 2.1 percent as a committee ruled that Argentina's default will trigger \$1 billion of credit-default swaps. LinkedIn jumped 12 percent after projecting revenue that beat forecasts. Procter & Gamble increased 3 percent as profit topped estimates amid cost reductions.

The S&P 500 fell 0.3 percent to 1,925.15, bringing its weekly loss to 2.7 percent, the worst since June 2012. The Dow Jones industrial average declined 69.93 points, or 0.4 percent, to 16,493.37,

after erasing its gains for the year Thursday. About 7.3 billion shares changed hands on U.S. exchanges Friday, 27 percent above the three-month average.

U.S. stocks joined a global sell-off Thursday, sending the S&P 500 to its first monthly decline since January, after companies such as Exxon Mobil and Samsung Electronics reported results that disappointed investors. Argentina defaulted and Banco Espirito Santo was ordered to raise capital.

Banco Espirito Santo shares were suspended Friday by Portugal's securities regulator after they dropped as much as 50 percent in Lisbon. Global financial markets were roiled last month after another holding company in the group missed payments on commercial paper.

Argentina's failure to pay interest on its bonds is a credit event that will trigger settlement of \$1 billion of default insurance, according to the International Swaps & Derivatives Association. Argentina

is the first nation to trigger default swaps since Greece restructured its debt in 2012.

The S&P 500, which is still up 4.2 percent this year, has gone without a 10 percent correction since 2011. The benchmark index is down 3.2 percent from a record of 1,987.98 reached on July 24. It trades at 17.5 times the reported earnings of its companies, near the highest level since 2010.

Market volatility is rising after the S&P 500 ended its longest stretch of calm since 1995. The index has posted gains or losses of more than 1 percent three times in the past two weeks, compared with none during the 62 days through July 16, data compiled by Bloomberg. Stock

fluctuated earlier in the day as data showed employers in the United States added more than 200,000 jobs for a sixth straight month in July, the longest such period since 1997. The 209,000 advance fell short of the 230,000 forecast by economists.

The jobless rate climbed to 6.2 percent from 6.1 percent in June as more people entered the labor force.

Concern has grown that the improving economy may force the Fed to raise interest rates sooner than expected. Fed Bank of Dallas President Richard Fisher said he believes the timing has moved up for the first main interest rate increase from close to zero because of a strengthening economy and higher inflation.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 4)	\$1.3767
Dollar buys (Aug. 4)	€9.7264
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
British pound	\$1.6831
Canada (Dollar)	1.0923
China (Yuan)	6.2893
Israel (Shekel)	3.4196
Denmark (Krone)	5.5525
Egypt (Pound)	1.5444
Euro	\$1.3428/0.7447
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7501
Philippines (Peso)	43.72
Poland (Zloty)	3.12
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2468
South Korea (Won)	1,034.21
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9089
Thailand (Baht)	32.15
Turkey (Lira)	1.3160

(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 used for international currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.02
3-month bill	0.08
30-year bond	3.28

MARKET WATCH

Aug. 1, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	-69.93	16,493.37
Nasdaq composite	-17.13	4,352.64
Standard & Poor's 500	-5.52	1,925.15
Russell 2000	-5.21	1,114.86

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SUNDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SUNDAY IN EUROPE



MONDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Charlotte's 50 temperatures

City	HI	Lo	Wthr	City	HI	Lo	Wthr	City	HI	Lo	Wthr	City	HI	Lo	Wthr
Arlene, Texas	90	66	Pcldy	Chattanooga	89	65	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	81	61	Clr	Louisville	86	66	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	79	59	Cldy	Chevyne	83	58	Clr	Fresno	97	76	Cldy	Lubbock	86	65	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	79	62	Cldy	Cincinnati	83	61	Clr	Grand Junction	86	66	Cldy	Madison	82	63	Rain
Albuquerque	81	64	Cldy	Cleveland	78	60	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	84	63	Pcldy	Medford	101	66	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	79	62	Cldy	Colorado Springs	86	58	Pcldy	Greens Falls	88	68	Pcldy	Memphis	91	68	Pcldy
Amarillo	81	64	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	86	70	Rain	Green Bay	81	61	Rain	Miami Beach	90	78	Rain
Anchorage	63	64	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	86	72	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	83	65	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	90	68	Pcldy
Ashville	79	61	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	83	61	Pcldy	Hartford Springfield	81	63	Rain	Milwaukee	80	64	Rain
Astoria	85	71	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	77	59	Cldy	Helena	90	58	Pcldy	Missoula	93	56	Pcldy
Atlantic City	80	66	Rain	Corpus Christi	94	74	Cldy	Honolulu	89	63	Pcldy	Mobile	90	67	Pcldy
Austin	92	64	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	92	72	Pcldy	Honolulu	89	63	Pcldy	Montgomery	91	72	Cldy
Baltimore	81	68	Cldy	Dayton	82	60	Pcldy	Houston	91	73	Cldy	Mountain View	88	75	Rain
Baton Rouge	88	72	Rain	Daytona Beach	91	76	Rain	Huntsville	89	65	Pcldy	Nashville	90	66	Cldy
Billings	93	63	Pcldy	Denver	89	62	Clr	Indianapolis	82	63	Pcldy	New Orleans	88	75	Rain
Birmingham	89	70	Pcldy	Des Moines	85	65	Pcldy	Jackson, Miss.	89	67	Cldy	New York City	78	65	Pcldy
Bismarck	86	60	Cldy	Detroit	83	65	Pcldy	Jacksonville	90	74	Rain	Newark	80	66	Cldy
Boise	86	72	Cldy	Duluth	78	55	Cldy	Lansing	84	61	Pcldy	Norfolk, Va.	81	71	Rain
Boston	72	63	Cldy	El Paso	87	71	Cldy	Kansas City	88	67	Cldy	North Platte	92	62	Cldy
Bridgeport	77	64	Cldy	Elkins	79	54	Cldy	Key West	91	79	Rain	Oklahoma City	80	68	Pcldy
Brownsville	94	78	Cldy	Erie	75	62	Cldy	Knoxville	86	64	Pcldy	Omaha	90	66	Pcldy
Buffalo	78	62	Cldy	Eugene	90	56	Cldy	Lake Charles	90	72	Cldy	Orlando	94	76	Rain
Burlington, Vt.	79	60	Cldy	Evansville	85	63	Cldy	Laneburg	84	61	Pcldy	Pasadena	87	67	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	79	60	Cldy	Fairbanks	72	53	Cldy	Las Vegas	89	74	Rain	Pendleton	96	65	Pcldy
Casper	91	75	Clr	Fargo	82	55	Cldy	Lexington	83	65	Pcldy	Peoria	86	63	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	87	73	Rain	Flagstaff	72	64	Rain	Lincoln	92	69	Pcldy	Philadelphia	82	69	Rain
Charleston, W.Va.	83	60	Cldy	Flint	83	61	Pcldy	Little Rock	89	66	Pcldy	Phoenix	98	83	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	83	68	Cldy	Fort Smith	90	68	Clr	Los Angeles	85	68	Cldy	Pittsburgh	78	61	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	83	68	Cldy	Fort Smith	90	68	Clr	Los Angeles	85	68	Cldy	Pittsburgh	78	61	Cldy

National temperature extremes
Hi: Fr., 122. Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Fr., 37. Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Tennis

Bank of the West Classic

A U.S. Open Series event
Friday
At The Pure Family Tennis Center
Stanford, Calif.
Purse: \$7,000 (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Quarterfinals
Angelique Kerber (3), Germany, def. Garbine Muguruza, Spain, 6-2, 6-1.
Varvara Lepchenko, United States, def. Sachia Vickroy, United States, 6-2, 6-2.
Andrea Petkovic (8), Germany, def. Venus Williams, United States, 6-1, 6-6, 7-5.
Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Ana Ivanovic (5), Serbia, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Citi Open

A U.S. Open Series event
Friday
At William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center
Washington
Purse: Men, \$1.4 million (AT500); Women, \$250,000 (Intl.)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Men
Donald Young, United States, def. Kevin Anderson (7), South Africa, 2-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
Nicola Pietrangeli (2), Canada, def. Steve Johnson, United States, 7-6 (2), 6-2.
Richard Gasquet (6), France, def. Kei Nishikori, Japan, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.
Vasek Pospisil (1), Canada, vs. Santiago Gonzalez (10), Colombia, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 5-0, rain.

Women

Marina Erakovic, New Zealand, def. Bojana Jankovic, Australia, 6-2, 6-4.
Kurumi Nara, Japan, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-3, 6-2.
Svetlana Kuznetsov (6), Russia, def. Varia King, United States, walkover.
Ekaterina Makarova (2), Russia, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (5), Russia, 7-6 (3), 6-3.

Doubles

Samuel Groth, Australia, and Leander Paes, India, def. Juan Sebastian Cabal, Colombia, and David Marrero, Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-1, 6-2.
Steve Johnson, United States, and Sam Querrey, United States, def. Bob Bryan, United States, and Mike Bryan (1), United States, 7-6, 2-6, 1-0, 8.

Seminifinals

Shuko Aoyama, Japan, and Gabriela Dabrowski (2), Canada, def. Liza Dickmeiser, Latvia, and Nicole Pietrangeli, United States, 6-3, 6-2.
Hiroya Kunita, Japan, and Kurumi Nara, Japan, def. Andrea Hlavackova, Czech Republic, and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (5), Russia, 7-6 (3), 6-1, 1-2, 10-10.

bet-at-home Cup

Friday
At Mercedes-Benz Sportpark Kitzbuehel
Kitzbuehel, Austria (W-200)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Quarterfinals
Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, 6-4, 7-5.
Juan Monaco, Argentina, def. Andreas Seppi (4), Italy, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Seminifinals

Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Juan Monaco, Argentina, 6-3, 6-1.
David Goffin, Belgium, def. Maximo Gonzalez (4), Argentina, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Doubles

Martin Erlich, Germany, and Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, def. Gerard and Jurgen Melzer, Austria, 6-4, 6-3.
Lukas Dlouhy, Czech Republic, and Jonathan Murray, United States, def. Czech Republic, and Robin Haase (4), Netherlands, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Seminifinals

Giulio Panatta, Italy, and Andy Roddick, Kazakhstan, def. Martin Erlich, Germany, and Lukas Rosol (3), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2.
Henri Kontinen and Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, def. Luca Lanzi, Czech Republic, and Jonathan Murray, Britain, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 10-7.

Boxing

Friday
At American Boxing Center, Corpus Christi, Texas (A1). Jerry Belmontes vs. Abner Cotto, 10, junior lightweight.

Fight schedule

Aug. 7
At American Boxing Center, Corpus Christi, Texas (A1). Jerry Belmontes vs. Abner Cotto, 10, junior lightweight.

Golf

Barclays Championship

PGA Tour
Friday
At Montreux Golf and Country Club
Renov, New, Wyo.
Purse: \$3 million
Par: 72
Second Round
Note: Under the modified Stableford format, players receive 8 points for doubling, 5 for eagle, 2 minus-3 for par, minus-4 for bogey and minus-5 for double bogey or worse.

Player	Score
18-26	88-26
19-23	16-23
20-23	17-23
21-23	11-20
22-23	14-25
23-23	7-13
24-23	10-10
25-23	9-11
26-23	12-7
27-23	11-10
28-23	10-8
29-23	7-11
30-23	9-9
31-23	7-10
32-23	8-9
33-23	10-7
34-23	11-5
35-23	3-13
36-23	11-5
37-23	9-11
38-23	5-11
39-23	6-7
40-23	8-7
41-23	10-5
42-23	10-5
43-23	11-4
44-23	11-4
45-23	10-5
46-23	10-4
47-23	12-2
48-23	10-4
49-23	12-2
50-23	7-6
51-23	10-4
52-23	10-4
53-23	10-4
54-23	10-4
55-23	10-4
56-23	10-4
57-23	10-4
58-23	10-4
59-23	10-4
60-23	10-4
61-23	10-4
62-23	10-4
63-23	10-4
64-23	10-4
65-23	10-4
66-23	10-4
67-23	10-4
68-23	10-4
69-23	10-4
70-23	10-4
71-23	10-4
72-23	10-4

NFL preseason

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	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
Houston	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Jacksonville	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0	.000	0	0
North	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Baltimore	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cincinnati	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	.000	0	0
West	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Denver	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Atlanta	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Carolina	0	0	0	.000	0	0
New Orleans	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
South	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Atlanta	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
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Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0

SPORTS BRIEFS

Garcia takes lead with record-tying round

The Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — Sergio Garcia didn't think there was anything special about his golf at the Bridgestone Invitational, at least for nine holes.

He missed a few fairways and a few good birdie chances. He got careless with his swing and had to scramble for par. He was five shots out of the lead in the Bridgestone Invitational, not the worst place to be though wanting to be a little better.

The next two hours changed everything.

"A dream back nine," Garcia said. "I just started hitting good shots, rolling the putts in, and everything seemed to happen. I was just enjoying it as much as I could."

Garcia one-putted his last 11 holes. He made birdie on his last seven holes.

When it was over — as much as Garcia hated to see it end — the Spaniard had the best round of his career. He shot a 9-under 61, tying the course record shared by Tiger Woods (twice) and Jose Maria Olazabal, and it gave Garcia a three-shot lead going into the weekend.

"Just one of those moments that you love and you enjoy, and you wish there were no end," he said.

Woods shot a 61 in the second round last year, and in the second round of 2000. Olazabal had his 61 in 1990, when this was called the World Series of Golf.

Watney leads Barracuda Championship

RENO, Nevada — Nick Watney increased his lead to three points in the Barracuda Championship, scoring eight points on Friday in the modified Stabford event at Montreux to push his two-day total to 26.

Players receive eight points for double eagle, five for eagle, two for birdie, zero for par, minus-one for bogey and minus-three for



PHIL LONG/AP

Spain's Sergio Garcia watches his drive on the 17th hole Friday during the second round of the Bridgestone Invitational in Akron, Ohio. Garcia finished at 9-under 61, tying the course record.

double bogey or worse.

Watney had five birdies and two bogeys in the morning session after making nine birdies in his bogey-free first round.

Geoff Ogilvy was second. Wes Roach was third at 22, and Tommy Gainey and Tim Wilkinson had 21. Ogilvy had a seven-point round, Roach and Gainey each scored 10 points, and Wilkinson had five.

In other golf news:

■ Tuesday qualifier Marco Dawson shot a 9-under 63 on Friday to take the lead in the Champions Tour's 3M Championship, leaving Bernhard Langer a stroke

back five days after the German star's record-breaking victory in the Senior British Open.

Dawson, playing the back nine first at TPC Twin Cities in Blaine, Minn., birdied three of his first four holes and chipped in for eagle on No. 18. After a birdie on the par-5 third hole, he birdied three of his final four holes.

Langer, the two-time 3M champion who won by a tour-record 13 strokes Sunday at Royal Porthcawl, was tied for second with Jeff Maggert, Rocco Mediate and Vijay Singh.

Kenny Perry opened with a 65, and Mike Goodes, Gary Hallberg,

Gene Sauers and Bobby Wadkins shot 62. Paul Goydos had a 67 in his debut on the 50-and-over tour.

■ The PGA Tour rebutted a published report Friday that Dustin Johnson has been suspended for failing a drug test.

Johnson said in a vague statement issued by his management company that he would take a leave of absence effective immediately to seek professional help for "personal challenges." The announcement Thursday brought an abrupt end to his PGA Tour season, knocking him out of the PGA Championship and the Ryder Cup.

Golf.com reported Friday that the tour suspended Johnson for six months. It cited an unidentified source as saying Johnson failed a drug test for the third time.

"With regards to media reports that Dustin Johnson has been suspended by the PGA Tour, this is to clarify that Mr. Johnson has taken a voluntary leave of absence and is not under a suspension from the PGA Tour," the tour's statement said.

Larson wins first career pole at Pocono Raceway

LONG POND, Pennsylvania — Kyle Larson had one more celebration left during his birthday week, setting a track record of 183.438 mph to win his first career Sprint Cup pole Friday at Pocono Raceway.

He broke the mark of 181.415 that Denny Hamlin set in June.

Larson, one of the top rookies in NASCAR, turned 22 on Thursday and wants to keep the party going with his first win Sunday. Larson could use a victory to secure a spot in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship, though he would make the 16-car field as it stands on points.

"I really think a win is coming soon, maybe before the Chase starts," Larson said.

Joey Logano joined Larson on the front row. Brad Keselowski, Kurt Busch and Jeff Gordon completed the top five. Gordon followed his fifth Brickyard 400 win with another strong qualifying run.

Logano topped the first two rounds of qualifying and held the top spot until Larson bumped him in the third.

Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch, Jamie McMurray, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Danica Patrick completed the top 10.

Giants' pitcher Cain likely done for season

NEW YORK — San Francisco Giants right-hander Matt Cain needs surgery to remove bone chips from his elbow, an operation that likely will end his season.

The three-time All-Star sure hopes not. Giants manager Bruce Bochy is fairly certain his one-time ace is done for the year.

"If you're putting odds on it, the odds are not going to be that he will pitch," Bochy said Friday.

Cain played catch on flat ground, from 60 feet, before the Giants played the New York Mets and is waiting to see how his arm responds before making a decision on when he will have surgery.

Bochy, though, said the team allowed him to throw just to "check off that box."

Cain has not pitched since July 9 and is 2-7 with a 4.18 ERA. He was checked by Dr. James Andrews, Giants orthopedist Dr. Ken Akizuki and Mets orthopedist Dr. David Altchek.

All three doctors were in agreement: the chips have to come out. "I've had them for 10 years," Cain said. "They've always been there. Now they're mad and letting me know about it."

Bochy says Cain will need about three months' recovery time so he should be ready for spring training regardless of when he has the operation.



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NBA

George 'resting comfortably' after surgery

By W.G. RAMIREZ
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Indiana Pacers All-Star Paul George has undergone successful surgery on his injured right leg and is expected to remain in the hospital for about three days.

The 6-foot-10 George is resting comfortably after surgery at Sunrise Hospital to repair the open tibia-fibula fracture, USA Basketball said in a release early Saturday morning. Dr. David Silverberg, Dr. Joseph Yu and USA Basketball team physician Riley Williams (Brooklyn Nets, Hospital for Special Surgery), were present for the surgery, the release said.

George suffered the gruesome right leg injury late in the U.S. national team's intrasquad scrimmage Friday night. He leaped to contest a fast-break layup by James Harden with 9:33 left in the fourth quarter and his leg smashed against the bottom of the backboard stanchion and crumpled.

Trainers immediately ran onto the floor and after roughly 10 minutes of stoppage, George was taken out of the arena on a stretcher. With players looking visibly upset, coach Mike Krzyzewski then announced to the crowd that the scrimmage would not be finished out of respect to George and his family.

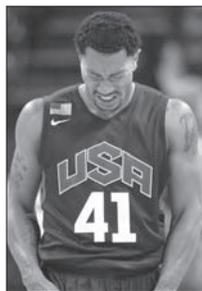
"This is a first for us in USA Basketball, to have something like this take place," USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said. "It's a tough situation for our entire organization, the coaches, the players. Very, very emotional. There's no way the game could have gone on under the circumstances."

The White team led George's Blue team 81-71.

"We got all the players together, Jerry addressed them and then I did. Very emotional setting," Krzyzewski said. "There's a brotherhood in the NBA and to me at moments like this family or brotherhood shows its heart, it shows its depth, and that's what I thought our players showed during that time."

George was considered a lock to make the final 12-man roster for the World Cup of Basketball that starts later this month in Spain.

"Thanks everybody for the love



Pacers All-Star Paul George, top, is attended to after fracturing his right tibia-fibula during the USA Basketball Showcase on Friday in Las Vegas. Below, from left to right, Team USA members DeMarcus Cousins, Derrick Rose and Kyrie Irving react after seeing George's injury.

and support," he wrote on Twitter. "I'll be ok and be back better than ever!!! Love y'all!!!"

The Americans planned to reduce the 20-play pool to 14 or 15 players Saturday, but put off those plans after George's injury. "Everything's on hold right now and it should be," Krzyzewski

said. "It would be so inappropriate for us to talk about anything else when there's a serious injury like this."

The defending champion U.S. team had already been weakened by player losses. Forwards Kevin Love, Blake Griffin, LaMarcus Aldridge and NBA Finals MVP

Kawhi Leonard had all pulled out in recent weeks.

Krzyzewski and Colangelo refused to discuss the roster after the game, saying they didn't even know when they would make roster reductions.

"As an organization, we're just going to let a little bit of time go

by here before we address anything like rosters, all that stuff," Colangelo said. "It seems so unimportant in the big scheme of things when you have something like this take place. It puts things in perspective."

George would have been a candidate to start for the Americans alongside Kevin Durant. The two, along with Harden, spent the week playing in 1-on-1 competitions after practice, pushing one another while building chemistry.

"It's been fun, just getting to know Paul," Durant said after practice on Thursday. "Of course I know James, but it's competing against them."

Only Colangelo and Krzyzewski spoke after the exhibition.

George led the Pacers to the best record in the Eastern Conference before they were eliminated by Miami in the Eastern Conference finals.

"We are aware of the injury sustained by Paul George in Friday night's Team USA game in Las Vegas and we are obviously greatly concerned," Pacers President Larry Bird said in a statement. "At this time our thoughts and prayers are with Paul. We are still gathering details and will have an updated statement Saturday."

Players throughout the NBA posted their concerns and well-wishes on Twitter, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver issued a statement that read: "It was difficult to watch the injury that Paul George sustained tonight while representing his country. The thoughts and prayers of all of us at the NBA are with Paul and his family."

Some NBA executives have long been concerned about injuries to players during summer competitions. Pau Gasol, then playing for the Memphis Grizzlies, broke his foot while leading Spain to the 2006 world title, and Manu Ginobili injured his ankle while playing for Argentina in the 2008 Olympics. He is sitting out the World Cup while recovering from a stress fracture in his right leg.

"Anything can happen anywhere, a lot of things happen," said Krzyzewski, who was coaching Duke against Louisville when the Cincinnati Kevin Ware broke his leg during the 2013 NCAA tournament.

Stern sees Sterling saga ending well, lauds Silver

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former NBA Commissioner David Stern praised the NBA's handling of the Donald Sterling controversy and predicts it will "end well" for the league.

Stern says his successor, Adam Silver, has been "forceful" but also "demonstrated a compassionate side" in his reaction to the racist remarks that were made by the Los Angeles Clippers owner.

"It's done great. He has been forceful, he has been reflective, he has been

buttoned-down and I think he has also demonstrated a compassionate side as well," Stern told The Associated Press on Wednesday during a phone interview.

"So I think it's going to end well." Silver fined Sterling \$2.5 million and banned him for life after the recorded comments became public. Sterling's wife, Shelly, later agreed to sell the team to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer for a record \$2 billion, a transaction the league believes will close shortly even as Donald Sterling continues trying to fight in court.

Stern retired after 30 years as commis-

sioner in February. He will be enshrined into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame next week.

During his tenure, Shelly and Donald Sterling faced allegations that they discriminated against tenants based on race in Los Angeles according to a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2006. The Sterlings, who at the time owned and managed about 119 apartment buildings or 5,000 apartments throughout Los Angeles County, agreed to settle the suit for \$7.25 million.

Stern has remained an adviser to the league and remained in frequent contact

with Silver, who worked under him since 1992. Silver was the commissioner for less than three months when TMZ released audio of Sterling's remarks.

Silver handed out his punishment days later and has navigated the league as he tries to oust Sterling, who owned the Clippers franchise even before Stern became commissioner.

"Adam has been a part of the fabric of every important decision and event for the last 22 years," Stern said. "He knows exactly what to do, he's done most everything, and he's continuing his run as every-thing a terrific manager."

MLB

Statistics

American League

TEAM	BATTING	R	H	BB	AVG	
Detroit	374	49	1005	109	481	277
Los Angeles	379	523	1001	110	496	264
Baltimore	379	519	999	134	492	264
Kansas City	377	427	969	62	395	261
Texas	3678	434	966	76	411	259
Cleveland	3729	484	982	105	409	259
Boston	3697	491	971	106	402	258
Minnesota	3756	454	964	119	408	257
Tampa Bay	3765	424	937	83	409	253
Seattle	3684	443	902	89	415	245
New York	3708	432	932	99	406	251
Washington	3718	416	917	86	395	247
Philadelphia	3764	443	902	89	415	245
Seattle	3706	415	902	86	396	243
Houston	4277	676	120	405	238	

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

AB	R	H	BB	SO	AVG	
Altuve Hou	449	57	152	4	33	339
Canó Sea	405	52	134	59	31	331
Castro Hou	364	57	119	15	38	327
Brantley Tex	409	72	131	15	68	320
Ellisberger Tex	310	71	99	9	219	
VMarínez Det	357	52	114	21	59	319
McCahey Tor	451	70	141	14	59	313
McCabe Tor	404	65	126	16	81	312
JBräu CWS	424	58	116	31	84	310
Brook Bos	311	27	96	2	45	309
Chisenhall Cle	311	45	96	10	42	309
Trout LAA	404	75	122	25	78	302
Rios Tex	400	42	100	4	40	299
Yates Min	352	53	106	1	30	299
Bautista Tor	372	69	109	21	63	293
Estes CWS	428	68	110	4	49	287
Kinsler Det	443	68	127	11	57	287
Wright LAA	426	68	127	11	57	287
Alirreaz CWS	426	56	121	10	53	284
Marksbal Sea	451	51	127	8	37	282
Yates Min	352	47	95	4	46	281
Joyce Tex	292	37	82	7	42	281
Goines CWS	376	68	110	4	49	280
Loney TB	407	43	114	5	49	280
Tarkenton Det	344	48	96	15	62	273
Elisbury TB	405	52	113	9	48	279
Seager Sea	392	42	111	16	67	278
Pedroia Bos	328	53	119	42	40	278
Encarnación Tor	398	57	91	26	70	277
Aybar LAA	405	50	112	1	52	276
Jeter NY	387	36	107	3	28	276
Reyes Tor	395	62	109	6	48	275
DNavarro Tor	334	27	92	8	47	275
Asencobar KC	378	46	104	2	32	275
Andrés Tor	372	36	115	2	29	270
Agordón KC	377	52	103	9	47	273
Pujols NY	320	61	108	3	31	273
Zobrist TB	363	38	99	9	31	273
Spérez KC	423	103	122	8	28	271
Mauer Min	303	52	82	2	28	271
Aljakson Sea	327	52	102	4	33	271
Andrés Tor	372	36	115	2	29	270
Napoli Bos	305	35	82	12	36	269
Butler KC	386	39	103	5	28	267
Hosmer KC	409	45	109	6	46	267
NCruz Bal	399	61	108	29	75	266
Castellanos Det	335	42	98	8	41	263
Aoki KC	310	48	83	0	17	262
Infiante KC	340	38	89	6	49	262
DavPhammy Cle	335	34	87	6	50	260
LMárton Tex	347	35	89	8	49	260
Moss Oak	374	51	96	23	27	257
Lorigora TB	417	55	102	12	54	256
Yescosob TB	316	41	91	12	42	254
Céspedes Oak	399	62	102	17	67	256
Escobar TB	359	49	94	5	35	254
Ortiz Bos	388	42	95	25	78	250
Wright LAA	350	40	94	6	45	240
Acabera Cle	378	54	93	9	40	246
Bogerts Bos	373	46	91	8	26	244
Boggs Bos	378	46	91	8	26	244
Choo Tex	375	49	99	9	34	240
Lowrie Min	350	40	94	6	45	240
Dozier Min	410	75	98	19	48	239
Norie KC	381	61	95	40	239	
DeJennings TB	386	55	92	9	28	238
McCann NY	353	35	84	11	46	238
Blowers TB	371	41	89	5	34	231
De Aza CWS	323	37	76	5	20	235
Concepción NY	343	43	83	3	31	234
Viciedo CWS	389	49	91	12	38	234
Springer Hou	295	45	68	20	51	231

TEAM	BATTING	R	H	BB	AVG	
Adunn CWS	300	39	69	17	44	230
Móniquez Hou	325	32	74	10	41	228
Castro Hou	325	32	74	10	41	228
Beckham CWS	337	39	76	7	33	226
Bradley Jr Bos	311	34	68	10	38	222
Carter Hou	321	41	68	21	49	212
Swisher Cle	322	42	63	2	38	212
CDavis Bal	321	42	63	17	51	196

ERA

IP	H	BB	SO	SH	SV	
Seattle	3.06	816	335	309	877	7
Kansas City	3.07	849	338	311	885	4
Tampa Bay	3.64	887	396	328	965	12
Baltimore	3.65	861	420	339	942	6
Cleveland	3.66	860	404	333	923	7
Baltimore	3.69	937	401	335	754	8
Minnesota	3.85	961	420	339	942	6
New York	3.89	959	420	339	942	6
St. Louis	3.90	977	426	358	970	7
Detroit	4.03	954	424	296	800	5
Toronto	4.05	961	441	326	905	12
Chicago	4.17	967	454	392	782	4
Minnesota	4.37	1037	465	264	665	7
Houston	4.42	1008	486	395	790	42
Texas	4.92	1071	522	348	767	14

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

IP	H	BB	SO	W	L	ERA
Sale CWS	116	80	20	129	10	1.209
Kazmir KC	129	102	30	116	12	3.237
Tanaka NY	299	111	19	135	12	2.51
Lester Bos	143	128	32	149	10	7.252
Gray Oak	146	118	49	128	12	2.59
Kluber Cle	158	138	33	170	11	6.261
Richards LAA	146	114	46	143	10	3.44
Darvish Tex	133	120	43	167	10	6.290
Keuchel Hou	136	134	33	104	10	7.257
Wakumasa Sea	118	108	9	94	9	3.066
Buehler Tor	142	152	37	82	11	7.311
Wright LAA	171	156	69	111	10	6.307
Quintana CWS	137	128	40	120	6	7.315
CYoung Sea	140	163	43	79	9	6.319
Porcello Det	133	123	29	82	4	3.31
Scherzer Det	146	130	41	167	13	3.327
Wheeler NY	114	125	42	111	5	3.62
Archer TB	126	116	49	108	6	3.337
JChavez Oak	126	125	41	119	8	3.44
Shields KC	149	159	33	125	9	6.350
Ventura KC	121	119	102	8	8	3.50
Wheeler NY	114	125	42	111	5	3.62
Verducci Det	137	137	32	116	11	7.360
Weaver LAA	114	125	42	111	5	3.62
BNorris Bal	110	101	35	80	7	3.669
WChen Bal	124	133	21	90	12	3.76
Odorizzi TB	114	104	42	129	7	8.380
Dickey Tor	145	133	52	126	9	3.91
Olson Min	114	109	37	91	7	3.94
Tillman Bal	136	132	52	89	7	3.937
Milwaukee NY	136	132	52	89	7	3.98
PHughes Min	138	158	113	118	10	4.12
Wright LAA	124	133	21	90	12	3.76
Skaggs LAA	113	107	30	86	5	4.30
Wilson LAA	116	107	40	70	8	4.33
Cosart Hou	116	119	53	75	9	4.41
Guthrie KC	138	148	39	90	7	4.50
JOHbanks CWS	136	144	50	9	4.50	
Hutchinson Tor	123	125	41	111	7	4.62
Verlander Det	124	131	46	100	9	4.66
Peavy Bos	124	131	46	100	9	4.66
Correia Min	123	152	31	58	5	4.96

National League

TEAM	BATTING	R	H	BB	AVG	
Colorado	378	51	1055	125	474	274
Los Angeles	3720	457	962	82	434	258
San Diego	3656	431	918	81	411	248
Arizona	3897	441	972	90	415	255
Milwaukee	3756	431	918	81	411	248
Miami	3751	445	948	88	425	253
St. Louis	3619	399	905	70	381	250
Washington	3734	416	919	89	396	245
Atlanta	3684	426	896	93	409	243
San Francisco	3648	428	934	90	405	243
Cincinnati	3655	409	885	89	387	242
Chicago	3694	420	885	100	404	240
New York	3704	424	883	93	408	238
San Diego	3656	431	918	81	411	248

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

IP	H	BB	SO	W	L	ERA
Tulowitzki Cle	31					

MLB

NL roundup

Ramirez, Brewers roll past Cardinals

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Aramis Ramirez knows he's not supposed to have success like this against Adam Wainwright.

"I don't have an explanation for it," the Milwaukee Brewers cleanup man said after setting the tone with a home run and RBI double off the St. Louis Cardinals' ace in a 7-4 victory Friday night. "He's been one of the best pitchers in the game for a while.

"I don't know, for some reason I get good swings and good pitches to hit."

Ramirez has three homers, eight doubles and eight RBIs to go with a .415 average against Wainwright, the best in the majors against the right-hander. The homer was the first Wainwright has ever allowed on a 3-0 count.

"After the fact I probably should have been ready for it," Wainwright said. "He had no reason not to (swing) right there."

Wily Peralta won his 13th game to tie for the National League lead and Jonathan Lucroy's bases-clearing double chased Wainwright (13-6) in a four-run sixth inning that put Milwaukee up by six. The NL Central leaders are three games ahead of the Cardinals.

"Whenever you're down in the zone with 95 mph sinkers and throwing offspeed early in the count for strikes, it's tough for the opposing team," Lucroy said.

Matt Carpenter had two hits and three RBIs and Matt Holliday homered for St. Louis, which has lost three of four.

Peralta, Wainwright and the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw all have 13 wins. Last year, the 25-year-old Peralta was 11-15 with a 4.37 ERA in his first full season in the majors.

Peralta (13-6) allowed two runs and five hits in 6½ innings.

Phillies 2, Nationals 1: Marlon Byrd hit a tiebreaking home run in the sixth inning, Roberto Hernandez pitched eight strong innings and visiting Philadelphia beat Washington.

Reds 5, Marlins 2: Mat Latos pitched seven strong innings, Ryan Ludwick drove in two runs, and visiting Cincinnati beat Miami.

Giants 5, Mets 1: Ryan Vogelsong pitched a two-hitter for his second career complete game, Hunter Pence emerged from a deep funk with a triple and three RBIs and visiting San Francisco beat New York for its second straight win after a six-game skid.

Padres 10, Braves 1: Rookie Tommy Medica had a career-high five hits, including two two-run home runs, and left-hander Eric Stults and three relievers combined on a four-hitter as host San Diego beat Atlanta.

Pirates 9, Diamondbacks 4: Josh Harrison tripled, doubled and scored twice and visiting Pittsburgh erupted in the final two innings to beat Arizona.

Cubs 8, Dodgers 2: Kyle Hendricks scattered four hits over seven innings, Starlin Castro had three hits and scored three runs, and visiting Chicago snapped Los Angeles' six-game winning streak.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Baltimore starting pitcher Wei-Yin Chen finished with eight strikeouts Friday night against Seattle to win his fifth straight start.

AL roundup

O's Chen flusters Seattle

Baltimore pitcher puts aside tragedy in native Taiwan

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — After Baltimore left-hander Wei-Yin Chen put together another dominant performance Friday against Seattle, his thoughts were with his family and friends thousands of miles away in his native Taiwan.

A deadly gas explosion in Kaohsiung reportedly killed at least 25 people and injured close to 300. None of Chen's family were injured but he expressed concern for those affected by the tragedy.

On the mound, Chen was fully focused as he won his fifth consecutive start and had a season-high eight strikeouts to lead the Baltimore Orioles to a 2-1 victory over the Mariners.

"Unfortunately back in my hometown there was a horrible accident," Chen said. "So today this win I would like to give out to my home people and I would like to send out my best wishes to them and hope everybody is all right there."

Baltimore has won nine of its past 11 games and remained atop the AL League East. An RBI single by Manny Machado in the third snapped the Orioles' scoreless streak at 19 innings.

Chen (12-3) allowed one run and five hits

with one walk over 7½ innings. Andrew Miller, acquired from Boston on Thursday, pitched a scoreless eighth in his debut for the Orioles (61-47). Left-hander Zach Britton picked up his 22nd save.

The Orioles improved to 18-2 when Chen goes seven or more innings.

"If you get seven innings out of your starter, you're going to win your share of games," Orioles manager Buck Showalter said. "Shortens up a lot of things in the bullpen and really allows you to put people in situations that they prosper in. But regardless of the analysis of the game, it starts and most of it is with Wei-Yin. He's really solid for us here lately in a time of need, obviously standings-wise."

Robinson Cano had two hits for the Mariners and is 115-for-317 (.363) lifetime at Camden Yards. Mariners left-hander Roenis Elias (8-9) allowed two runs and seven hits with seven strikeouts and one walk over 5½ innings.

Indians 12, Rangers 2: David Murphy was 4-for-4 with two RBIs against his former team, Danny Salazar allowed an unearned run in six innings, and host Cleveland routed Texas.

Angels 5, Rays 3: Mike Trout and Josh

Hamilton homered to help visiting Los Angeles beat Kansas City.

Red Sox 4, Yankees 3: Anthony Rando pitched six solid innings in his major league debut and Dustin Pedroia drove in two runs as host Boston snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over New York.

Royals 1, Athletics 0: Raul Ibanez homered to break his own franchise record for the franchise's oldest player to clear the fences, and visiting Kansas City beat Oakland.

Astros 3, Blue Jays 1: Gregorio Petit's first career home run put his team on top in the eighth inning and host Houston held on, snapping Toronto's six-game winning streak.

White Sox 10, Twins 8: Jose Abreu reached base five times while extending his hitting streak to 21 games, and host Chicago scored four runs in the eighth inning to beat Minnesota.

Interleague

Tigers 4, Rockies 2: Justin Verlander equaled his longest outing of the season, pitching eight solid innings to lift host Detroit to a victory over Colorado.

NFL

Browns WR Gordon meets with NFL officials

By TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Josh Gordon's fight to stay on the field isn't over.

Gordon spent 10 hours in the NFL's offices in New York on Friday for his appeal hearing before the sides decided to stop and will resume on Monday, a person familiar with the meeting told The Associated Press.

Gordon, who is contesting a possible one-year suspension for failing another drug test, and his legal team met with an arbitrator from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because neither party is commenting publicly.

It's not known if Gordon will return to training camp with the Browns over the weekend. The team has a scrimmage at the University of Akron on Saturday.

Gordon's lawyer, Maurice Suh, contends his client tested positive because of secondhand smoke.

While Gordon was in Manhattan, Commissioner Roger Goodell was at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, where he defended the league's recent two-game suspension of Baltimore running back Ray Rice for domestic violence and commented briefly on Gordon's situation.

"Josh is going through the process right now," Goodell said. "I am not a part of that process. They'll make a decision based on the information that is exchanged today. At some point in time, I may have an opportunity to be involved. When I am, I look forward to meeting with him."

Goodell said the information



AP Photo

Suspended Cleveland Browns wide receiver Josh Gordon, left, met with league officials for ten hours at the NFL's offices in New York on Friday for his appeal hearing. The sides will resume talks on Monday, as Gordon contests his one-year suspension for failing a drug test.

shared in the hearing will decide Gordon's fate.

As they await a decision on their teammate, who also is Cleveland's best player, the Browns are keeping their fingers crossed the outcome will be favorable.

"I'm an optimistic guy," wide receiver Nate Burleson said. "I'm a glass half-full guy, so I'm

always hoping and expecting the best-case scenario."

Until they hear from the league, the Browns are going about the business of getting ready for the upcoming season. They'd love to have Gordon for as many games as possible. After all, he's one of the league's elite receivers and an offensive threat who keeps

defensive coordinators awake at night. To be without him for any time will drastically change Cleveland's offense.

Goodell, who was widely criticized for not penalizing Rice more for domestic violence, said each case must be judged on its own merits.

"You have to deal with the

facts," he said. "We have a drug program that is collectively bargained and it has a step process. It takes four incidents before you actually reach a suspension in a drug-related case. You have to respond to facts here. You have a lot of people voicing their opinions, but what you have to understand is that this is a young man (Rice) who made a terrible mistake — it's inconsistent with what we're all about.

"We have dealt with it in a serious manner, and we're very confident that this young man understands where he is and what he needs to do going forward."

Gordon's list of off-the-field issues is lengthy, which may hinder his argument. He failed at least three known drug tests in college and he was suspended two games last season for a drug violation.

Separate from his appeal, Gordon, who led the league in yards receiving despite being suspended two games last season, could still face league discipline under the league's personal-conduct policy for his arrest last month on a DUI charge in Raleigh, North Carolina. Gordon reportedly checked himself into a rehab clinic in California following the arrest.

Petrine has said the Browns will have to go with a receiver-by-committee approach if Gordon can't play.

Slot receiver Andrew Hawkins is confident he and his teammates can pick up the slack.

"We have a bunch of hard-working guys with chips on their shoulders who are going to come out here and bust their butt every day," he said. "And I'll take that 10 times out of 10."

Praise: QB guru Turner impressed with Vikings' rookie

FROM BACK PAGE

The Star Tribune sat down with Turner earlier this offseason to watch practice tapes of Bridgewater. Here are some of the highlights that help explain why Bridgewater is a Viking:

Quick release, quick mind: "Look at this one," Turner says. "The tight end is running an 18-yard out. Teddy drops. One, two, three, four, five and, bam, the ball's out. See how quick that was. There is no No. 1 thing with him. He's got such a quick release, and he makes quick decisions. That ball is out before the tight end makes his cut, and it's thrown where only he can catch it.

"This helps every guy on the team. It helps the receivers and it obviously helps the linemen when you get back and get rid of the ball."

Sensing defenders: A receiver is running a deep post. Bridgewater, according to Turner, originally was supposed to throw the ball about 4 yards deeper and more inside. But he accurately senses the need to "put it on the receiver," per Turner's coaching, rather than lead the receiver into two lurking defenders.

Later, on a slant pass, Bridgewater "puts it on" a receiver again.

"This shows Teddy's presence and then, bang, his quickness to get it out," Turner said. "And he's not as quick now as he's going to be. When a guy is really quick, you can speed that up with coaching."

Tight pocket? No problem: A short option route is called on third-and-3. The pocket collapses and Bridgewater has no room to step into the throw.

"But see here, he doesn't have to move his feet to throw it well," Turner said. "You have to be able to play that way. There are guys who need a lot of room in the pocket to throw, and then there are guys who don't need any room. I call this an NFL throw, as opposed to a college throw. You can bring 100 guys in here and every one of them could make a college throw."

Arm strength: "People question Teddy's arm strength," Turner said as he clicked to the next play, a deep ball. "But right here, we have a 9' route against man. He's standing on his 15. And the ball is caught in the 34, 35 yard line. So it's a 47-yard throw.

"The '9' routes, you don't really want to throw it a lot farther. The quicker you get it up, the better the 'X' receiver has of catching it. Balls thrown 55, 58 yards, the DB actually has more time to close."

Turner preaches trajectory, arc and accuracy far more than velocity. With the right trajectory and arc, the ball is easier to catch and isn't dying as it arrives.

"This is a throw that people talk about arm strength," said Turner as he moved on to the next play, a deep out. "You have to be able to throw the ball firm and on a line, but it has to have an arc or this linebacker un-



CHARLIE NEIBERGAAL/AP

Vikings rookie quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, center, is competing with veterans Matt Cassel and Christian Ponder for the starting job in Minnesota.

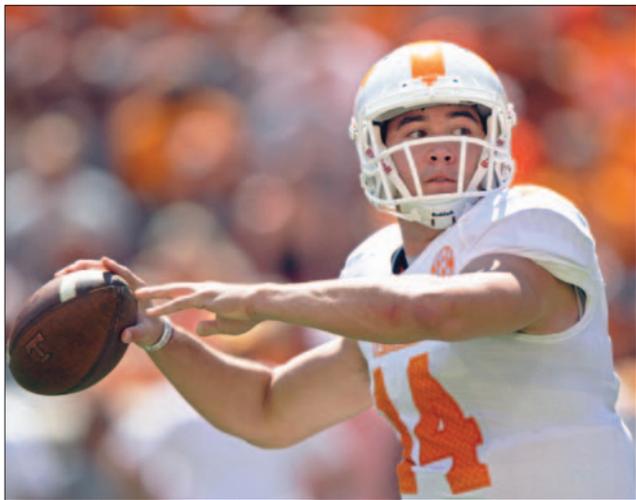
derneath is going to hit it. Teddy's ball here carries 36 yards on a line with an arc. If you can make that throw right there, you can make any throw we need in this offense."

One of the reasons Bridgewater fell in the draft was that famously poor Pro Day performance at Louisville. Weeks later, during a private workout with the Vikings

in Florida, Turner's main emphasis was getting Bridgewater to drop and set his feet quicker.

"Best workout I had before the draft," Bridgewater said. "And when Coach Turner left, he told me he couldn't have cared less about my Pro Day. He said if he had run my Pro Day, I'd have gone 65-for-65."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



WADE PAYNE/AP

Justin Worley is battling teammates Joshua Dobbs and Nathan Peterman to be the starting quarterback at Tennessee this season. All three quarterbacks started at least one game last season.

With no big stars at QB, questions abound in SEC

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Quarterback battles and signal-caller questions abound in the Southeastern Conference going into preseason camps around the league.

Big names, not so much. Division favorites Alabama and South Carolina will be banking on new starters. Ditto for Texas A&M, Georgia and defending East Division champion Missouri.

So long, Johnny Manziel, Aaron Murray and A.J. McCarron et al. Hello, little-known new guys. Auburn's Nick Marshall, himself an unproven commodity this time last year. The biggest stars are gone, but Georgia coach Mark Richt says that doesn't necessarily signal a big drop-off.

"Some guys are going to have a chance to make a name for themselves," Richt said. "How many seasons start out where you just don't know what a guy's going to do? Even (Florida State's) Jameis Winston, Johnny Football, their first year of starting, all of a sudden they win the Heisman. So anything can happen with a guy who gets his opportunity. I wouldn't count out the quarterbacks in this league to play great."

First, some of those candidates for greatness must win the starting job. Others have already risen to No. 1 after biding their time.

The most experienced returning quarterback is Mississippi's Bo Wallace, whose 6,340 career passing yards trails only Eli Manning at the school.

Mississippi State's Dak Prescott, Arkansas' Brandon Allen and Florida's Jeff Driskel are also back. Driskel, who's 12-3 as a starter, missed most of last season with a broken leg.

Other teams' quarterback competitions are carrying into August, and several could include freshman contenders:

- Alabama appears to have a two-man race to re-

place McCarron, the 2013 Heisman Trophy runner-up. Blake Sims was shaky in the spring game and Florida State transfer Jacob Coker is the presumed front-runner. But Coker, Winston's former backup, will have to play catch-up since he didn't report to Tuscaloosa until the summer after graduating.

"Those two are just two different type of quarterback," Crimson Tide receiver Christian Jones said. "Alabama's probably never seen those two, no matter who's the starting quarterback between them. There's no comparison to any other quarterback."

■ Texas A&M also should have no shortage of playmakers but scant experience at quarterback. Sophomore Kenny Hill and freshman Kyle Allen, who went through spring practice, are vying to replace Manziel, the 2012 Heisman winner.

Kyle Allen was one of the Aggies' prized recruits, but few matched the razzle-dazzle of Manziel as a scrambler and runner.

Left tackle Cedric Ogbuehi insists the basic formula doesn't change.

"Same offense. Same plays," Ogbuehi said. "Pass the ball. Run the ball. It's all the same."

■ LSU freshman Brandon Harris, also a January enrollee, and sophomore Anthony Jennings are competing to replace Zach Mettenberger.

Harris accounting for three passing touchdowns and one rushing score in the spring game.

■ New Vanderbilt coach Derek Mason will likely choose between Patton Robinette, redshirt freshman Johnny McCrary and LSU transfer Stephen Rivers. Mason said he's not ruling out those three other potential candidates.

■ Patrick Towles and Maxwell Smith are vying to claim the job at Kentucky, where last year's primary starter Jalen Whitlow transferred. Plus, highly recruited freshman Drew Barker and Reese Phillips are waiting in the wings.

■ Tennessee's Justin Worley, Joshua Dobbs and Nathan Peterman are vying to lead an offense that ranked 13th in the league in passing. All three started at least one game in 2013.

Cornhuskers want to silence doubters

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska's prideful football program goes into 2014 teetering on the edge of national relevance after 10 straight years with no fewer than four losses. Even in the Big Ten, the Cornhuskers are lumped in the second tier of championship contenders.

Some players said Friday they don't put stuck in the Big Ten media poll that placed the Huskers third behind Wisconsin and Iowa in the new West Division.

"We're the ones who have to go out and play, not the analysts," defensive end Greg McMullen said.

Michigan State was picked third in its division last year before going unbeaten in Big Ten play and winning the Rose Bowl. The Nebraska players who do acknowledge the prognosticators said they're using the prediction as motivation.

"It's hard being looked at as a team that isn't going to win a conference. That's always our goal," defensive tackle Vincent Valentine said. "That puts a bigger chip on our shoulder. It's a message you can put on the board for guys to see. We have to prove them wrong."

Nebraska's last conference title came under Frank Solich in 1999 in the Big 12. The Huskers made it to the Big 12 title game and lost in 2006 under Bill Callahan and in 2009 and 2010 under Bo Pelini. Pelini also got the Huskers to the Big Ten championship game in 2012.

Quarterback Tommy Armstrong, who started eight games in place of the injured Taylor Marti-

nez, said he wasn't surprised the Huskers were picked third in the division after they went 9-4 overall and tied for second last year.

They finished on a positive note by beating Georgia in the Gator Bowl. But before that there was the second-half meltdown in a loss to UCLA, a road loss to Minnesota and a home loss to Iowa. They also needed a Hail Mary to beat Northwestern at home.

"We had a bunch of injuries and we still had a 9-4 season," Armstrong said. "Who knows what would have happened if Taylor had never gotten hurt, or Spencer Long or Jake (Cotton) or (Jeremiah) Sirles. Nothing's really promised for us. I know one thing; we're going to work as hard as we can to be the No. 1 team coming out of the Big Ten."

The Huskers have the nation's top returning rusher in Ameer Abdullah and a probable first-round draft pick in defensive end Randy Gregory.

But Nebraska needs more consistent play from Armstrong. He'll start preseason practice Monday as the starter, but Johnny Stanton and walk-on Ryker Fyfe are still competing for the job.

"Me, being a redshirt sophomore, most people may not think I'm capable of doing everything that quarterbacks in the Big Ten are doing right now ... Braxton Miller, (Christian) Hackenberg, those guys with big names," Armstrong said. "At the same time, I'm a redshirt sophomore and those guys are veterans at the same right now. We have to let all our talking happen when we step on the field. That's how respect is earned."



NATI HARRIK/AP

Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini walks through a group of fans as he arrives at the team's annual fan day Friday in Lincoln, Neb.

SPORTS



Setback for Team USA

National team suffers loss as Pacers' All-Star George fractures leg | Page 26

NFL

Mumbling heard

Bridgewater draws praise from Turner

By MARK CRAIG
Minneapolis Star Tribune

Norv Turner clicked the play button on his big-screen TV remote control and 40 years of coaching experience came rushing out of him. A reporter who trails his expertise by 40 years sat nearby listening, learning and wondering how hard it must be to reach a point where the chaos of an NFL play not only makes perfect sense but can be visualized before the ball is even snapped.

Sometimes, Vikings rookie quarterback Teddy Bridgewater wonders the same thing. Like when the ball is snapped during practice and he can hear Turner, the offensive coordinator, talking to himself.

"As soon as we line up, he's standing behind us mumbling," Bridgewater said. "You can't hear him, but you know he's telling you where to go with the ball, what to do with the protection. He sees things before they happen."

"You drop back to pass and he's still mumbling. But you don't pay attention because of everything going on. You try to block him out, but one of these days I'm going to actually figure out what he's mumbling about."

That's the idea. And Turner believes it will happen sooner rather than later. Otherwise, the Vikings wouldn't have traded back into the first round of the NFL draft to select Bridgewater 32nd overall.

SEE PRAISE ON PAGE 30



Minnesota Vikings rookie quarterback Teddy Bridgewater throws a pass as offensive coordinator Norv Turner, right, looks on during football training camp on Monday in Mankato, Minn.

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

'Dream back nine' has Garcia in lead at Bridgestone | Page 25

Orioles' P Chen puts tragedy aside in win over Mariners | Page 29

Lack of big names as SEC teams open preseason camps | Page 31