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STARS AND STRIPES®

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6/6/1944

JOSHUA L. DEMOTTS/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied commander Europe, lays a wreath on a memorial for the 9th Air Force during an event commemorating the 70th anniversary of D-Day in Picauville, France, on Thursday.

RETURN TO NORMANDY

On 70th anniversary, French towns commemorate liberators

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ONLINE: Photos, event coverage, interactive map and videos **stripes.com/normandy**

Did troops die in the search for Bergdahl?

BY TONY PERRY AND DAVID ZUCCHINO
Los Angeles Times

SAN DIEGO — While members of Congress criticize the Obama administration for the way Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's nearly five years in Taliban captivity ended, another controversy is raging about how it began.

Several of those who served with Bergdahl in the rugged mountains of eastern Afghanistan charge that soldiers died searching for him after he disappeared from his base. Experts are divided; in the fog of war, several questioned whether it would ever be clear whether soldiers died as a result.

"Directly or indirectly, people died because of what Bergdahl did," said former Army medic Joshua Cornelison, who was part of a 30-man platoon that included Bergdahl. "He's responsible for some soldiers' deaths. They died looking for him."

Cornelison said that soldiers died either on search missions or on other missions that lacked normal combat support because resources were diverted to look for Bergdahl.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's like a modern-day lynching. He hasn't even been able to give his side of the story yet. This community will welcome him back no matter what."

— Lee Ann Ferris, who lives next door to the family of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in Hailey, Idaho

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COMING SOON

Health

Teamwork important in many areas of life

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MILITARY

Marine Gen. Dunford picked to be next commandant

By Josh Smith
Stars and Stripes

Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., who has commanded U.S. and international forces in Afghanistan since February 2013, has been nominated to become Marine Corps commandant, the Defense Department announced Thursday.

He would replace Gen. James F. Amos, who has held the position of commandant since October 2010.

The announcement comes just months before NATO's current mission in Afghanistan is set to conclude by the end of 2014. Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren did not say who would replace Dunford in Afghanistan, nor did he outline a timeline for the move.

"Gen. Dunford, of course, has done tremendous work in Afghanistan," Warren told reporters. The nomination still needs to be confirmed by the Senate.

Thousands of U.S. troops have departed Afghanistan under Dunford's command, and President Barack Obama recently outlined a plan that would keep almost 10,000 servicemembers in the country past the end of the year to continue training Afghan forces and for counterterrorism operations.

Amos

Dunford took command as Obama pledged to reduce the number of U.S. troops by half by the beginning of 2014. Dunford's tenure included not only overseeing the massive drawdown of U.S. and coalition forces, but the political fight over keeping troops in Afghanistan. Afghan President Karzai refused to sign a deal that would keep American troops around longer, but Dunford was among the military leaders lobbying skeptical politicians in both Kabul and Washington. Both of Karzai's potential successors have said they will sign the troop agreement, and Dunford or his successor will be instrumental in shaping the force that remains.

"Joe is one of the most knowledgeable and talented leaders and thinkers in the military today," Amos said in a statement. "He has commanded and excelled at every level. His tenure as commander of International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces — Afghanistan over the past 18 months has been extraordinary, and is testament to the full measure of the man."

Before taking the top job in Afghanistan, Dunford served as the assistant Marine Corps commandant. A career infantry officer, he led Regimental Combat Team 5 during the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Defense

Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. has overseen the drawdown of international forces in Afghanistan.

Amos' career has spanned leadership roles in a wide variety of Marine aviation units and he also previously served in the No. 2 spot as assistant commandant.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report.
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5 Afghans, 1 NATO soldier killed in 3 separate attacks

The Associated Press

KABUL — A police chief and two other officers were killed Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded while they were on a demining mission, as two army officers were killed in a separate shooting attack, officials said.

And in eastern Afghanistan, a soldier from the U.S.-led military coalition was killed by enemy fire, according to a statement from the International Security Assistance Force, which did not identify the soldier or provide his or her nationality.

In the bomb incident, Mohammad Qasim, police chief for the Waghaz district in the southern Gazni province, had gone with other officers to remove a roadside bomb planted by Taliban insurgents, district governor Abdul Azim Farooqi said. When they removed the bomb, another mine concealed under it exploded, killing Qasim and two other officers. Another policeman was wounded in the blast.

When a police chief and two officers tried to remove a bomb by the road, another hidden under it exploded.

In a separate incident, gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on a car carrying Afghan army personnel in the western city of Herat, killing two officers and wounding three others, said Mohammad Nadir Fahimi, the deputy provincial police chief. He said police were searching for the assailants.

The Taliban have intensified their spring offensive in a bid to undermine the Western-backed government as foreign combat troops prepare to withdraw from the country by the end of the year.

The latest attacks came a day after a bomb placed in a thermos bottle exploded at a market in northern Afghanistan, killing two men and a woman, and wounding 12 other civilians, including four women and a child, according to a local official.

Roadside bombings are a major threat to both security forces and civilians in Afghanistan. Such attacks have escalated as the Taliban have stepped up their campaign ahead of the withdrawal of U.S.-led forces.

Mother: Slain soldier wanted military career

ORWIGSBURG, Pa. — The mother of an eastern Pennsylvania soldier killed in Afghanistan says her son had dreamed of a career in the military from the time he was a boy.

Military authorities said Tuesday that Capt. Jason Jones, 29, of Orwigsburg, died on Monday in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, of wounds received from small-arms fire. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Suzy Jones told The Reading (Pa.) Eagle that she thinks her son's interest in the military stemmed from watching the Tom Cruise movie "Top Gun" when he was about 7.

Suzy said he was laid-back, humble, fun-loving and deeply in love with his wife after marrying less than a year ago.

Jason's father, Jay, said he was "just a special kid that was loved by everybody."

From The Associated Press

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D-DAY REMEMBERED

Joshua L. DeMotts/Stars and Stripes

An MC-130 performs a fly-by Thursday during a 70th anniversary D-Day commemoration at the 9th Air Force Memorial at Picauville, France.

'It was worth it'

Appreciative Europeans greet veterans returning to city for memorial dedication

By Matt Millham
Stars and Stripes

PICAUVILLE, France — In the middle of the night 70 years ago, residents of this town woke to the roar of aircraft engines, the thunder of German flak guns, a crash and the screams of dying Americans.

Those were the first casualties of D-Day, according to the lore here, where a new memorial to Americans who died in the air assault on Normandy was unveiled Thursday.

With American C-130 cargo planes buzzing low overhead, French officials said the crash was a horror, but also brought joy to the people because they realized that their liberators had arrived.

"This community remembers the liberation, as do others across Europe," said U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, commander of U.S. European Command and NATO's supreme allied commander.

Breedlove was one of more than 200 members of the U.S. military at the ceremony, one of the hundreds of commemorations being held this week in Normandy in remembrance of the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion that led to the downfall of Nazi Germany.

Nearly a thousand people turned out here to watch as French and American officials and the daughters of two World War II pilots unveiled the memorial, which stands next to a memorial to the 9th Air Force, a model of a C-47 troop transport and the remains of one of the engines of the plane that crashed here in the opening moments of the Allied assault.

"You honor the sacrifices made here, and you did not forget the heroes who rest below your soil," Breedlove said.

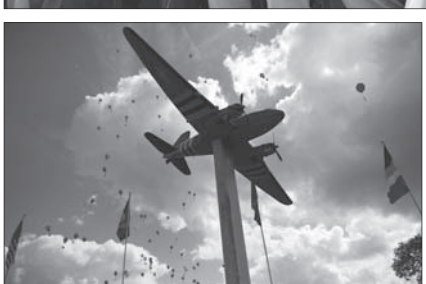
Nearly 50 World War II veterans from every branch of service attended the dedication.

They were treated like rock stars by locals, officials, re-enactors and tourists who crowded in to get autographs from the men who fought here 70 years ago.

While many were remembering the war, Navy veteran Joe Jackson, 88, said, "I try to forget it."

That's easier said than done, though.

"I remember shooting a gun, I remember dropping depth charges and I remember picking up a few of the dead bodies and took the dog tags off and we buried them at sea," Jackson said.



Above: Michael Abrams, Left: Joshua L. DeMotts/Stars and Stripes

Above: World War II veterans were the center of attention Thursday at an unveiling ceremony at the 9th Air Force monument at Picauville, France. The ceremony was part of the 70th anniversary of D-Day commemorations. Left: Balloons carrying names of U.S. soldiers who died during the D-Day invasion float past a memorial.

For more coverage of the 70th anniversary of D-Day including photos, visitor information, an interactive map and videos go to **stripes.com/normandy**

He also remembers when his ship, a destroyer, hit a mine in the English Channel and limped back to England.

This was his second trip to France since the war, he said, and he came back "to heal the wounds and to see why you were sacrificing your life."

The Europeans he's met in those trips, "have been real good, people have been real fine, and appreciative," he said. "So I say it was worth it."

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MILITARY

Town cancels Bergdahl celebration

By Brian Skoloff and Rahim Faiez
The Associated Press

HAILEY, Idaho — There will be no hero's welcome for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in his hometown, no fanfare of parades, music or picnics in the park.

A planned celebration for the end of June marking his return after five years of Taliban captivity in Afghanistan has been scrapped, largely due to security concerns as his release has touched off a nationwide debate. Was he an American prisoner of war who should be welcomed home after years in the enemy's hands or a deserter who abandoned his unit who should be punished accordingly?

For those who knew Bergdahl and his family in this small central Idaho town surrounded by forests and mountains, the politics of war have no place. They just want Bergdahl back home.

"It's like a modern day lynching. He hasn't even been able to give his side of the story yet. This community will welcome him back no matter what," said Lee Ann Ferris, who lives next door to the Bergdahl family and watched Bowe grow up. "He's a hometown kid and he's already suffered enough."

The town of 8,000 has been swamped with hate mail and angry calls, labeling the 28-year-old Bergdahl un-American and a traitor. Given the prospect of large crowds on both sides of the debate, organizers abruptly canceled their welcome home celebration.

Brian Skoloff/AP

A Hailey, Idaho, business celebrates Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's release from captivity. The town canceled plans for a hero's welcome for Bergdahl after receiving thousands of angry calls and hate mail.

"If you had 10,000 people, 5,000 on one side and 5,000 on the other, then just due to the national attention, we don't know what to expect," Police Chief Jeff Gunter said.

Hailey Chamber of Commerce President Jane Drussel said she and the organization have gotten angry mail and calls from people lambasting the town's plans.

"The joy has all of a sudden become not so joyful," she said.

Bergdahl was captured by the Taliban after walking away from his unit, unarmed, in 2009. He's currently at a military hospital in Germany, where he was reported in stable condition.

His parents have spoken publicly only briefly since his release. Several cars were parked outside their modest home Wednesday behind a closed gate with signs that read, "Guard dog on duty" and "No Trespassing."

Tiny Qatar stands to benefit from go-between role

By Adam Schreck
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Qatar's behind-the-scenes role in helping secure the release of U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in exchange for five Taliban operatives was a classic move by a tiny but natural gas-rich Gulf state with outsize ambitions that extend to hosting soccer's World Cup in eight years' time.

The OPEC member has shown a knack for keeping channels to conservative Islamists open while it curries favor with an array of world powers. For Qatar's ruling Al Thani family, it is a hedge that ensures influence and security in a volatile part of the world.

In this case, Qatar was able to act as a broker because of long-standing links to the Taliban. The Islamic militant movement last year opened a representative office in Qatar, but effectively shut it weeks later following a dispute over its use of the name "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" and of a flag flown when it ruled Afghanistan beginning in the 1990s.

It is unclear how many of the Taliban envoys ever left Qatar — but the foundation had been laid for ongoing talks.

"It's really a continuation of Qatar's strategy of making itself useful to other powerful countries, and helping them sort out their problems," said Christopher Davidson, a specialist in Gulf affairs at Britain's Durham University.

He likened Qatar to an "Arab Switzerland" and doesn't see a contradiction in it cultivating relationships with both the U.S. and Islamist groups.

"They've always tried to keep a foot in both camps," he said. "It's a way of having a response to accusations that Qatar is un-Islamic. … It can always pull out of the bag that it's one of the few states that have a direct line to Kandahar or Kabul or wherever else."

Qatari Foreign Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah described his country's role in the lengthy negotiations as a humanitarian gesture when asked about it at a news conference this week. He gave away few details, saying only that the trust Qatar enjoys with both sides helped smooth the process.

American officials have since told The Associated Press that Qatari intermediaries acted as go-betweens for months, including during the final days of negotiations that led to the detainee swap.

The deal that eventually emerged led to the Taliban leaders' quiet arrival in Qatar as an international aviation conference was getting underway following the opening of a sleek, new airport in Doha — and as the country was coming under renewed international scrutiny over its winning, controversial bid to host the World Cup in 2022.

The role of mediator is not new for Qatar.

The emirate was the site of peace talks between Sudanese officials and Darfur rebel groups, and it more recently has hosted gatherings of Syrian opposition groups — of which it is a major backer — fighting to oust President Bashar Assad.

At one point, it even allowed an Israeli trade office to operate — before ordering it closed following Israel's 2008 mini-war with the Islamic militant group Hamas, which ruled the Gaza Strip.

Qatar has worked hard to strengthen its ties to the U.S., including a $100 million pledge in 2005 to help Americans recover from Hurricane Katrina.

It was one of the only Arab countries to provide active military assistance to NATO-led attacks against the regime of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, deploying warplanes while simultaneously shipping cash and weapons to the rebels who eventually toppled him.

The desert outside the capital Doha is home to al-Udeid Air Base, which serves as a major command and logistics hub for American air power in the region. American oil companies including Exxon Mobil have large investments in Qatar's energy industry.

Qatar's actions haven't always been greeted warmly in Washington.

The U.S. government, like many Arab regimes, has had an uneasy relationship with the Qatar-backed pan-Arab TV news network Al-Jazeera. Critics see its coverage as biased and anti-American — charges the network denies.

Despite its dalliance with Israel, Qatar has supported the Jewish state's arch-enemy, Hamas. The former Qatari emir two years ago became the first head of state to visit Gaza since Hamas took over the strip in 2007, and Qatar continues to host Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal.

Other controversial figures who have taken up residence in Qatar over the years include the Egyptian-born cleric Youssef al-Qaradawi, whose fiery sermons have irked Gulf neighbors such as the United Arab Emirates, and Gadhafi's former spy chief Moussa Koussa.

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com

Anger over Bergdahl recovery

Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's recovery after five years in captivity has rekindled anger among some of his military peers over how he came to fall into enemy hands.

Nice to know our commander-in-stupidity negotiates with terrorists! this endangers all of us, not just soldiers!
— Michaela Daniels

Bergdahl isn't worth the lives of the men lost looking for him or the terrorists we traded him for. Karma, Bergdahl, karma.
— otisrneedleman

If this guy did in fact desert then well they should have just left him where he was ... but if there is any chance this is not the case, then we should have done anything possible to get him back.
— stephen michaels

Obama needed what he thought would be a positive distraction from the VA scandal. Looks like it backfired on him.
— thecalmvoiceofreason

I always thought desertion was proven at a courts martial. Bergdahl probably deserted or at least went AWOL. But he has a right to trial before being judged.
— Woodyb4

I no longer believe anything this administration or its perfumed lapdogs in the Pentagon say.
— bkhuna

I hope he gets well, goes home, hugs his mom and disappears ... to never be seen in public again.
— GarryOwen6

Wow... He is getting more medical and psychological help than our veterans left to die on a waiting list. ...
— Constance Roberts Hoffman

Join the fray at: stripes.com/go/bergdahl

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www.stripes.com

MILITARY

If a war-zone deserter, Bergdahl in rare club

BY DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

The chatter about Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl has been unrelenting ever since the White House announced Saturday that it had swapped five members of the Taliban in detention for the only U.S. service member held by the enemy in Afghanistan.

The buzz isn't just because Bergdahl had been held in captivity since going missing in Afghanistan on June 30, 2009. It's because it is widely believed that he walked off his base in a war zone with no plans to return. Doing so would be desertion, a crime in the military in which individuals leave their units with no plans to return, or quit to avoid hazardous duty or "important service."

Army Secretary John McHugh acknowledged the desertion concerns about Bergdahl on Tuesday, but added that the Defense Department will take "as long as necessary" to help him recover medically from his time in captivity.

"The Army will then review this in a comprehensive, coordinated effort that will include speaking with Sgt. Bergdahl to better learn from him the circumstances of his disappearance and captivity," McHugh said in a statement. "All other decisions will be made thereafter, and in accordance with appropriate regulations, policies and practices."

Desertion, in itself, is not uncommon. Thousands of U.S. servicemembers did so annually during the height of the Iraq war, according to numerous media reports. Those individuals typically deserted while in the United States, however, either before their unit deployed, or while they were home on leave in the middle of deployments. Many of them sought refuge in Canada, like Kimberly Rivera, an Army private who was sentenced last year to 10 months in prison for fleeing in 2007 from a break in a deployment to Iraq.

What makes Bergdahl's case so unusual in modern times is that he disappeared while in a war zone. There are remarkably few known cases in recent years in which servicemembers have been accused of fleeing their units while deployed.

Perhaps the most famous case is that of Marine Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun, who disappeared June 19, 2004, from his base in Fallujah, Iraq. Several media reports suggested the following month that he had been killed after being held captive, but he later resurfaced at the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon, where he had family. That reportedly came after members of his family traded gunfire in northern Lebanon with another family who had taunted him and his relatives for their ties to the U.S.

Bergdahl

In December 2004, Hassoun was charged with desertion. He denied the accusations, but then disappeared again the following month after visiting family in Utah. Little was heard from him again until 2011, when his family reached out to a publicist in Los Angeles seeking a $1 million book and movie deal, according to an Associated Press account at the time. The publicist told the AP that Hassoun's brother said the missing Marine was living in Lebanon with family.

Another famous case of a servicemember who went missing abroad is Air Force Maj. Jill Metzger. She disappeared while on an approved shopping trip in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in 2006, sparking a nationwide search before she reappeared three days later in a town 20 miles away, saying she had been kidnapped.

Defense officials told ABC News at the time that inconsistencies in her story raised questions whether she actually was running away from a recent marriage. She returned to active duty in 2010, however, after the Air Force Times reported that she had taken an 18-month medical leave. The Air Force released the results of its investigation in 2012 following a series of online reports that questioned her motives, saying it found she was kidnapped and had escaped after stabbing one of her captors. She was never charged with a crime.

The lack of recent desertion cases by U.S. servicemembers while abroad contrasts with previous wars. In World War II, for example, some 50,000 U.S. troops deserted in the European theater, according to the 2013 book "The Deserters." Most of those who deserted broke down in combat, and some returned to duty voluntarily without any concerns being raised, the author, Charles Glass, told NPR.

One of the most famous deserters is Pvt. Eddie Slovick, who ran from combat duty in France in 1944 while deployed with the Army's 28th Infantry Division. He acknowledged deserting in a written confession in October of that year — something that ultimately sealed his fate.

Slovick was shot by a 12-man firing squad after Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, later president of the United States, refused his appeal for leniency and made an example of him. He is still the last U.S. servicemember to be executed for deserting, and was memorialized in a 1974 TV special starring Martin Sheen.

Deserters also disappeared in Vietnam. In one case, a Marine by the name of Douglas Beane who vanished in 1969 was arrested in Australia in 1986, according to an AP report. He later said in interviews that he disappeared after watching a fellow Marine go on a rampage in their camp, killing two U.S. servicemembers and wounding three others. The Los Angeles Times reported that he had nine children with four women in Australia while roaming the countryside using false names, and turned himself in because he wanted to end his life on the run and visit his sick father in Vermont.

Like many other deserters, Beane got off relatively easily. He admitted to all charges in a hearing at Quantico, Va., and accepted an other-than-honorable discharge.

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MILITARY

Bergdahl's health is said to be improving

By Jon Harper and Jennifer H. Svan
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's health continues to improve, although he remains at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, a Defense Department spokesman said Thursday.

"His health continues to improve daily. He is conversing with medical staff [in English] and becoming more engaged in his treatment plan. He is resting better and showing signs of improvement," Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren told reporters.

Warren would not provide additional details about his health because of privacy concerns.

Bergdahl is only in contact with his reintegration and recovery team, and he has not yet spoken with his parents, according to Warren.

"We don't have a time or date for his departure," said Marie Shaw, a hospital spokeswoman. Bergdahl, who remains in stable condition, still requires medical care, she said.

"All three of these phases progress according to the individual and according to the assessment of the [medical] team … All other aspects of his reintegration will progress in accordance with his healing," Warren said.

Bergdahl arrived at the hospital Sunday morning, a day after the Taliban released him from captivity in a controversial prisoner swap for five senior Taliban detainees at Guantanamo Bay. He hasn't been seen by the public, despite a steady presence of media set up outside the hospital's emergency room entrance.

President Barack Obama said Thursday he "absolutely makes no apologies" for seeking the release of Bergdahl in a prisoner swap with the Taliban, vigorously defending an exchange that has caused a furor in the United States and has dogged the president on his European trip this week.

When it comes to getting soldiers back from war, Obama said, "We don't condition whether or not we make the effort to try to get them back."

He also said Bergdahl's health had been deteriorating and, "we were deeply concerned about it.

"We saw an opportunity and we seized it. And I make no apologies for that," Obama said during a joint news conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron.

Members of Congress were upset over how the release was handled, saying they should have been consulted before the prisoner swap was carried out.

The Obama administration has told senators it didn't notify Congress about the pending swap of Bergdahl for five Taliban officials because the Taliban had threatened to kill him if the deal was made public, three congressional officials have told The Associated Press.

The threat — not just concerns that Bergdahl's health might be failing — drove the Obama administration to quickly make the deal to rescue him, the officials said Thursday. The threat was transmitted by Qatari officials at the height of the negotiations, they said.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel was referring in part to the threat when he said Sunday that "there was a question about his safety," the officials told the senators in a closed-door briefing on Wednesday.

The latest explanation comes as several administration and congressional officials say that a December video shown to senators in the briefing portrayed Bergdahl's health as in decline but not so severe that he required an emergency rescue. An assessment by U.S. intelligence agencies in January came to the same conclusion, said two congressional officials familiar with it.

Once he's deemed well enough, Bergdahl will be moved to a military medical treatment center in San Antonio, where he'll continue reintegration and be reunited with his family.

DOD's reintegration of former prisoners of war or captives is geared toward gathering critical information while protecting the individual's health and welfare, according to DOD.

While the Pentagon has said Bergdahl's health is of top priority, officials say they also intend to thoroughly investigate the circumstances leading to his disappearance and subsequent capture by the Taliban in 2009 and have not ruled out punishment.

Warren said he did not know if Bergdahl had been debriefed by DOD officials regarding his capture and captivity, but noted that debriefings are an "integral part" of all three phases of the reintegration process.

Warren said that Hagel will heed calls by lawmakers to discuss the Bergdahl case and the circumstances surrounding his release.

"Secretary Hagel looks forward to speaking with Congress next week. He understand that there are questions and concerns and he is looking forward to addressing them," Warren said, without providing a specific date or time for when that will happen.

Regarding Bergdahl's potential promotion to staff sergeant, which was expected to happen soon, Warren said Bergdahl's duty status has changed since he was released. While he was being held captive, he was classified as "Missing/Captured," but now he is considered an active-duty soldier.

"He now will be consider for promotion per normal Army procedures," according to Warren.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
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Search: Some soldiers say Bergdahl's actions in 2009 put many lives in danger

FROM FRONT PAGE

Other former soldiers, no longer bound by Army rules about not discussing Bergdahl, have said much the same and have attracted broad attention. The pictures of six soldiers they claim were killed during patrols assigned to find Bergdahl are being shown repeatedly on television.

Defense officials have responded cautiously. A Defense Department spokeswoman declined to comment on the assertions that soldiers were killed during a massive 90-day search for Bergdahl after he went missing on June 30, 2009. An initial Army investigation four years ago concluded that he had walked away from his unit without authorization.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told reporters, "I don't know of any circumstances or details of U.S. soldiers dying as a result of efforts to get Bergdahl."

Bing West, like Hagel a combat veteran of Vietnam and an assistant secretary of Defense in the Reagan administration, said it was likely that soldiers died looking for Bergdahl.

"Once a soldier is missing, hundreds of patrols are dispatched to find him," said West, author of books about Marines in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Undoubtedly some soldiers were killed during the search over so many years."

Other combat veterans and war historians caution that getting to the truth is very difficult.

"Sometimes you'll never know," said historian and journalist Marc Leepson. "Things happen in a fraction of a second. You know how they say that the worst witness is an eyewitness? Put that in the context of the battlefield and it's hundreds of times worse."

Memories can be faulty or contradictory, "after-action" reports can be skimpy or nonexistent, and sometimes enlisted personnel may not be privy to the complex reasons for any given patrol.

"You get three guys who had the same experience and you can get three different accounts, particularly when they're under stress and sleep deprivation," said Peter Owen, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel who led troops during the assault on Baghdad in 2003. He later wrote a book about World War I and said the research illustrated the limitation of after-action reports.

This image taken from video from Voice Of Jihad website shows Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl on the day he was turned over to the United States.

"The rumor mill (is) dawn to dusk," said Leepson, the historian. "The rumors get flying, sometimes with a kernel of truth, sometimes with none."

While military officials have promised an investigation into the circumstances of Bergdahl's capture, they have stopped short of promising a review of assertions about soldiers dying.

"At the appropriate time," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno said Wednesday, "we will conduct a thorough, transparent and complete review of the circumstances surrounding his capture."

Soldiers who served with Bergdahl agree that a full review is needed.

Evan Beutow, a former sergeant, said that although the unit was posted in a dangerous area subject to regular Taliban attacks, Bergdahl's actions meant soldiers were exposed to even greater dangers because of the demands of the search.

Gerald Sutton, a former Army specialist, said Bergdahl "put our lives in danger."

"All our normal assets were diverted to the search to find Bergdahl," Sutton said. "He needs to be held accountable."

Cornelison put the number of soldiers who died looking for Bergdahl at seven.

"He's not a hero, he's a deserter," he said. "The heroes are the seven people who died because of his actions."

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MILITARY

USFK site breach may affect 16,000 S. Korean civilians

By Ashley Rowland
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — U.S. Forces Korea said Thursday the personal information of more than 16,000 South Korean employees, former employees and job applicants may have been stolen from its human resources recruiting system.

USFK senior leadership was notified May 28 of a possible compromise to a Civilian Human Resources Agency Far East website server involving two databases where information for South Korean job applicants and Army Korean Nationals were stored.

The system was subsequently removed from the network. No banking or credit card data or military or defense-related classified information was compromised, according to USFK.

"USFK aggressively and diligently identified potentially impacted individuals, and has taken measures to notify them immediately," the command said. "USFK remains confident in our network surveillance and protection system and will continue to vigilantly protect our networks and information."

The statement said USFK has taken "prudent action," reported the potential theft to the relevant South Korean ministries and is consulting with the South Korean government. The Army's Criminal Investigation Command's computer crimes unit is investigating.

"We deeply regret and apologize for any inconvenience and concern this may cause you," USFK commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti said in a letter Thursday to South Korean employees. "Safety and protection … are paramount."

USFK is sending letters to those affected by the possible breach and has set up a call center to work with them. It also will offer credit monitoring services to those who request help.

For more information, contact the Korean National Recruiting System Call Center at 080-850-1212.

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S. Korean troops heading to US mainland for drills

SEOUL — The South Korean army is sending about 170 soldiers next week to take part in the first-ever joint exercise on the U.S. mainland, according to media reports.

The June 9-July 1 drill will take place at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., according to South Korea's Yonhap News.

A South Korean mechanized infantry company and one special forces unit will take part in the exercise, which is aimed at improving joint combat interoperability.

Soldiers will train on reconnaissance and combat firing during the first half of the exercise. The last two weeks will focus on joint attack and defense drills related to small military units, Yonhap reported.

Previous joint drills have taken place mostly in South Korea, including the massive annual Foal Eagle drill in the spring and the Ulchi Freedom Guardian drill in late summer.

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Possible influence leads to dropped sex assault charge

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A military appeals court has concluded that the Marine Corps commandant's push against sexual assault looked like unlawful command influence and overturned the conviction of an enlisted man on sexual assault charges.

The U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals also set aside the 19-year sentence handed down to Staff Sgt. Stephen P. Howell. The ruling, issued May 22, comes as the military and Congress seek to crack down on sexual assaults in the armed services.

Howell's case stemmed from allegations of rape, forcible sodomy and adultery brought by a Lexington woman against Howell.

A military judge in October 2012 sentenced Howell to time at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The court concluded that comments by the Marine commandant, Gen. James Amos, tainted the panel handling Howell's case.

AP

Family members take photos as the USS San Juan passes on the Thames River en route to the Navy submarine base in Groton, Conn., after returning from a 7-month deployment on May 16.

Commander of attack sub relieved of duty

The commander of the attack submarine USS San Juan has been relieved of duty because of "shortfalls in his professional performance," the Navy said Wednesday.

Cmdr. Joseph Biondi was relieved Wednesday by Capt. Vernon Parks of Submarine Development Squadron 12 at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn.

A Navy statement cited a loss of confidence in his ability to serve in the position.

Biondi assumed command of the Connecticut-based San Juan on April 27, 2012. He has been administratively reassigned to the staff of Commander, Submarine Group 2.

Cmdr. Sam Geiger, deputy commander at Submarine Squadron 4, has temporarily assumed command of the San Juan.

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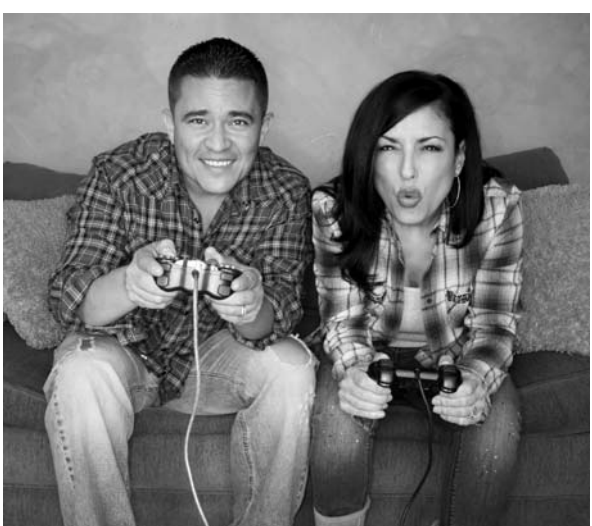

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MILITARY

PHOTOS BY ALAN BROWN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers from 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, are attempting to climb Mount McKinley in Alaska. The expedition will serve to validate training procedures used to maintain readiness for operating in high-altitude, extreme cold-weather environments.

The McKinley test

Soldiers try out cold-weather training, gear on Alaskan peak

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

While some people see climbing mountains as an expensive risk, two teams of soldiers are demonstrating its practical gains.

The teams — primarily from the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division — are scaling Mount McKinley, the tallest peak in North America, to test their skills and new equipment.

"We're here to validate our Arctic training and represent the United States Army and show that [U.S. Army Alaska] is No. 1 for Arctic training," Spc. Matthew Tucker, with the 40th Cavalry Regiment of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, told reporters by phone from a base camp at about 9,600 feet.

Tucker is part of the eight-member Team 2, which arrived by plane at McKinley's base this week. Team 1 got a much earlier start in May, but bad weather had its members hunkering down for about five days last week. Skies have been clear this week.

Most of the soldiers have not climbed McKinley before.

"I'm learning a lot about Arctic training, Arctic survival, expedition-style camping, expedition-style movement," Tucker said. "If we don't all make it to the summit, we're going to be pretty disappointed. But we all want to make it back safely, too."

If all goes as planned, they'll reach the summit on day 14 of the climb, Tucker said.

Tucker estimated a couple hundred mountaineers were in the midst of making the climb. The annual window for ascending McKinley is small — May to July.

At 20,320 feet, McKinley is about 9,000 feet shorter than Mount Everest, mountaineering's holy grail. But the Alaskan peak holds plenty of its own dangers, with treacherous crevasses and rock slides below 14,000 feet. Awaiting above are strong winds, frostbite and thin air.

Four deaths have been recorded in the last two years, three from falls and one from a heart attack.

Capt. Matthew Hickey, the leader of Team 2 with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, said during a call this week that he was "sitting next to our kitchen tent with four stoves blazing" while surrounded by hundreds of mountain range peaks "intermixed with all the black and white of the ice."

Daytime temperatures were generally in the 20s, he said, but the "oven effect" of the sun reflecting off snow can make it seem warmer, he said. It drops to around zero at night.

The teams are trying out new equipment and apparel. For instance, U.S. Army Alaska uses skis nicknamed the "white rocket," Hickey said, which are "not a very compatible ski for long-distance skiing," supplemented with both "mountaineering" skis and alpine-touring skis.

They've also adapted the usual 10-man ahkio sled into a single-size sleigh. "We have individualized ahkio sleds so each soldier can be self-sufficient," Hickey said.

They're also wearing a new style of winter clothing that's part of an extreme cold-weather layering system.

It's the first time some of these items have gone up McKinley with soldiers, he said.

Among the new equipment being tested by U.S. Army Alaska soldiers are these "white rocket" skis.

U.S. Army Alaska climbing teams have ascended the summit via the so-called "West Buttress" route — the most popular with mountaineers — about 16 times in the past 35 years, according to an Army statement.

The teams are chronicling the ascent on Facebook, where one follower recently commented that such climbs are a waste of time and money.

Hickey disputed that harsh assessment: "There's no other unit in the United States Army that is required to operate in an environment such as this. Soldiers in U.S. Army Alaska are required to deploy and operate not only in training but in a combat environment in a snow-bound, extremely cold, possibly glaciated environment.

"So in the event our nation calls upon us to go to war or to defend our nation in other capacities in environments such as this, we're ready — or at least we know what changes we need to make in order to be ready."

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16 The number of times U.S. Army Alaska climbing teams have ascended Mount McKinley via the so-called "West Buttress" route — the most popular with mountaineers — in the past 35 years, according to an Army statement.

MILITARY

Acting VA head cites effort in wait-list scandal

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Acting Veterans Affairs Secretary Sloan Gibson said Wednesday his department has contacted all 1,700 veterans caught up in a hospital wait-list scandal in Phoenix and is working to immediately eliminate long treatment delays nationwide.

Gibson met with veterans' groups and spoke publicly for the first time since taking over from retired Army Gen. Eric Shinseki, who resigned Friday over widespread scheduling abuses at VA hospitals and clinics that have been blamed for 40 veteran deaths in Arizona.

But even as Gibson offered reassurances, new details emerged that VA health care facilities in the Midwest also kept 10 off-the-books waiting lists — with two being acknowledged as health threats to patients.

A VA inspector general report last week found the potentially dangerous patient scheduling abuses were systemic in the department but only listed specific problems at the Phoenix VA hospital, where patients were never added to official wait lists as a way to conceal treatment delays of up to several months.

C.J. Lin/Stars and Stripes

Sloan Gibson, acting secretary of Veterans Affairs, speaks at the White House on Wednesday.

"As the president has directed, we are moving immediately to get veterans off of wait lists and into clinics, and we are taking action to fix the systemic problems that allowed these unacceptable waits to occur," Gibson said during a White House event Wednesday.

Gibson described the VA efforts during a meeting earlier in the day with the American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

Some of the 1,700 veterans in the IG report declined to provide contact information or were duplicate entries. According to a VA release, Gibson told the groups that by Friday the VA had called the 1,586 veterans the IG found on off-the-books waiting lists kept by staff in Phoenix.

"VA identified that roughly 725 veterans of the 1,700 identified by the [inspector general] wanted care within 30 days," according to the department.

The initial IG report, part of a larger audit of the Phoenix deaths and the VA's nationwide health care system, found that staff used strategies to make it appear facilities were meeting a VA requirement that veterans receive care within 14 days of their requested schedule dates. The wait times were used in employee performance evaluations and were related to awards and pay bonuses.

A full report is expected to be completed in August.

Before resigning, Shinseki called the department's deep problems "indefensible," saying that level of wrongdoing was something he had rarely seen during his 38 years of military service. Gibson was the VA's No. 2 at the time and was tapped as the acting secretary while the White House searches for a permanent replacement.

For now, Gibson is responsible for fixing the nation's largest integrated health care system, which serves 6.5 million vets per year — a system plagued with patient and benefits backlogs for years.

New details of wrongdoing and dysfunction were revealed this week in a letter from a VA medical center director to two U.S. senators who represent Kansas.

Ten unauthorized patient wait lists, similar to the lists in Phoenix, were used in the VA Heartland Network, a regional hospital system that serves veterans in Kansas, Missouri, and parts of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Arkansas, according to a copy of the letter sent to Republican Sens. Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran.

In eight of those cases, VA staff was giving training on proper scheduling procedures. But two cases "placed veterans at risk," VA Medical Center Director Francisco Vazquez wrote to the senators.

"The medical centers involved terminated the practice, corrected the gaps in access, and investigations for accountability are ongoing," Vazquez wrote.

Also, the hospital network found 96 veterans who had been waiting over 90 days for care at seven medical centers, according to the letter written May 30.

"Medical centers in VA Heartland Network will be calling the 96 veterans this week to schedule appropriate access to primary care," he wrote.

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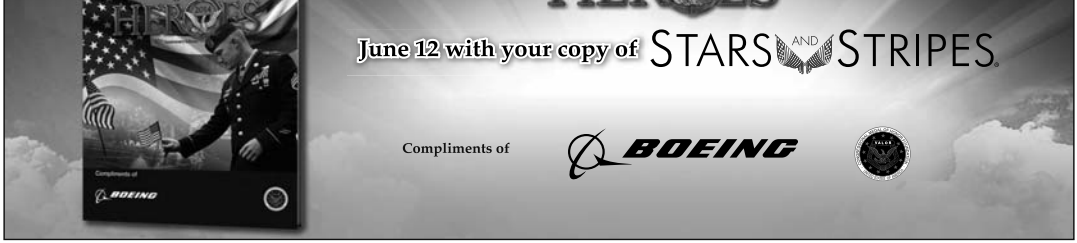

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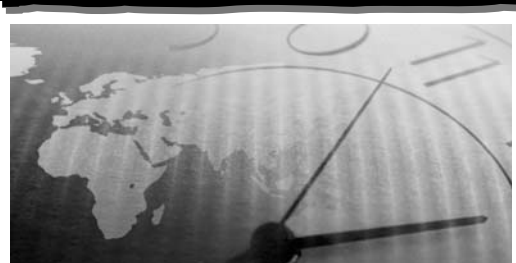

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MILITARY

No injuries as Harrier crashes into Calif. homes

By Elliot Spagat and Matt Hamilton
The Associated Press

IMPERIAL, Calif. — A military jet slammed into a Southern California neighborhood dense with homes and exploded in flames, but the pilot and everyone on the ground emerged unscathed, officials said.

Moments after the pilot ejected to safety Wednesday afternoon, the Harrier jet went down in a residential area of Imperial and destroyed two homes and heavily damaged a third.

Christopher Garcia, 11, was watching TV with his father and brother when he heard a frightening boom. Outside, he said he saw a pilot in a parachute falling from the sky, and what looked like a mushroom cloud of dark smoke two blocks away.

He ran to the crash scene to find one house with a collapsed roof, the neighboring house on fire, and a crying woman shouting, "That's my house!"

The boy and other witnesses said panicked neighbors were running in every direction.

Debris from the Harrier jet hit the roof of one of the houses, which was destroyed, Marine Lt. Col. John Ferguson said. The subsequent explosion and fire destroyed another house and badly damaged one more.

The pilot, the only one aboard the aircraft, landed in a nearby field. He was taken to a hospital for evaluation and released, Ferguson said.

The Harrier AV-8B had taken off from Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Ariz., and was almost at his destination at Naval Air Facility El Centro when he ejected and the jet crashed for reasons not immediately clear, Ferguson said.

It came down in the yard on a street lined with small homes on one side with a large park on the other in Imperial, a city of about 15,000 near the U.S.-Mexico border about 90 miles east of San Diego.

Residents of eight more homes had to evacuate for the investigation and cleanup but later returned, officials said.

Lenny Ignelzi/AP

Officials stand outside an Imperial, Calif., home that caught fire after a Marine Harrier jet crashed into the neighborhood Wednesday. Debris from the jet is on the ground to the right.

Fort Hood prostitution hearing concludes

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — An officer will decide whether a Fort Hood sergeant will face a court-martial for allegedly setting up a prostitution ring of cash-strapped female soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory McQueen faces 21 criminal charges that include pandering, adultery and sexual assault.

During the two-day Article 32 hearing, three women testified that McQueen recruited or attempted to recruit them to sell sex to higher-ranking soldiers.

One female private, who was granted immunity in exchange for her testimony, said she assisted McQueen in approaching young women.

"I didn't necessarily want to do it, Sir, but I did," she told the court's investigating officer.

McQueen was a noncommissioned sexual-assault prevention and counseling officer when the solicitations allegedly occurred.

The outcome of the high-profile case will be closely watched amid growing criticism of the military's treatment of sexual assault within its ranks.

Sgt. Jennifer Dice, McQueen's successor at SHARP, testified Wednesday that the criminal investigation had "compromised" the program. "Now soldiers don't want to come forward; they don't trust leaders," she said.

McQueen made no statement during the hearing, and Fort Hood officials declined a request by The Associated Press to speak to the defendant.

AAFES seeks to expand online sales

By Tom Philpott

MILITARY UPDATE

Defense officials are weighing a proposal from the director of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) to allow the nation's 22 million honorably discharged veterans, and perhaps an equal number of their family members, to shop online for military exchange products and discounts.

Shoppers who use the AAFES website enjoy savings of up to 25 percent on many brand name products. They also avoid state and local sale taxes on their purchases just like on-base shoppers do.

By providing online discounts to millions of deserving veterans and families, said Thomas C. Shull, chief executive officer of AAFES, the exchange services would see overall profits soar while protecting the benefit in tough budget times and ensuring that quality-of-life programs for military families continue to be funded by exchange profits or "dividends."

Shull pitched his idea in a May 8 memo to the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, with review and comment also sought from top manpower officials in the Army, Navy and Air Force. A spokeswoman for Acting Under Secretary Jessica L. Garfola Wright said the proposal "is undergoing staffing and no decisions have been made."

Allowing veterans access to online exchange shopping, Shull said in his memo, "will not adversely affect the benefit to currently serving and retiree personnel in any way." Indeed, he added, it will enhance the benefit by increasing profits and, therefore, increasing dividends to support the services' Morale, Welfare and Recreation "funding accounts."

Then he summarized why it's in jeopardy, citing "announced and planned troop drawdowns, large cuts to the DOD budget for Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities, and fewer personnel and families living on the installation."

In a phone interview Tuesday from AAFES headquarters in Dallas, Shull, a West Point graduate and retired Reserve major, said his online proposal is a "win-win-win" idea. It would help veterans, help exchanges and help to protect force "readiness and resiliency" by ensuring that exchange profits can sustain on-base quality of life programs.

AAFES is the largest of three exchange services. Defense officials might reject Shull's plan unless all three support it. Marine Corps Exchange officials are said to be in favor, though this could not be confirmed by deadline.

Kathleen Martin, spokeswoman for the Navy Exchange Service Command, said with the proposal under review "it would be premature for us to comment … at this time."

Navy officials, a source said, have raised concerns about the added cost of verifying veterans' status for millions of potential shoppers, and whether allowing online shopping would lead, over time, to pressure that millions of veterans deserve full access to on-base stores.

A total of 12 million active duty and Reserve component members, retirees, dependents and survivors are now eligible to shop at military exchanges. Shull envisions that pool expanded for online shopping to 44 million including honorably discharged veterans and dependents. He projects online sales would climb from $200 million a year to $1 billion.

Unlimited exchange privileges are available now only to veterans who are military retirees or 100-percent disabled or hospitalized on base. To expand shopper eligibility requires only a change in defense policy, not law.

Whether Shull's plan is approved or not, AAFES will broaden its selection of goods sold online by year's end from 20 percent of items now stocked in larger exchange stores to 50 percent. AAFES also is conducting a major overhaul of its online shopping experience by partnering with outside retail experts to speed ordering and shipping, and to expand call centers. Online shoppers will see vast improvements by Labor Day, Shull said.

He first thought of giving more veterans access to online shopping a year ago, Shull said, in considering the extraordinary pace of operations from recent wars with many members deploying four or five times to Iraq and Afghanistan. This left servicemembers at greater risk but also their families, given high divorce rates and other consequences, Shull said.

The notion that vets from any era would deserve and appreciate online discount shopping dovetailed nicely with other AAFES goals: to preserve the benefit amid tighter budgets and a force drawdown, and to sustain profits to fund MWR programs.

Last March Shull had authored another controversial memo, this one in reaction to administration plans to slash funding for commissaries, from $1.4 billion annually down to $400 million, by fiscal 2017, and allow grocery discounts to fall from 30 percent, on average, down to 10 percent. Shull warned that an exodus of patrons would "render the commissary system unsustainable," forcing many stores to close with "devastating" consequences to exchanges.

To better handle such cuts and preserve discount shopping, Shull proposed merging commissary operations with exchanges, and relying on resulting efficiencies to stabilize grocery prices and ultimately keep patrons.

The administration's plan to cut commissary support has gained no traction in Congress this year.

To date, online shopping has been a break-even feature for AAFES. But if honorably discharged veterans are allowed to shop online, Shull predicts a 10-fold increase in online sales and profits of $160 million annually, a pop of 50 percent in total AAFES profits.

Representatives of major military associations who serve on the Exchange Retiree Advisory Council unanimously support the plan. Shull said he hopes to have a decision from Defense officials within a few months. Shull would like to have online shopping open to millions more veterans by Veterans Day 2015.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or Twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update

NATION

Rogelio V. Solis/AP

U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., waves to supporters as he leaves a stop Wednesday on the first day of a three-week campaign.

Miss. faces slog in 3-week race for Senate seat

By Emily Wagster Pettus
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi voters already weary of the ugliest campaign in a generation are bracing for another three weeks of tear-down-your-opponent politicking.

Challenger Chris McDaniel and Sen. Thad Cochran head toward a runoff in the tea party's strongest attempt this year to unseat a powerful longtime lawmaker. Automated phone calls already have started, and independent groups are pledging significant financial support for advertising.

McDaniel held a narrow lead over Cochran after Tuesday's primary as thousands of mail-in and provisional ballots remained to be counted. With a low-budget third candidate in the race, no one grabbed the majority needed to avoid the June 24 runoff.

McDaniel's campaign cited his first-place finish as evidence of a "groundswell of energy behind his campaign to bring a true conservative agenda to Washington, D.C."

Cochran, 76 and seeking a seventh term, made a brief afternoon stop Wednesday at a fast-food restaurant in a suburb of Jackson. He shook hands and posed for photos with constituents, many of whom had been invited to the event.

Emotions were running high in a state where gentility is a value in politics — if not a practice.

Dannie Reed, a former member of the state Legislature and a McDaniel supporter, said the state Republican establishment has shunned people like him and Cochran's challenger.

"The tea party has been so vilified and labeled," he said. "Look at all the hypocrisy in the race. … It's just everywhere around this established Republican institution."

Clarke Reed, a Cochran supporter and former state party chairman, criticized the spending by out-of-state groups that paid for a steady stream of anti-Cochran TV ads.

George Clark/AP

Chris McDaniel addresses his supporters on Tuesday at the Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg, Miss.

"They came in and hijacked the Mississippi tea party people, poured the money down here," he said. "We never had ads like this down here with half-lies, which is worse than full lies."

The third candidate in the race, real estate agent Tom Carey, said in an interview that he had a preference between Cochran and McDaniel but wouldn't disclose it.

"The two candidates need to talk about issues instead of the backbiting and backstabbing that they've done," Carey said, referring to the legal and political controversy that came when four supporters of McDaniel were arrested and charged in an suspected plot to illegally photograph Cochran's wife, who has dementia and lives in a nursing home.

Results from 99 percent of the state's precincts showed McDaniel with 155,040 votes, or 49.5 percent. Cochran had 153,654, or 49 percent. Carey had 4,789 votes, or 1.5 percent.

Iraq veteran claims primary win by emphasizing her life

By Thomas Beaumont
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Joni Ernst, a mother from farm country and Iraq war veteran who was little known outside her rural legislative district only months ago, surprisingly won Iowa's Republican Senate primary going away and now appears well positioned to compete for a seat that could help determine whether the GOP wins control of Congress.

The state lawmaker projected a just-folks personality, backed by a blitz of clever TV advertising, to sweep the five-candidate GOP race and became one of the unexpected stars of the primary season. Now she faces a tougher test against a four-term Democratic congressman, Bruce Braley, who has more than $2.3 million in the bank, compared with her $100,000, and a slight edge in the polls. The winner will succeed Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin, who is retiring after five terms.

"She oozes personality, and a likable Republican in a swing state is hard to beat," said national GOP pollster and strategist Greg Strimple, who is not advising the Ernst campaign.

Ernst, 43, who defeated four male opponents in turning a once-close race into a rout, emphasized her background growing up on a farm and her National Guard service in Iraq to stand apart from the field. Her ads showing her mingling with hogs and firing a handgun at a shooting range went viral in the political world.

Charlie Neibergall/AP

State Sen. Joni Ernst speaks to supporters Tuesday at a primary election night rally in Des Moines, Iowa, after winning the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate.

"She's really authentic. What you see is what you get," said Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican and friend of Ernst's.

Republican strategists hope the smiling, gun-toting, motorcycle-riding image plays as well against Braley, 56, a lawyer, as it did against Mark Jacobs, the former energy company CEO who was her chief competitor in the primary.

The race for Iowa's first open Senate seat in 40 years comes as Republicans need to gain six seats to win the Senate majority. Braley seems more vulnerable than he did earlier this year, and both parties, along with outside groups, are expected to make the contest among the most expensive in the nation.

In the ad that boosted Ernst's rise, she likens her experience castrating hogs on the farm where she grew up to cutting government spending. "Let's make 'em squeal," she says, smiling.

Wednesday, Braley began airing ads challenging Ernst's boasts. The ad says Ernst never wrote legislation to cut spending and backed higher spending in the Legislature.

"Sen. Ernst's ads are clever," said Braley's campaign manager, Sarah Benzing. "It's important for Iowans to get to know the real Joni Ernst."

If elected, Ernst will be the first woman elected to Congress from Iowa.

Petite with a sensibly short haircut, Ernst grew up in small-town Red Oak and enlisted in the Iowa National Guard after attending Iowa State University. She won a state Senate seat in 2010. As a colonel commanding a transportation company, she led daily convoys of 60 trucks from Kuwait into Iraq in 2003 and 2004.

Jeff Link, Braley's senior adviser, said Ernst has benefited by being "the most likable" in the GOP field.

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NATION

Application 'inconsistencies' vex health law

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A huge, new paperwork headache for the government also could be jeopardizing coverage for some of the millions of people who just got health insurance under President Barack Obama's law.

A government document provided to The Associated Press indicates that at least 2 million people enrolled for taxpayer-subsidized private health insurance have data discrepancies in their applications that, if unresolved, could affect what they pay for coverage, or even their legal right to benefits.

The final number affected could well be higher. According to the administration, the 2 million figure reflects only consumers who signed up through the federally administered HealthCare.gov website and call centers. The government signed up about 5.4 million people, while state-run websites signed up another 2.6 million.

For consumers, a discrepancy means that the information they supplied, subject to perjury laws, does not match what the government has on record.

For example, someone who underestimated his income, and got too generous a subsidy as a result, could owe the Internal Revenue Service money next year.

The seven-page slide presentation from the Health and Human Services Department was provided to AP as several congressional committees investigate the discrepancies. Most of the data conflicts involve important details on income, citizenship and immigration status — which affect eligibility and subsidies.

Ensuring that health care benefits are delivered accurately is a priority for HHS nominee Sylvia Mathews Burwell, whose confirmation as department secretary is before the Senate this week.

Responding to the document, administration officials expressed confidence that most of the discrepancies can be resolved over the summer. Nonetheless, the department has set up a system to "turn off" benefits for anyone who is found to be ineligible.

Julie Bataille, communications coordinator for the health care rollout, said many of the discrepancies appear to be due to outdated information in government files — and the "vast majority" of cases are being resolved in favor of consumers. The government is making an all-out effort to reach those with various discrepancies, which officials have termed "inconsistencies."

Report says NASA strategy can't get humans to Mars

By Joel Achenbach
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A sweeping review of NASA's human spaceflight program has concluded that the agency has an unsustainable and unsafe strategy that will prevent the U.S. from achieving a human landing on Mars in the foreseeable future.

The 286-page National Research Council report, the culmination of an 18-month investigation mandated by Congress, says that to continue on the present course under budgets that don't even keep pace with inflation "is to invite failure, disillusionment, and the loss of the longstanding international perception that human spaceflight is something the United States does best."

The report makes a case for sending astronauts back to the moon. That's an idea that has been vocally opposed by President Barack Obama. Obama killed the Constellation program, which had been backed by President George W. Bush and would have included a return to the moon.

The key argument against the Constellation program was that it didn't pencil out — that there wasn't nearly enough money dedicated to the program to achieve the lunar landing it envisioned. But now the NRC committee has delivered essentially the same assessment of the Obama Administration's current NASA program of record. If the goal is Mars, the committee said, the current strategy isn't going to work.

"Absent a very fundamental change in the nation's way of doing business, it is not realistic to believe that we can achieve the consensus goal of reaching Mars," committee co-chair and former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels said Wednesday morning in an interview.

NASA spokesperson David Weaver said the agency welcomed the report, and characterized it as being "consistent with the bipartisan plan agreed to by Congress and the Administration in the NASA Authorization Act of 2010 and that we have been implementing ever since."

Weaver added, "NASA has made significant progress on many key elements that will be needed to reach Mars, and we continue on this path in collaboration with industry and other nations."

The NRC's Committee on Human Spaceflight also probed the philosophical question of why we send humans into space to begin with. That question incited the formation of the $3.2 million review effort, which was funded by NASA.

The committee concluded that the purely practical, economic benefits of human spaceflight do not justify the costs involved, but said that the aspirational nature of the endeavor may make it worth the effort.

Ryan Lavis, (New York) Staten Island Advance/AP

Firefighters battle a blaze that tore through three townhouses on New York City's Staten Island early Thursday.

NYC officials: 34 hurt in Staten Island fire

By Ula Ilnytzky
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fire tore through three townhouses on Staten Island early Thursday, injuring 34 people including two young children who were tossed out of a smoke-filled, second-floor window into the arms of neighbors below, authorities and witnesses said.

About 200 firefighters responded to the blaze that erupted about 1 a.m. and battled the five-alarm fire for several hours.

A Fire Department of New York spokesman said 23 firefighters and 11 civilians suffered injuries ranging from minor to serious but none was considered life-threatening. He said the number was expected to climb slightly.

He said the flames were so heavy that firefighters were unable to say where the fire originated. That would be part of the investigation into what caused the blaze, he said.

"My life is in there," said Cindy Piscopo, who lived on the first floor of one of the four-family townhouses.

She said she was awakened by a top-floor neighbor knocking on her door and yelling at her to get out.

The fire spread to the third building about two hours later, said Piscopo, who escaped safely with her 12-year-old daughter.

A neighbor, Anthony DiSimone, said he and his fiancee, Darleen Cerzosie, helped two young children to safety after seeing a man screaming and dangling his young son from a second-floor window thick with smoke.

Federal officials say shield against deportation can be extended

By Alicia A. Caldwell
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Young immigrants who have won U.S. government protection from deportation can apply for another two years of safety.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will start taking renewal applications from the more than half-million immigrants already enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program starting immediately.

Renewal applications are being sought now to ensure that immigrants already in the program don't fall out of status, Alejandro Mayorkas, the deputy secretary of the Homeland Security Department, said Wednesday. Renewals, like new applications, carry a $465 fee. The program remains open for first-time applicants.

DACA, as the program has come to be known in immigration circles, was launched in advance of the 2012 presidential elections and the first applications were approved in September of that year. Since then, more than 560,000 immigrants who arrived in the United States as children but didn't have legal status have been given permission to legally stay for two years.

Mayorkas announced the renewal program in the midst of President Barack Obama's latest push to get Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration bill in advance of November's midterm elections. Last month, the White House announced that a Homeland Security-led review of deportation policies would be put on hold until the end of the summer.

The delay is aimed at giving Congress time to act on immigration before the August recess.

DACA was hailed by immigration advocates as a good interim fix to a larger problem of what to do with the more than 11 million immigrants thought to be living in the country illegally.

NATION

Risky business

Low-budget filmmakers rely on tricks, shortcuts and even some lawbreaking

By Saba Hamedy
Los Angeles Times

In a quiet hillside home in Topanga Canyon, Calif., filmmaker Brian McGuire instructed his cast members to take their shirts off, put their sunglasses on, snort fake cocaine and "party hard."

The 20-person cast and crew were filming a party scene for McGuire's low-budget production in a "borrowed" home. Permission wasn't a problem — a friend of McGuire's who had helped decorate the house knew where the key was.

"We didn't even think we were trespassing, really," McGuire said of the home, which was on the market. "We figured we'd just shoot here on a weekend when we didn't think anyone was coming."

By the third and final day of shooting the scene for the film, a dark comedy called "Prevertere," the party was going really well — no damage, decent footage. Then McGuire and crew had an unexpected guest.

"A Realtor showed up with a couple of clients to show the house, and we were there shooting out this crazy party scene," McGuire said. "All of a sudden I'm hearing that cops are on their way. So we shot this whole number in 20 minutes, when it should have been in three hours ... and packed up and ran out of the house."

McGuire, 38, knows things aren't always easy — or necessarily legal — when it comes to low-budget filmmaking, a world filled with improvisation, favors and shortcuts.

"I've been close to danger, but I've gotten out of it," McGuire said. "If you ever do get questioned, there are tricks to avoid trouble."

Some of McGuire's favorite tricks include not using a tripod ("they can't fine you if you don't put a tripod on the ground") or saying he's filming a wedding video. Once, when filming downtown, McGuire had his crew push the cameraman around in a wheelchair to avoid getting busted.

The shaggy-haired filmmaker has made six low-budget films and is working on his seventh. "I don't think I've ever gotten a permit."

Last year, permits for 584 feature films were sought from FilmL.A., the office that processes film permits in the city, said Philip Sokoloski, a spokesman for the office. The movies had budgets as high as $170 million for the Marvel Studios hero flick "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," which filmed mostly in the city.

But also filming on the streets of the city are super-low-budget films made by students and other Hollywood hopefuls, like McGuire, working with four-digit budgets.

Some are working without permits despite a city ordinance that makes it a misdemeanor to film without one.

The cost is almost certainly a large factor: A film permit through FilmL.A. costs a minimum of $625. Additional fees may be imposed by the city or county — depending on choice of locations and the "activities you plan to film," according to its website.

Sokoloski said it's harder for illegal filming to go unnoticed. In recent years, the Los Angeles Police Department has cracked down on unpermitted filming through its Contract Services Section.

"Revisions to L.A.'s film ordinance provided a clear legal mechanism for film permit enforcement," he said. "LAPD's choice to dedicate a unit to film permit approval and enforcement made enforcement efforts more consistent. (And) communities know the process that legal filming goes through, so illegal filming stands out."

Sokoloski said the LAPD reported 34 permit citations in 2012 and 52 citations in 2013.

Dan Finkel, right, directs a scene with actor Larry Lederman, in lab coat, at Finkel's Los Angeles home for his latest film, "Brain Pickle," in in February. Some filmmakers are cutting corners in order to save money.

"Whenever a citation is issued, the unpermitted activity is also shut down immediately," he said.

Low-budget filmmakers say it's usually worth the hassle and occasional risk.

"People want to be part of something that's cool and fun," filmmaker David Lockhart said. "Low-budget filmmaking is about community and sharing your talents with others within that community."

It took Lockhart only about 30 minutes to turn a Culver City dive bar into the set of a 1920s flashback scene for his $500,000 film "Lockhart."

Although Lockhart is working with a larger budget than McGuire, he still uses a lot of tricks to save money. For this project, he did get a permit — but he said he's avoided doing so with smaller films in the past.

Suzanne Lyons, the author of "Indie Film Producing: The Craft of Low-Budget Filmmaking," said fundraising for a low-budget film can often stifle the creative process.

"Film funding is a gigantic issue for all of us," she said, "and that one thing alone will get in the way of someone making their film."

To raise money and awareness about their projects, many filmmakers flock to fundraising websites Kickstarter or GoFundMe. Some go straight to investors.

"I think you have to look ahead — you don't even necessarily need distribution," Lockhart said. "You can sell it on your own website or Netflix, iTunes. There's no good way or bad way."

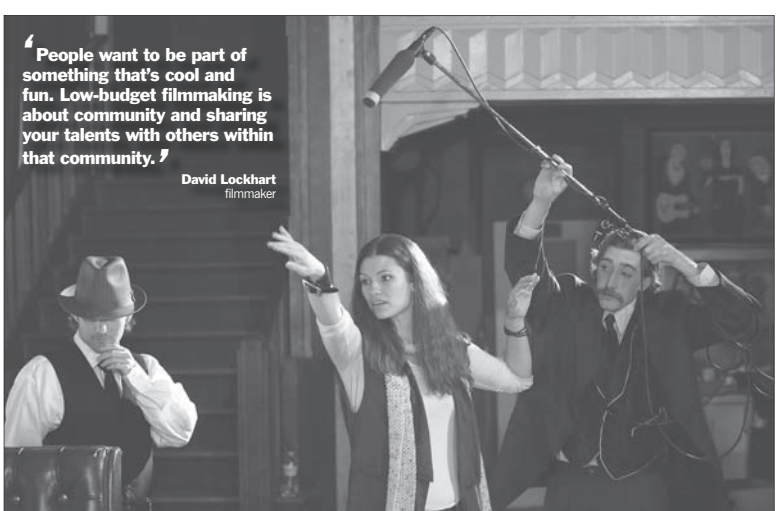
McGuire, for example, uploads trailers of all his films onto his professional website, Brianmcguire.info, and Vimeo. Several of his films are also available for purchase on Amazon Instant Video, Google Play and iTunes.

But in the process of looking for a means to make the film, Lyons said people often forget to follow laws.

"What happens with us a lot of times in the indie world is we are so busy wearing the creative hat — which is important — but forget about the business hat," she said.

Lyons said her No. 1 tip to aspiring filmmakers is "get your paperwork done."

"Filmmaking can be easy if you take the right attitude and right approach," she said.



Photos by Los Angeles Times/MCT

Actor Sean Mcintire, right, holds an improvised boom microphone as director KT Kent sets up a shot for actor David Lockhart, left, on the set of the movie "Lockhart" in Los Angeles in March. Producing movies on a tight budget means everyone — cast and crew — may work several roles.

NATION

> ***I know what it is to be bullied and what is to be bullied online, and I want to be the protector of those who think it won't get better.***
>
> **Lizzie Velasquez**
> motivational speaker

Showing her strength

Woman with rare syndrome draws on her life experience for anti-bullying documentary

BY ENRIQUE LOPETEGUI
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — In December, she inspired millions with her TED Talk. Now Lizzie Velasquez, once called "the world's ugliest woman," hopes to reach an even wider audience through an anti-bullying documentary about her story.

"I know what it is to be bullied and what is to be bullied online, and I want to be the protector of those who think it won't get better," said Velasquez, 25, who has a rare disease that makes it impossible for her to gain weight. She has never weighed more than 64 pounds and is blind in one eye.

"The idea is that they see the documentary and realize that, yes, it is possible to overcome everything," she told The Associated Press during an interview in a coffee shop in Austin, Texas.

She's raising money for the film, tentatively titled "The Lizzie Project," through a Kickstarter campaign that has already collected more than $123,000 in donations. The campaign, whose trailer can be seen at TheLizzieProject.com, ends May 31. The goal is to raise $180,000.

Velasquez was born in Austin in 1989 with a syndrome so rare only two other people in the world are known to have it.

She became a celebrity on Dec. 5, 2013, when her TED Talk (short speeches designed to share and spread ideas from a number of disciplines) in Austin (part of the worldwide event TEDxWomen) became a hit.

In her speech, Velasquez explained that her life changed at age 17, when she saw herself on a YouTube video titled, "The world's ugliest woman."

The video's comments section featured comments such as, "Do the world a favor and put a gun to your head."

"Instead of just taking shelter of my tears, I chose to be happy and realize this syndrome is not a problem but a blessing that allows me to improve myself and inspire other people," said Velasquez.

In the years since she saw the video and comments, Velasquez graduated from college, wrote three self-help books (the third, "Choosing Happiness," will be published in August) and gained tens of thousands of followers on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. She's been interviewed by Katie Couric and ABC's "The View," where she met Barbara Walters and Whoopi Goldberg.

Velasquez credits her strength to her parents, who have always loved her the same way they love her siblings, Marina and Chris, neither of whom suffer from the syndrome.

"They're the best parents in the entire world," said Velasquez. "From the moment I was born they showered me with love. And they didn't just raise me. They raised my brother and sister in the exact same way. So that love, multiplied times three, is what definitely brought me to where I am today."

Velasquez was born four weeks premature. Doctors used a photo to show her to her mother for the first time.

"I started crying inconsolably, but I asked them to bring her to me nevertheless," said Rita Velasquez. "I wanted to see her, hold her and love her."

Her father said Lizzie realized she was different on her first day of kindergarten, when other kids didn't want to play with her.

"We told her about the syndrome and, ever since, (Lizzie) showed great signs of maturity," he said.

"Lizzie has such an inner strength and sense of humor that anyone can relate to her," said Sara Bordo, a first-time director working with Velasquez on the film project.

"We all have difficulties in life, but nothing compared to what she has been through. Her positive attitude elevates the spirit of any person in the world."

Velasquez says she's not interested in a possible cure for her syndrome.

"No, there is no way, I wouldn't even consider it," Velasquez said. "If you had asked me that question when I was 13, I'd probably have said yes. I'd be all for it, I'd do the trial, whatever. But if you ask me that now, I've learned and I've come such a long way to be able to accept who I am and own who I am that, if I changed anything about me I wouldn't be Lizzie, I wouldn't be true to myself."

Author and motivational speaker Lizzie Velasquez, who possesses a rare and unknown syndrome that prevents her from gaining weight, is raising funds on Kickstarter for an anti-bulling documentary.

JOHN SHEARER, INVISION/AP

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man drives hundreds of miles alongside corpse

MI WARREN — A Detroit-area man driving back to Michigan from Arizona failed to report a woman with him had died, and he completed the trip with her corpse.

Warren police Sgt. Stephen Mills on Wednesday said the man's 92-year-old mother also was in the van.

They left the Phoenix area Sunday after the woman checked out of a mental health facility. As they drove Monday through the southwest U.S., the 62-year-old man discovered the 31-year-old woman's body was cold. Police say she may have taken oxycodone.

Someone at the mental health facility called the woman's cell to check on her and was told she was dead. When the driver refused to contact police, the facility called police. Michigan authorities contacted the man who met them Tuesday in Warren. The incident is under investigation.

Police did not release the names of the man or the dead woman.

WWII vet finally gets high school diploma

FL JACKSONVILLE — A World War II veteran graduated from a Jacksonville high school more than 71 years after he dropped out to fight in Europe.

Jack Koolik received his diploma Monday with students from Darnell-Cookman Middle and High School. Like the rest of the graduates, the 90-year-old wore a cap and gown for the ceremony.

In 1942, Koolik left his school in Brooklyn, N.Y., when he was 18 to join the military. "I was undecided what I wanted to do with my life," Koolik told The Florida Times Union.

Koolik was assigned to a radar unit looking for low-flying planes in Italy and received several medals for his service during the war.

Since last year, veterans who left school in any state to join the military and were honorably discharged can apply to receive a Florida high school diploma.

Woman accused of theft over cancer claims

IL BELLEVILLE — An Illinois woman was charged Wednesday with bilking thousands of dollars in donations from hundreds of people she duped for months into believing she had terminal cancer, drawing scorn from an investigator who labeled the alleged global scheme "evil."

Prosecutors in St. Clair County charged Alissa Jackson with two felony counts of theft by deception. Jackson was jailed on $100,000 bond and was scheduled to be arraigned later Wednesday in Belleville.

Belleville police Detective Sgt. Mark Heffernan said investigators began scrutinizing Jackson nearly a month ago after community members reported their suspicions that she was lying about having late-stage ovarian cancer. Police ultimately found that although the community staged several fundraisers meant to defray Jackson's supposed medical expenses, Jackson never had cancer.

It was not immediately clear how long Jackson carried out her alleged deceit or how much she profited from it from well-intentioned donors police say were part of "Alissa's Army."

Wednesday's criminal complaint alleges Jackson pocketed more than $500 on May 12 from local Pizza Hut restaurants that devoted 20 percent of their profits that day to her. Jackson also is accused of stealing at least $500 from a woman who bought and sold T-shirts to raise funds for her from January through March 10.

The scope of Jackson's suspected ruse remained unclear Wednesday. Brendan Kelly, St. Clair County's state's attorney said that "it's fair to say this involved several thousand dollars."

THE CENSUS

89

The number of artworks and writings created by John Lennon of the Beatles that were sold at auction Wednesday in New York. The trove included whimsical drawings, such as the untitled ink drawing (right), poems and short stories produced in the 1960s and fetched skyrocketing prices, including $209,000 for a nine-page parody of Sherlock Holmes. Before becoming famous as a musician, Lennon trained as an artist at the Liverpool School of art. The collection belonged to Lennon's British publisher, Tom Maschler, who called Lennon a man of "extraordinary talent and imagination."

CLAY JACKSON, THE (DANVILLE, KY.) ADVOCATE MESSENGER/AP

3, 2, 1 — lift off!

Eighth-grade students from Boyle County Middle School in Danville, Ky., watch a plastic bottle launch on Monday, The students were learning about Newton's Second Law of Motion. The rockets were made from plastic bottles and cardboard.

State board votes to protect gray wolf

CA FRESNO — California officials decided Wednesday to add the gray wolf to the state's endangered species list, extending protections to the animal.

The state's Fish and Game Commission voted 3-1 in favor of the listing, which will keep the animal safe from hunters' crosshairs. The decision requires a second vote in August to become final.

The debate over whether to list the wolf pitted cattle ranchers, who consider the predator a threat to valuable herds, against those who wish to see the packs again flourish.

Amaroq Weiss of the Center for Biological Diversity, which leads the push for protection, said there are places where wolves and livestock exist together.

"There are definitely avenues for not only tolerating wolves but accepting wolves," she said. "This was their home before it was ours."

State court considers restoring big-soda ban

NY ALBANY — New York City officials are telling the state's top court to reinstate the city's ban on big sodas, arguing that the city has authority to restrict products that make people obese and contribute to disease.

Richard Dearing, attorney for the Board of Health, said the court should reinstate the 2012 ban against peddling sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces. The ban was overturned by the lower courts.

Pushed by then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg and backed by Mayor Bill de Blasio, the limits would apply to restaurants, delis, movie theaters, stadiums and street carts.

Restaurants, theater owners and beverage companies sued. They say New York City is the only jurisdiction attempting a ban. Their attorney Richard Bress said the board lacks authority for such a policy decision.

Police: Teens called 911 on themselves

NM SANTA FE — Police said a group of suspected New Mexico teen vandals got so scared when a crime victim chased them that they called police on themselves.

KOAT-TV reported that Luciano Romero, 18, and his 15-, 16- and 17-year-old companions recently were arrested following the bizarre chains of events in Santa Fe.

According to police, the teens smashed several windshields in Santa Fe neighborhood until one victim jumped in his car and followed the suspects. Officials said the teens must have gotten frightened because they called 911 and asked for help.

Judge accused of hitting public defender

FL VIERA — A Florida judge accused of punching an assistant public defender during an altercation outside a courtroom isn't on the bench.

Another judge was taking over the caseload of Judge John Murphy in Brevard County on Tuesday.

Murphy allegedly hit Andrew Weinstock on Monday after the two exchanged words over whether his client could have a speedy trial.

A courtroom video moments before the fight shows the judge ordering Weinstock to sit down. The judge says he would throw a rock at Weinstock if he had one. The judge then asks Weinstock if he wants a fight to step outside the courtroom.

Court spokeswoman Michelle Kennedy said no decision on Murphy's status has been made.

From wire reports

UKRAINE UNREST

Michael Abrams/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, commander of U.S. European Command and NATO's supreme allied commander Europe, speaks Thursday at an unveiling ceremony at the 9th Air Force monument at Picauville, France.

Breedlove: NATO must be prepared to face 'tyranny'

By Matt Millham
Stars and Stripes

CARENTAN, France — As tens of thousands of people, including World War II veterans and active-duty troops, crowd into Normandy to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day, NATO's top officer cautioned that the U.S. and allies must remain prepared to confront tyranny in Europe in the present day.

"Think about the investment in human life. Think about what went on here at D-Day to address tyranny and to bring peace to Europe," Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied commander, said in an interview Thursday in Carentan, which was seized by U.S. forces after nearly a week of heavy fighting in June 1944. "We are enjoying relative peace in Europe now, and we need to guard it cautiously and carefully."

After Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, "the lesson I think is that we thought that kind of behavior was over, and it's not, and so we need to remain prepared so that we don't have to undertake another operation like the one that started here on D-Day at some time in the future," Breedlove said.

President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday that he was seeking $1 billion to boost the U.S. military presence in eastern Europe to reassure allies on NATO's eastern periphery.

The British on Wednesday announced they would send as many as 1,000 troops and 25 tanks to NATO war games near the Ukraine border later this year.

Breedlove said that other nations also committed forces to the effort to reassure allies in closest proximity to Russia and Ukraine at a NATO ministerial meeting that ended Wednesday. He said he would leave it up to the countries themselves to make the announcements.

"Just suffice to say that some of our larger, more capable nations will be participating in battlegroup-size formations," he said.

Breedlove attended a ceremony in Carentan on Wednesday in commemoration of the bloody, six-day battle American soldiers fought to wrest the town from the Germans days after D-Day.

On Thursday, Breedlove was in Picauville to pay tribute to the Army Air Corps, which was responsible for flying the planes that dropped more than 13,000 American paratroops behind Normandy's beaches hours before the massive amphibious assault on June 6, 1944.

On Friday, he'll take part in commemorations at Normandy American Cemetery, where 9,386 headstones mark the graves of American servicemen who died in the invasion.

Breedlove said he has no plans to mention the parallels between Germany's actions in World War II and the current events on the Continent.

"Frankly, this D-Day time is about celebrating the human sacrifice, the incredible courage, the honor of what our troops did in the past," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to attend some of the events surrounding those celebrations. Breedlove said he has no plans to meet with Putin.

"If the opportunity presents itself, I'll put my hand out and shake."

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Obama, Cameron set new markers for Putin

By Nedra Pickler
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron laid down new markers for Russia on Thursday, giving Moscow a month to meet conditions in Ukraine or face further sanctions that will hit key sectors of Russia's economy.

The new thresholds for action were laid out at a joint news conference following a Group of Seven world leader summit that was re-arranged to exclude Russian President Vladimir Putin after aggressive moves in Ukraine. Cameron said Putin's actions are completely unacceptable and at odds with the group's democratic values.

To avoid even harsher sanctions, Cameron said, Putin must meet three conditions: recognize the Petro Poroshenko's election as the new leader in Kiev, stop arms from crossing the border and cease support for pro-Russian separatist groups concentrated in eastern Ukraine.

"If these things don't happen, then sectoral sanctions will follow," Cameron said, standing before a row of U.S. and British flags. "The next month will be vital in judging if President Putin has taken these steps. And that is what I will urge President Putin to do when I meet him later today."

Putin's meetings with Cameron, French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel illustrate how Obama and European leaders are taking different strategies for dealing with Putin after trying to isolate him over his moves in Ukraine, including Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

But Obama said the G-7 leaders unanimously agree with the steps Cameron outlined, although they were not so explicit in written statements issued after two days of meetings.

"If Mr. Putin takes those steps, then it is possible for us to begin to rebuild trust between Russia and its neighbors and Europe," Obama said. "We will have a chance to see what Mr. Putin does over the next two, three, four weeks, and if he remains on the current course, then we've already indicated that kinds of actions that we're prepared to take.

Obama said he thought the fact Putin didn't immediately denounce the outcome of Ukraine's election last month offers hope he's moving in a different direction. "But I think we have to see what he does and not what he says," he added.

The G-7 meeting was originally supposed to take place in Sochi, Russia, and include Putin, but the leaders froze him out and moved the site to Brussels after Russia annexed Crimea.

Obama was flying to Paris later Thursday for dinner with Hollande, who later planned to dine a second time with Putin so the U.S. and Russian leaders would not have to cross paths.

B-52 bombers deploy to UK

By Adam L. Mathis
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Three B-52 Stratofortress bombers arrived in Britain on Wednesday for a training deployment, just days after President Barack Obama unveiled plans to boost America's military presence on the Continent.

The long-range bombers, which are capable of delivering conventional and nuclear weapons, landed at RAF Fairford to start a two-week deployment that will allow their crews to familiarize themselves with regional air bases and operations, the Air Force said in a news release.

The planes deployed from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and Minot Air Force Base, N.D., according to the release.

It said the U.S. Air Force routinely runs training missions "to ensure the U.S. has a credible and flexible capability to respond to a variety of potential threats."

"Bomber operations enhance this capability by providing the president a variety of options he may need to protect the nation or its allies and partners," the release said.

The planes come as Obama visits Europe to attend the G7 conference and to reassure allies about the U.S. commitment to oppose Russian expansion. Obama said he wants Congress to authorize up to $1 billion to be spent on increasing U.S. military activity in Europe.

One of the three B-52s is also scheduled to participate in the D-Day commemoration on Saturday in France.

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FACES

Carrie Underwood wins 3rd straight CMT video of year

By Chris Talbott
The Associated Press

Carrie Underwood's special connection with CMT viewers helped her continue her run at the CMT Awards — and crash Luke Bryan's party.

Underwood won her third straight video of the year Wednesday night, taking the top honor for the fifth time with "See You Again." The "American Idol" champion is CMT's top overall winner with 11 belt buckles in her career.

Underwood managed to horn in on all the fun top winners Bryan and Florida Georgia Line were having. The two acts teamed up to win collaboration of the year for "This Is How We Roll" — a song they performed at the top of the show with Jason Derulo and ZZ Top and released as a remix with Derulo — and each won another belt buckle trophy.

Underwood teamed with Miranda Lambert to shut down the show with their song "Somethin' Bad" and was clearly surprised when she took fan-voted video of the year. "It's really hard to believe," Underwood said on stage. "I've been doing this for nine years, but every single second of those nine years you guys have been amazing."

Underwood was probably surprised because it looked like it might be shaping up for a double Bryan-FGL win for "This Is How We Roll." It was one of the few times Bryan didn't win. Male video of the year winner Blake Shelton bet against himself in the category, wagering that Bryan would win the category. Shelton won for "Doin' What She Likes," and now he'll be doing what Bryan likes.

"I owe Luke an expensive dinner, but that's OK," Shelton joked.

Bryan was a constant fixture early in the awards. He teamed up with his superfriends to kick it off, mashing up "This Is How We Roll," Derulo's "Talk Dirty" and ZZ Top's "La Grange." He took a shot from host Kristen Bell about falling off the stage last week — while wrapped in yellow warning tape. And he and FGL helped Bell with her monologue, taping a segment poking fun at the Jay Z-Solange Knowles elevator dustup, complete with black-and-white security footage.

He returned to the stage later after winning CMT performance of the year with Lionel Richie for their performance of "Oh No" and "All Night Long" from "2013 CMT Artists of the Year."

"The fact that I have won an award with you is just amazing, buddy," Bryan said from the stage.

"All I can say is, if I'm having this much fun, let's do it again," Richie responded.

Richie said Bryan is experiencing a run much like his own in the mid-1970s that made him an international star. "Every once in a while — and it happened to me — there's a moment and time in your career when the forces and stars come together ... and this is Luke's time," Richie said. "I knew it the first time I met him. It really is special. You can see it in his eyes. You can see it in the way he acts. He feels empowered right now and I know that wonderful feeling. And by the way, it's going to happen for a while because he has that genuine personality."

The Band Perry won group of the year for "Done," and Cassadee Pope took breakthrough video for "Wasting All These Tears."

Carrie Underwood accepts the award for video of the year for "See You Again" at the CMT Music Awards held in Nashville on Wednesday.

Wade Payne, Invision/AP

Shizuo Kambayashi, pool/AP

George Takei, right, speaks while his husband Brad Altman looks on during an interview before a reception at U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy's official residence Thursday in Tokyo.

George Takei sees gay pride starting in Japan

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

George Takei said he needed courage and anger to come out as gay and to join the equal rights movement for sexual minorities in the U.S., and he hopes his Japanese counterparts will do the same to make their society more equal.

Takei said he has noticed a movement beginning in Japan, though the country of his ancestry still has a long way to go. He said Japanese people need to fight for their own rights and they need to be angry, too.

The "Star Trek" actor also known for his gay rights activism spoke Thursday at a U.S. Embassy-sponsored talk, held at American Center in Tokyo, where about 100 people gathered. Takei, 77, is in Japan to attend embassy-organized events marking Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month in the U.S.

Takei said his activist roots come from his upbringing as a Japanese-American who was put in an internment camp with his family during World War II. He was silent for decades about being gay because of concern about hurting his acting career, but broke his silence in 2005 after then-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger rejected a bill legalizing same-sex marriage.

He and his longtime partner, Brad Altman, were married in 2008. Takei said they chose to marry in a public ceremony for the sake of diversity and democracy.

Director named for upcoming 'Star Wars' stand-alone movie

The Associated Press

Josh Trank will direct one of the planned stand-alone "Star Wars" films.

Lucasfilm announced Wednesday that the 30-year-old filmmaker will helm one of the two announced "Star Wars" spinoffs being made outside of the third trilogy. An earlier announced spinoff is to be led by "Godzilla" director Gareth Edwards.

Trank is the director of 2012's found footage-style science fiction thriller "Chronicle." He currently is working on "The Fantastic Four," the superhero team-up reboot scheduled for release next year.

Lucasfilm gave no details on the subject of the "Star Wars" movie. J.J. Abrams is in production on "Star Wars: Episode VII," which will follow "The Return of the Jedi" in chronology.

Abrams on Tuesday tweeted a photo with a note pleading for people not to leak photos from the set of "Episode VII." In recent days, dozens of photos from the set of the film have appeared online. But his message was also tongue-in-cheek. Though Abrams alluded to "ridiculous claims that the Millennium Falcon is in the movie," his note was wryly played on the spaceship's familiar "Holochess" board. "Star Wars" fans quickly picked up on the pun.

Rowling tweet tweaks Amazon

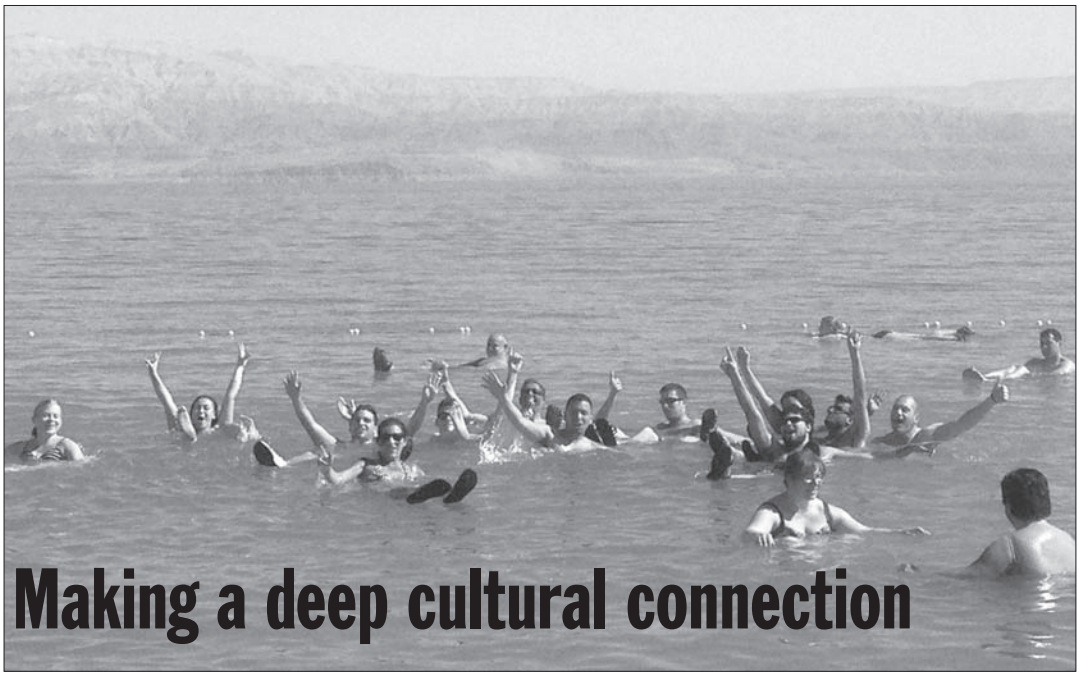
J.K. Rowling added a subtle comment under her pen name Robert Galbraith on Wednesday about the standoff between her publisher and Amazon.com. The "Harry Potter" author noted in a tweet from @rgalbraith that there are "lots of ways to order" her novel "The Silkworm" in the U.S., as "Amazon kindly suggest(s)." Rowling spokeswoman Rebecca Salt confirmed that the twitter account was authentic. Amazon is in a contract dispute with Rowling's U.S. publisher, Hachette Book Group, and isn't accepting pre-orders released by Hachette. "The Silkworm," Rowling's second Galbraith detective novel, is out June 19.

Other news

■ CBS News' **Lara Logan** is back to work at "60 Minutes" more than six months after being ordered to take a leave of absence for her role in a disputed story.

■ PBS says **"Antiques Roadshow"** is dropping appraisals of ivory tusks. The tusks won't be shown in new episodes or in segments drawn from previously aired shows, PBS said Wednesday. The popular public TV series features items brought in for professional assessment.

FAITH



Making a deep cultural connection

Kate Linthicum, Los Angeles Times/MCT

Participants on a Taglit Birthright trip earlier this year. The program, which organizes free trips to Israel for young Jewish adults, is growing.

Birthright trips to Israel offer young Jews a free trip, maybe a chance to find a mate

By Kate Linthicum
Los Angeles Times

DEAD SEA, West Bank — On a recent afternoon, Diana Blau, 22, was relaxing on the beach after bathing in the salty waters of the Dead Sea.

Blau's mother is Jewish and her father Greek Orthodox.

She has never strongly identified with Jewish culture or religion, she said, in part because she doesn't regularly attended synagogue and didn't grow up with many Jewish friends.

"There's a disconnect," said Blau, a graphic designer from Emerson, N.J. "I'm usually the only Jew in the room."

In many ways Blau is the target demographic for Taglit-Birthright, which provides free trips to the Holy Land for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26.

In recent years, the program has been redoubling its efforts to help keep Jewish tradition afloat amid increasing anxiety that young members of the Jewish diaspora are losing their connection to their culture and to Israel.

One recent survey by the Pew Research Center found that one-third of Jews under 30 said being Jewish was very important to them.

That compares with 54 percent of Jews 65 and older.

Intermarriage, long viewed as a threat to American Judaism, also continues to increase.

Of survey respondents married since 2000, nearly 6 in 10 had wed a non-Jew, compared with 4 in 10 among those who married in the 1980s and 2 in 10 among those who married before 1970.

> **'If there isn't any kind of connection made, then Jews will intermarry. And eventually there won't be Jews anymore.'**
>
> **Michael Koss**
> Birthright donor

Offering Jewish young adults a chance to experience Israel together may change that.

A recent Brandeis University survey on Birthright found that participants were more than 45 percent more likely to marry someone Jewish, a statistic that underscores one of the program's main goals: introducing Jews to one another.

Birthright encourages participants to socialize, and it also places young Israeli soldiers on every tour bus.

Birthright donor Michael Koss, a real estate investor in West Los Angeles, said introducing Jews to one another is essential to preserving "the continuity" of Judaism.

"If there isn't any kind of connection made, then Jews will intermarry," he said. "And eventually there won't be Jews anymore."

Created in 1999 by Seagram spirits heir Charles Bronfman and hedge fund manager Michael Steinhardt, Birthright has recently expanded through donations of more than $200 million each from Las Vegas casino magnate and Republican fundraiser Sheldon Adelson and the Israeli government.

Last year, the program sent 44,000 people to Israel, double the number four years ago.

During that time, the program has also loosened its eligibility requirements, allowing some of those who have previously traveled in a group to Israel to participate.

It has also sought to broaden its appeal by reaching out to niche groups. It now offers specialized trips for those who love the outdoors and culinary tours designed for foodies, including an evening in which participants cook a meal for Israel Defense Forces soldiers.

Other targeted tours cater to animal lovers, lacrosse players, first responders, and the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Blau, who acknowledges that she probably would never have come to Israel if it weren't for a free Birthright trip, was one of three dozen young Americans and Canadians between the ages of 18 and 26 who crisscrossed the country by bus this year.

The group had been in Israel for less than two days, but already its members had prayed at the Western Wall, slept in a tent in the Negev desert, climbed to the top of the ancient fortress of Masada and ridden camels.

Walking through the stone gates to Jerusalem's Old City, Sam Paul, 26, said his emotions surprised him.

"It was a spiritual experience I didn't expect to get," said Paul, an insurance broker from Manchester, N.H.

For David Weingrad, 26, of Merrick, N.Y., being in Israel had reaffirmed his pro-Israel stance.

"We were here first, it's our land," he said. "We belong here."

Critics of the program describe it as a vehicle for Israeli propaganda that seeks to downplay the conflict with Palestinians.

Some have started an alternative program called Birthright Unplugged that includes extensive tours of the Palestinian territories, which the original Birthright leaves off its itinerary.

The tour guide leading the Birthright trip that Blau and Paul joined said he makes a point of taking his groups to the barrier that divides Israel and the West Bank.

Guide Ayal Beer said he also emphasizes Israel's domestic complexities, including tensions between the country's secular and ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities.

"My personal goal is that people will come out with more questions than answers," Beer said.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Fed survey: US economy strengthening

By Martin Crutsinger
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Federal Reserve survey shows the U.S. economy strengthening during the past two months in areas from manufacturing and construction to retail sales and bank lending.

Seven of the Fed's 12 regions — Boston, New York, Richmond, Chicago, Minneapolis, Dallas and San Francisco — reported "moderate" growth during the early spring, while the remaining five described growth as "modest," according to the Beige Book survey released Wednesday.

Retail sales were reviving, helped by pent-up demand for new cars after the harsh winter, the survey found. Manufacturing was expanding in all regions, along with lending. One weakness was home sales, held back in large part by a tight supply of homes.

The Beige Book is based on anecdotal reports from businesses and will be considered along with other data when Fed policymakers meet June 17-18.

Nothing in the report is likely to alter the widespread view that the Fed thinks the economy is reviving after a winter slowdown.

"The picture painted by the collective anecdotes in today's Beige Book may not illustrate robust growth, but it suggests the economy is at least moving in the right direction," said Dana Saporta, an economist at Credit Suisse.

Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said it marked the 24th time out of 28 reports going back to early 2011 that the Fed has used "modest," "moderate," or often both words to describe the economy.

Economists generally believe the Fed in June will pare its pace of monthly bond purchases by another $10 billion and pledge to keep its key short-term interest rate at a record low near zero for a "considerable" period after its bond purchases end.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (June 6)	$1.3949
Dollar buys (June 6)	€0.7169
British pound (June 6)	$1.72
Japanese yen (June 6)	100.00
South Korean won (June 9)	997.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	$1.6782/0.5959
Canada (Dollar)	1.0942
China (Yuan)	6.2550
Denmark (Krone)	5.4937
Egypt (Pound)	7.1516
Euro	$1.3585/0.7361
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7527
Hungary (Forint)	223.76
Israel (Shekel)	3.4743
Japan (Yen)	102.57
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2825
Norway (Krone)	6.0008
Philippines (Peso)	43.71
Poland (Zloty)	3.03
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2565
South Korea (Won)	1,021.49
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8970
Thailand (Baht)	32.65
Turkey (New Lira)	2.1040

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.44

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	$3.927	$4.099	$4.261	$4.155
Change in price	+1.6 cents	+1.2 cents	+1.0 cents	-0.7 cents
Netherlands	--	$4.898	$5.193	$5.029
Change in price	--	-0.7 cents	-0.7 cents	-0.7 cents
U.K.	--	$4.064	$4.226	$4.120
Change in price	--	+1.2 cents	+1.0 cents	-0.7 cents
Azores	--	--	$4.217	--
Change in price	--	--	+1.0 cents	--
Belgium	--	$4.084	$4.319	$4.215
Change in price	--	no change	-2.5 cents	no change
Turkey	--	--	$4.672	$5.006*
Change in price	--	--	-1.9 cents	-3.0 cents
Italy	$4.050	--	--	$4.239
Change in price	+7.6 cents	--	--	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	$3.859	--	$3.909
Change in price	--	+2.0 cents	--	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	$3.679	--	--	$3.909
Change in price	+1.0 cents	--	--	-1.0 cents
South Korea	$3.949	--	$4.279	$4.169
Change in price	+2.0 cents	--	+1.0 cents	-1.0 cents
Guam	$3.939**	$4.109	$4.269	--
Change in price	+2.0 cents	+1.0 cents	+1.0 cents	--

*** Diesel EFD ** Midgrade**
For the week of June 7-13

MARKET WATCH

June 4, 2014

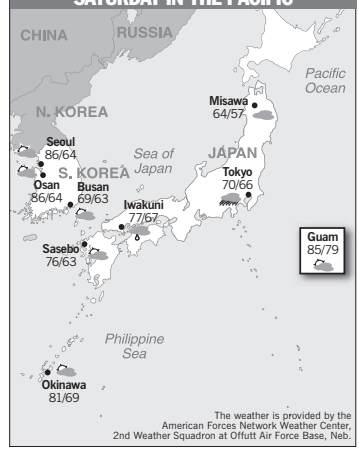
Dow Jones industrials	15.19	16,737.53
Nasdaq composite	17.56	4,251.64
Standard & Poor's 500	3.64	1,927.88
Russell 2000	5.07	1,131.22

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

FRIDAY IN EUROPE

SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

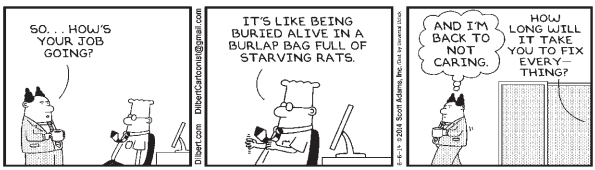
Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chattanooga	87	67	Cldy	Fort Wayne	77	53	Clr	Louisville	82	61	Cldy	Pocatello	78	45	Clr	Sioux City	84	57	PCldy
Abilene, Tex	98	74	PCldy	Cheyenne	69	50	Rain	Fresno	100	66	Clr	Lubbock	97	70	Clr	Portland,Maine	68	53	Cldy	Sioux Falls	79	57	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	76	49	PCldy	Chicago	78	53	Clr	Goodland	78	59	Cldy	Macon	92	70	PCldy	Portland,Ore.	76	52	PCldy	South Bend	77	50	Clr
Albany,N.Y.	75	53	PCldy	Cincinnati	79	56	PCldy	Grand Junction	87	55	Clr	Madison	78	51	PCldy	Providence	75	55	Cldy	Spokane	75	49	PCldy
Albuquerque	93	64	Clr	Cleveland	73	50	PCldy	Grand Rapids	77	49	PCldy	Medford	85	51	Clr	Pueblo	81	57	Cldy	Springfield,Ill	79	59	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	78	50	Clr	Colorado Springs	75	52	Cldy	Great Falls	61	41	Cldy	Memphis	89	73	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	84	66	PCldy	Springfield,Mo	80	68	Rain
Amarillo	91	67	Cldy	Columbia,S.C.	91	71	Cldy	Green Bay	78	51	PCldy	Miami Beach	90	77	PCldy	Rapid City	61	52	Rain	Syracuse	73	49	PCldy
Anchorage	65	48	PCldy	Columbus,Ga.	92	73	PCldy	Greensboro,N.C.	84	65	PCldy	Midland-Odessa	99	73	Clr	Reno	89	59	Clr	Tallahassee	93	70	PCldy
Asheville	80	61	Cldy	Columbus,Ohio	78	52	PCldy	Harrisburg	79	55	PCldy	Milwaukee	70	50	PCldy	Richmond	83	61	Clr	Tampa	91	76	PCldy
Atlanta	88	71	PCldy	Concord,N.H.	73	52	Cldy	Hartford Spgfld	78	54	PCldy	Mpls-St Paul	78	59	PCldy	Roanoke	80	57	PCldy	Toledo	76	49	PCldy
Atlantic City	78	55	Clr	Corpus Christi	92	76	PCldy	Helena	68	43	Cldy	Missoula	72	42	PCldy	Rochester	75	52	PCldy	Topeka	81	64	Cldy
Austin	92	74	Cldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	94	77	PCldy	Honolulu	86	75	Clr	Mobile	91	71	PCldy	Rockford	81	52	Clr	Tucson	105	69	Clr
Baltimore	79	57	Clr	Dayton	77	53	PCldy	Houston	93	75	Cldy	Montgomery	92	72	Cldy	Sacramento	95	57	Clr	Tulsa	89	73	Rain
Baton Rouge	91	74	PCldy	Daytona Beach	90	70	PCldy	Huntsville	89	70	Cldy	Nashville	86	66	Cldy	St Louis	82	63	Cldy	Tupelo	88	71	Cldy
Billings	62	46	Cldy	Denver	79	54	Cldy	Indianapolis	79	58	PCldy	New Orleans	89	75	PCldy	St Petersburg	90	78	PCldy	Waco	93	75	PCldy
Birmingham	87	72	Cldy	Des Moines	83	60	PCldy	Jackson,Miss.	92	72	Cldy	New York City	77	58	PCldy	St Thomas	88	78	Cldy	Washington	81	57	Clr
Bismarck	63	48	Rain	Detroit	73	52	PCldy	Jacksonville	94	73	Cldy	Newark	79	58	PCldy	Salem,Ore.	77	49	Clr	W. Palm Beach	88	76	PCldy
Boise	80	48	Clr	Duluth	72	51	Cldy	Juneau	63	44	Cldy	Norfolk,Va.	78	65	Clr	Salt Lake City	85	58	Clr	Wichita	83	67	Rain
Boston	71	55	Cldy	El Paso	106	78	Clr	Kansas City	80	62	Cldy	North Platte	79	55	Cldy	San Angelo	99	73	PCldy	Wichita Falls	97	75	PCldy
Bridgeport	77	55	PCldy	Elkins	76	47	PCldy	Key West	87	78	PCldy	Oklahoma City	92	73	Cldy	San Antonio	93	75	Cldy	Wilkes-Barre	75	49	PCldy
Brownsville	92	77	PCldy	Erie	71	52	PCldy	Knoxville	86	65	Cldy	Omaha	82	60	PCldy	San Diego	71	63	PCldy	Wilmington,Del.	79	56	Clr
Buffalo	73	50	PCldy	Eugene	76	46	PCldy	Lake Charles	91	75	PCldy	Orlando	93	72	PCldy	San Francisco	73	55	Clr	Yakima	78	50	Clr
Burlington,Vt.	74	54	Cldy	Evansville	82	63	Cldy	Lansing	76	47	PCldy	Paducah	83	66	Cldy	San Jose	83	55	Clr	Youngstown	75	48	PCldy
Caribou,Maine	65	55	Rain	Fairbanks	69	48	Cldy	Las Vegas	103	78	Clr	Pendleton	80	49	Clr	Santa Fe	89	51	Clr				
Casper	67	44	Cldy	Fargo	68	56	Cldy	Lexington	81	57	PCldy	Peoria	80	56	PCldy	St Ste Marie	73	40	PCldy				
Charleston,S.C.	90	73	Cldy	Flagstaff	81	41	Clr	Lincoln	83	61	PCldy	Philadelphia	80	59	Clr	Savannah	91	74	Cldy				
Charleston,W.Va.	81	53	PCldy	Flint	76	47	PCldy	Little Rock	88	73	Cldy	Phoenix	108	77	Clr	Seattle	73	51	PCldy				
Charlotte,N.C.	86	67	Cldy	Fort Smith	89	74	PCldy	Los Angeles	77	63	PCldy	Pittsburgh	76	49	PCldy	Shreveport	92	73	PCldy				

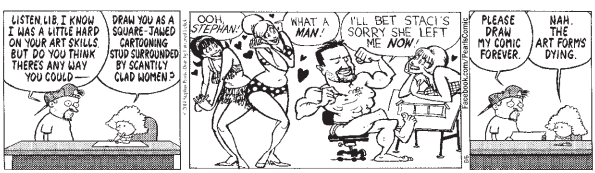
National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 112, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 23, Chemult, Ore.

Frazz

Dilbert

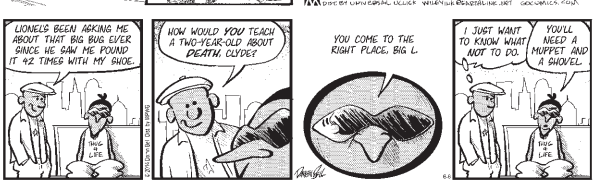


Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur

Candorville

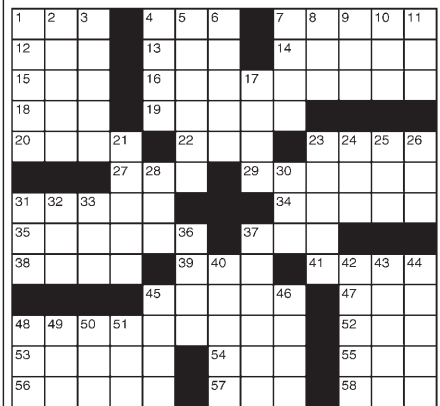


Get Fuzzy

Doonesbury

Fort Knox

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Aries
4 Operated
7 Leary of "Rescue Me"
12 Eggs
13 "Hail, Caesar"
14 Unrivaled
15 Foundation
16 Hester Prynne's chronicler
18 Blunder
19 Epitome of hardness
20 Coloring agents
22 Curved path
23 Foolproof
27 "Ben- —"
29 Muppets mastermind
31 Skedaddle
34 Humongous
35 Jimmy Stewart movie
37 Massachusetts cape
38 Advantage
39 Outback bird
41 Pound of verse
45 Old marketplace
47 Intention
48 "The Old Man and the Sea" writer
52 Greek mountain
53 On the qui vive
54 Preceding
55 Scale members
56 Blends
57 — Moines
58 Curved letter

DOWN

1 In judge's garb
2 Animator Tex
3 Mexican mom
4 Cheerleaders' calls
5 James Cameron movie
6 More recent
7 Wonka creator
8 "Xanadu" band, for short
9 Neither mate
10 Hostel
11 Spot
17 Computer expert
21 Push hard
23 Disparaging
24 Cable channel
25 Pal of Harry and Hermione
26 Tolkien tree creature
28 Multipurpose truck
30 Id counterpart
31 That girl
32 Scoundrel
33 Assoc.
36 Safecracker
37 Paralyzing poison
40 Took blades to blades
42 Congo's other name
43 Carnival attractions
44 Accumulate
45 Picnic invaders
46 Nays' cancelers
48 Scenery chewer
49 Inventor Whitney
50 Tex- —
51 Anger

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	A	D		C	A	L	M		A	N	T	E
I	D	O		O	B	I	E		L	O	R	D
D	O	L	D	R	U	M	S		L	O	U	D
		I	O	N		B	A	L	O	N	E	Y
B	U	T	T	E	R		S	A	W			
A	N	T		R	U	G		B	E	D	O	G
G	I	L	L		B	A	N		D	O	R	A
S	T	E	A	K		B	U	R		L	A	M
			R	I	B		T	E	M	P	L	E
B	A	N	A	N	A	S		D	O	H		
A	L	U	M		D	O	L	O	M	I	T	E
L	O	N	I		G	L	E	E		N	I	L
M	U	S	E		E	O	N	S		S	P	Y

6-6 CRYPTOQUIP

E D V N Z S S E Z Y K B C B K V G G I

C S P N L G V W Y J A S W W S

E Y Z V P V W Y I S L P D V B P B A W S

G V I Y P E : A S N S P Y W B Y P E .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS WEEK-OLD BREAD HAS GOTTEN SO HARD IT MIGHT BREAK SOMEONE'S TEETH. LET THE BITER BEWARE!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals O

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Ike, Obama faced nation's postwar fears

By David Ignatius

WASHINGTON

When CBS News brought Dwight Eisenhower back to Normandy for the 20th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 1964, you might have expected the former commander of Allied forces to conclude with a triumphal comment. Instead, CBS captured an anguished Eisenhower against the backdrop of crosses at the American cemetery at St. Laurent, ruminating: "We must find some way ... to gain an eternal peace for this world."

The 70th anniversary of D-Day this week offers a moment to reflect on American strength and weakness, and the way we sometimes confuse the two. Eisenhower was perhaps our greatest modern military commander. But he was a cautious and sometimes conflicted man, without any of the bluster of a George Patton or Douglas MacArthur. His gift was coordinating the talents of sometimes petulant subordinates — and persevering through the almost ceaseless U.S. military blunders on the way to the Normandy landings.

Perhaps it's a consequence of the United States being a relatively young nation that had to tame a wild frontier, but through our modern history, Americans have had a tendency to worry about whether our leaders are "tough enough" for the world's challenges. Presidents who talk about their yearning for peace, as Eisenhower often did, are frequently pummeled by commentators for being too "soft."

We've recently been in one of those cycles of national worry, as critics attack President Barack Obama's supposedly feckless and weak-willed foreign policy. The particulars of the case against Obama involve his reluctance to use military force after the frustrating wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Economist magazine raised the basic question of Obama's credibility, asking in a May 3 cover headline: "What would America fight for?"

I agree that Obama's foreign policy has not been as firm, especially in dealing with Syria and Russia, as it should have been. As a result, the U.S. has suffered some reputational damage. But listening to the recent debate, I have increasingly been struck by its recurring cyclical themes, as opposed to the specifics involving Obama. Yes, this president may be overly cautious. But a retreat to lick the nation's wounds is fairly common after wars — and rarely does lasting damage.

A useful compendium of anxiety about American weakness is a book called "Taking on the World," about the columnists Joseph and Stewart Alsop, written by Robert W. Merry. He explains that at nearly every point from the late 1930s to the late 1960s, the Alsops (especially Joe, the dominant voice) were warning that weak and irresolute American leaders would open the door for our adversaries — in Europe, China, Korea and Vietnam. Sometimes the Alsops' jeremiads proved correct. But often, they were flat wrong.

The Alsops' suspicion of Eisenhower was especially sharp. They feared Eisenhower's willingness to make peace in Korea would open the way for Russian and Chinese aggression. "The future of Asia may well be at stake" in maintaining French power in Vietnam, Joe wrote in 1954. Similarly, wrote Stewart in 1955, the French retreat from Algeria "could fatally weaken the Western alliance." The Atlantic alliance would "founder" if the British were defeated over Suez in 1956, wrote Joe. America's defenses would be gutted if Eisenhower cut $5 billion from the $40 billion defense budget in 1955. And on it went.

The Alsops' concern about Eisenhower reached its apogee during the debate over a supposed "missile gap" between Soviet and American strategic forces. In a 1958 column, Joe accused Eisenhower of being "misinformed" or "consciously misleading the nation" about the "flaccid" U.S. shortfall. Joe even pushed then-Sen. John Kennedy to make a 1958 speech about the "peril" represented by this imagined gap.

Ike knew from intelligence that the gap was nonexistent, but he feared blowing his sources, so he let the worriers rant on. When Kennedy became president, his secretary of defense, Robert McNamara, finally seeing the intelligence, announced that the gap was a myth. Joe at first thundered that McNamara had been "hoodwinked by the bureaucracy."

Then came Vietnam, a war that Joe chronicled and championed — and that he saw as an ultimate test of U.S. willpower. He brooded that Lyndon Johnson would display "presidential weakness" and applauded every escalation that showed Johnson would not "subside by degrees into surrender." America finally retreated from Vietnam, but over time U.S. global power remained greater than ever.

The worriers get one big thing right. A strong, forward-leaning America is essential for global security. But many of the fulminations about supposed weakness and retreat of U.S. power tend to be mistaken.

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Sacrifice, success of D-Day won't be forgotten

By Ann McFeatters
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON

Decades after my father landed in Europe during the D-Day Battle for Normandy, he finally talked about it, including the horror of watching men laden with heavy packs and weapons drowning because they couldn't swim in the frigid, churning water.

He also talked about the grit, bravery and determination of the young Allied soldiers as they struggled to regroup and head up the beaches dodging staccato bursts of deadly German fire.

My dad would have many more months of intense fighting, but D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge remained pivotal in his memories of war throughout his life, although he would return home, father 10 children and march in Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades for more than 60 years.

Fewer than 1 in 7 Americans alive today was alive on June 6, 1944, one of the most fateful military dates in history. But Normandy still stands as a synonym for courage, heroism and the best humans have to offer — making the supreme sacrifice to help others.

It's hard for us today to realize how electrifying the news of the D-Day invasion was on the home front, how dreadful it would have been if the invasion had failed as such a complicated, weather-battered operation could so easily have done. If Gen. Dwight Eisenhower had waited any longer, the great storm of mid-June might have been insurmountable.

I was privileged to be at the 50th anniversary of D-Day. I will never forget the lined, proud faces of the veterans who managed long airplane rides, canes, wheelchairs and arthritic knees to be there. I will always remember how their eyes shone with tears as they reached to grasp the left hand of Bob Dole, the Kansas senator who lost the use of his right arm and is beloved for his courage and service in World War II.

There were even some paratroopers who re-enacted their daring plunge from the skies over enemy territory to light the fires that would help the airborne assaults.

Former President Bill Clinton was the speaker that day. Some mocked him for walking alone on the beach, picking up a few stones, "staging a photo opportunity." But as a student of history, William Jefferson Clinton was completely awed as he contemplated the sacrifices and heroism of June 6, 1944.

And who could not be moved by what happened at Normandy, even today? The Germans were expecting an invasion and were well-fortified. They didn't know when it would happen but they believed a defeat at Normandy would mean the end of the Fatherland.

Eisenhower was a bundle of nerves, smoking four packs a day and drinking gallons of coffee, trying to plan the agonizingly postponed operation of moving nearly 150,000 military personnel over the storm-tossed English Channel, the first such successful opposed landing in eight centuries. He also had to coordinate the air attack for the largest amphibious landing ever to occur. In one month 1 million men were landed.

Who even today is not moved by the quiet nearby cemeteries, with their rows and rows of eerily symmetrical white crosses and Stars of David? During the liberation of Normandy, 19,890 French civilians were killed and thousands more were injured. During three summer months in 1944, the Wehrmacht lost 240,000 men. During that period, 125,847 Americans died, and 83,045 British, Canadian and Polish soldiers were lost. An additional 16,714 Allied air force personnel perished.

On a bluff overlooking the channel are 9,387 Americans who never returned home and are buried at the American cemetery Colleville-sur-Mer, including 33 pairs of brothers and a father and his son.

As Clinton said as he looked around the veterans in front of him 20 years ago, "Let us never forget, when they were young, these men saved the world."

Even when there are no Americans left who were alive on D-Day, the Normandy invasion never will be forgotten.

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune.

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OPINION

With Bergdahl, the answer had to be yes

By Kathleen Parker

The exchange of five Guantanamo detainees for the release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl has reminded us of three unpleasant facts of life:

The United States does negotiate with terrorists; the president will circumvent laws as circumstances require; Republicans and Democrats will be summarily outraged as party affiliations seem to require.

We might also add that processes will be "truncated," as President Barack Obama described the exchange, and these are "hard choices," as Hillary Rodham Clinton put it, cleverly employing the title of her new book.

Which is to say, war is tricky and we have no idea what we're willing to do until the ball is in our court.

It is easier now to wish we had not invaded Iraq, given the absence of weapons of mass destruction. But in the wake of 9/11, when the Western world was convinced that Saddam Hussein had WMD, eliminating a destabilizing force in the region seemed to many a viable strategy.

It seemed so to then-Sen. Clinton, who voted for the resolution to use military force against Iraq, but not to Barack Obama, then an Illinois state senator who didn't have to decide.

As president — how time flies — Obama has followed through on his campaign promises to end the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq but not to close Guantanamo. Promises are sometimes harder to keep when the facts are in your face. Obama also has increased drone "warfare," eliminating enemies as well as civilians and at least one U.S. citizen deemed to be a combatant without, shall we say, due process.

So yes, he is the non-war president, except … and he follows the law and protects the Constitution, unless … and he wants to close Guantanamo, but encountered the same daunting obstacles that George W. Bush did.

Yes, yes, Bush created the problem. Noted. To the point of this column, however, when Obama was faced with whether to release prisoners in exchange for Bergdahl, he was forced to make an executive decision. And yes, he sidestepped the law requiring 30 days' notification to Congress, but the law's timetable was untenable, given the reportedly narrow window of opportunity. Whether the president indeed had been discussing the possibility with Congress remains a matter of dispute.

A top GOP aide confirmed to me that no such discussion took place before last weekend's exchange and that, when the idea was floated more than two years ago, it met with strong, bipartisan opposition from congressional leaders.

Obama has justified his decision on the basis of precedent — other presidents have released prisoners as wars wind down — and on the principle that we don't leave our people behind.

Equivalency is a fragile argument here. Bush's wars and Obama's drones are clearly not the same, though you might find those in Afghanistan or Pakistan who would argue otherwise. And George Washington's release of British prisoners during the Revolutionary War can't be compared to freeing Taliban warriors. Rather than returning home to reclaim their civilian lives, jihadists likely return even more resolved to continue a war that ends only after everyone on the planet converts to Islam.

What is often similar, however, is the moment of truth when a president has to make his own call because he thinks beyond any reasonable doubt that it is the right decision. History doesn't always reward these decisions, but the titans of hindsight are usually compensated for style over content.

It is possible that some of the current criticism is tied to partisan pride as well as the opening of old wounds. Seeing the five bearded detainees was a vivid reminder of 9/11 and its chief perpetrator, Osama bin Laden. The sight of Bergdahl's father, bearded and speaking Arabic and Pashto as he invoked Allah in the Rose Garden with the president, was both strange and creepy.

Jacquelyn Martin/AP

Jani Bergdahl, left, walks with President Barack Obama before a news conference in the Rose Garden of the White House on Saturday about the release of her son, Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, in Afghanistan.

Obama critics naturally saw the president's mouth tip in a smile, though it could be interpreted as a grimace. What was he to do, grab the microphone? Stare grimly at a father announcing the release of his boy after five years in captivity?

There is nothing trivial about these events, but the questions raised are, nonetheless, "Homeland"-ishly intriguing: Did Bob Bergdahl convert to Islam? Did his son? Did Bowe Bergdahl abandon his post, as fellow soldiers claim? Is he a traitor?

Until the Army provides answers, we'll have to make do with speculation. Meanwhile, the only question that required an immediate response was, did the United States want Bergdahl back and what were we willing to trade?

This was indeed a hard choice — and the answer had to be yes.

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

When soldiers walk off, speculation swoops in

By Charles Lane
The Washington Post

Politicians and pundits are struggling to impose their own self-serving narratives on this stranger-than-fiction character and his stranger-than-fiction tale.

In the 1970s, Vietnam veteran-turned-novelist Tim O'Brien created Pvt. Cacciato, an impulsive soldier who, one fine day, gathered up rations, water, maps and a compass and, as O'Brien mordantly put it, "left the war," telling his buddies that he intended to walk all the way to Paris.

"Going After Cacciato," O'Brien's phantasmagorical novel about the Army's search for the AWOL grunt and its harrowing culmination in, yes, the City of Light, was an extended meditation on courage and cowardice and one of the best American books about the war in Southeast Asia, or any war, for that matter.

Now Afghanistan has given us Bowe Bergdahl, who apparently thought he could walk to Pakistan in real life as easily as Cacciato walked to Paris in fantasy but instead wound up a prisoner of the Taliban for five years, until President Barack Obama swapped five top Taliban figures for him last week.

Politicians and pundits are struggling to impose their own self-serving narratives on this stranger-than-fiction character and his stranger-than-fiction tale.

Obama made a bit of a fool of himself by treating Bergdahl's impending return as appropriate for Rose Garden celebration, complete with grateful parents, even though he knew, or easily should have known, that Bergdahl is hardly a hero.

That attempt to gin up an election-year feel-good story fell flat, as did national security adviser Susan Rice's clueless depiction of Bergdahl's Army career as one of "honor and distinction."

White House efforts to glorify Bergdahl were matched by the right's efforts to demonize him. He stands accused of desertion, which is indeed a very serious offense. Convicting him of it under military law requires proof, which we don't yet have, that he intended to leave his unit for good or sought to avoid a hazardous assignment.

Nor is it proved, despite what you may have heard, that Bergdahl's going AWOL directly or indirectly caused the deaths of six soldiers sent to look for him, though the search certainly imposed costs and risks on the Army and its troops. Never mind: According to Fox News' Bill O'Reilly, "There is compelling evidence that the sergeant violated military law and may have even collaborated with the enemy."

I know of no mathematical formula that can determine whether freeing five dangerous enemies of the United States was too high a price to get this one soldier back, any more than I can figure out what Obama's critics think he should have done about Bergdahl — let him rot forever in Taliban custody?

But I do think we could all benefit from O'Brien's sense of war's ineradicable moral dilemmas and inherent absurdities — not the least of which is that even the most powerful army is vulnerable to the mental quirks of individual troops.

So there is a Bergdahl, just as there was a Sgt. Charles Robert Jenkins, who left his unit in South Korea in 1965 and crossed into the North, thinking the regime would ship him to the Soviet Union and he could go home from there. The North Koreans imprisoned him and made him do propaganda work until his negotiated release in 2004, whereupon the U.S. Army put a uniform on the old man, put him in jail for 25 days and, finally, discharged him dishonorably.

And there was a Pvt. Eddie Slovik, who thought linking up with a Canadian unit, rather than his own, for six weeks during World War II would be a good way to get sent to the stockade instead of the front. His superiors, with a bloody fight for western Germany raging around them, decided to make an example of him. He ended up being the only American executed for desertion since the Civil War.

Slovik's execution is now widely considered excessive, a low moment in U.S. military history, just as Abraham Lincoln's famous propensity for pardoning Union Army deserters, to the great frustration of his generals, has been richly vindicated in hindsight.

Someday, we, too, may truly be able to make sense of Bergdahl and what he did out there on that ridge in Afghanistan, a place to which he and thousands of other soldiers had been sent to fight a war about which their government, under Obama, was at best ambivalent.

Clearly, some of Bergdahl's comrades are in no mood to forgive, yet. O'Brien tells us that Cacciato's best friend in his squad felt more charitably toward that AWOL soldier: "He had nothing against Cacciato. The whole thing was silly, of course, immature and dumb, but even so, he had nothing against the kid. It was just too bad. A waste among infinitely wider wastes."

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

SCOREBOARD

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Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	7	4	2	23	21	16
D.C.	6	4	3	21	18	14
Sporting KC	5	5	4	19	19	14
Houston	5	8	2	17	16	27
Columbus	4	5	5	17	18	18
Toronto FC	5	4	1	16	14	13
New York	3	5	6	15	20	22
Philadelphia	3	7	5	14	19	24
Chicago	2	3	8	14	20	22
Montreal	2	6	4	10	11	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	9	3	2	29	29	21
Real Salt Lake	6	1	7	25	24	18
Colorado	6	4	4	22	19	15
Vancouver	5	2	5	20	22	17
FC Dallas	5	7	3	18	23	24
Los Angeles	4	3	4	16	15	10
San Jose	4	4	4	16	15	13
Portland	3	4	7	16	23	24
Chivas USA	2	7	4	10	13	25

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

Wednesday's games
Columbus 1, Real Salt Lake 1, tie
Colorado 0, Chicago 0, tie

Friday's games
Sporting Kansas City at Houston

Saturday's games
San Jose at Toronto FC
Columbus at D.C. United
Vancouver at Philadelphia
Seattle FC at Chicago
Colorado at FC Dallas
Portland at Real Salt Lake

Sunday's games
New York at New England
Chivas USA at Los Angeles

Wednesday, June 11
D.C. United at Montreal
FC Dallas at Portland

Wednesday
Real Salt Lake 1, Crew 1

Real Salt Lake	0	1—1
Columbus	0	1—1

Second half—1, Real Salt Lake, Gil 2, 56th minute. 2, Columbus, Finlay 3 (Speas), 88th.
Goalies—Real Salt Lake, Jeff Attinella; Columbus, Steve Clark.
Yellow Cards—Gehrig, Columbus, 16th.
A—11,121 (22,555)

Fire 0, Rapids 0

Chicago	0	0—0
Colorado	0	0—0

Goalies—Chicago, Sean Johnson; Colorado, John Berner.
Yellow Cards—Joya, Chicago, 20th; Watson, Chicago, 78th; Watts, Colorado, 85th.
A—13,402 (17,424)

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	8	0	2	26	22	8
Chicago	6	3	1	19	15	7
Washington	6	4	1	19	21	20
FC Kansas City	5	4	3	18	19	16
Portland	4	3	2	14	10	10
Western New York	3	5	2	11	14	14
Sky Blue FC	2	5	4	10	11	18
Houston	2	7	1	7	10	20
Boston	2	7	0	6	13	22

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

Wednesday's games
Washington 1, Chicago 0
FC Kansas City 1, Western New York 0

Saturday's games
Boston at FC Kansas City
Chicago at Seattle FC
Western New York at Portland

Sunday's game
Houston at Sky Blue FC

Wednesday, June 11
Washington at Boston
Western New York at Houston

Saturday, June 14
FC Kansas City at Houston

Sunday, June 15
Sky Blue FC at Chicago
Washington at Portland

AP sportlight

June 6

1919 — Man o' War wins his first race, a 5-furlong contest over a straightaway at Belmont Park. The 3-to-5 favorite wins by six lengths, covering the distance in 59 seconds.

1924 — Cyril Walker captures the U.S. Open with a three-stroke victory over Bobby Jones.

1936 — Granville, ridden by J. Stout, wins the Belmont Stakes by a neck over Mr. Bones. Bold Venture, the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner, does not run in the race.

College baseball

NCAA Dsuper regionals

Best-of-three; x-if necessary

Host school is Game 1 home team; visiting school is Game 2 home team; coin flip determines Game 3 home team

At Jim Patterson Stadium
Louisville, Ky.
Friday: Kennesaw State (40-22) at Louisville (48-15)
Saturday: Kennesaw State vs. Louisville
x-Sunday: Kennesaw State vs. Louisville

At Hawkins Field
Nashville, Tenn.
Friday: Stanford (34-24) at Vanderbilt (44-18)
Saturday: Stanford vs. Vanderbilt
x-Sunday: Stanford vs. Vanderbilt

At Allie P. Reynolds Stadium
Stillwater, Okla.
Friday: UC Irvine (38-23) at Oklahoma State (48-16)
Saturday: UC Irvine vs. Oklahoma State
x-Sunday: UC Irvine vs. Oklahoma State

At UFCU Disch-Falk Field
Austin, Texas
Friday: Houston (48-16) at Texas (41-19)
Saturday: Houston vs. Texas
x-Sunday: Houston vs. Texas

At Davenport Field
Charlottesville, Va.
Saturday: Maryland (39-21) at Virginia (47-13)
Sunday: Maryland vs. Virginia
x-Monday: Maryland vs. Virginia

At M.L. 'Tigue' Moore Field
Lafayette, La.
Saturday: Mississippi (44-18) at Louisiana-Lafayette (57-8)
Sunday: Mississippi vs. Louisiana-Lafayette
x-Monday: Mississippi vs. Louisiana-Lafayette

At Charlie and Marie Lupton Stadium
Fort Worth, Texas
Saturday: Pepperdine at TCU
Sunday: Pepperdine vs. TCU
x-Monday: Pepperdine vs. TCU

At Rip Griffin Park
Lubbock, Texas
Saturday: College of Charleston (44-17) at Texas Tech (43-19)
Sunday: College of Charleston vs. Texas Tech
x-Monday: College of Charleston vs. Texas Tech

Boxing

Fight schedule

June 6

At Buenos Aires, Argentina, Juan Carlos Reveco vs. Felix Alvarado, 12, for Reveco's WBA flyweight title.

At Verona, N.Y., Yudel Jhonson vs. Norberto Gonzalez, 10, junior middleweights; Johnny Garcia vs. John Williams, 10, junior welterweights.

At Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, Indio, Calif., Hugo Centeno Jr. vs. Gerardo Ibarra, 10, middleweights; Eddie Gomez vs. Francisco Santana, 10, junior middleweights.

June 7

At Moscow, Richar Abril vs. Eduard Troyanovsky, 12, for Abril's WBA World lightweight title.

At Schwerin, Germany, Juergen Braehmer vs. Roberto Bolonti, 12, for Braehmer's WBA World light heavyweight title.

At Newcastle, England, Stuart Hall vs. Paul Butler, 12, for Hall's IBF bantamweight title.

At Madison Square Garden, New York, Sergio Martinez vs. Miguel Cotto, 12, for Martinez's WBC middleweight title; Jorge Melendez vs. Javier Maciel, 10, super welterweights; Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. vs. Marvin Sonsona, 10, featherweights; Andy Lee vs. John Jackson, 10, junior middleweights.

June 14

At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., Demetrius Andrade vs. Brian Rose, 12, for Andrade's WBO junior middleweight title; Ruslan Provodnikov vs. Chris Algieri, 12, for Provodnikov's WBO junior welterweight title.

At Bally's, Atlantic City. N.J., Glen Tapia vs. Keenan Collins, 10, junior middleweights.

June 19

At Bayamon, Puerto Rico, McWilliams Arroyo vs. Froilan Saludar, 12, IBF flyweight eliminator.

June 21

At Monte Carlo, Martin Murray vs. Max Bursak, 10, middleweights; Hekkie Budler vs. Pigmy Muangchaiyaphum Kokietgym, 12, for Budler's WBO strawweight title; Mateusz Masternak vs. Ilunga Makabu, 12, for the vacant WBA interim cruiserweight title

At Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Anatoliy Dudchenko vs. Nadjib Mohammedi, 12, IBF light heavyweight eliminator.

At StubHub Center, Carson, Calif., Vasyl Lomachenko vs. Gary Russell Jr., 12, for the vacant WBO featherweight title; Robert Guerrero vs. Yoshihiro Kamegai, 12, welterweights; Devon Alexander vs. Jesus Soto Karass, 10, super welterweights.

June 28

At Omaha, Neb., Terence Crawford vs. Yuriorkis Gamboa, 12, for Crawford's WBO lightweight title; Matt Korobov vs. Jose Uzcategui, 10, middleweights.

July 2

At Foxwoods Resort, Mashantucket, Conn., Michael Farenas vs. Mark Davis, 12, super featherweights.

Auto racing

NASCAR Sprint Cup schedule

Feb. 23 — Daytona 500 (Dale Earnhardt Jr.)
March 2 — The Profit on CNBC 500, Avondale, Ariz. (Kevin Harvick)
March 9 — Kobalt 400, Las Vegas (Brad Keselowski)
March 16 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. (Carl Edwards)
March 23 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif. (Kyle Busch)
March 30 — STP 500, Ridgeway, Va. (Kurt Busch)
April 7 — Duck Commander 500, Fort Worth, Texas (Joey Logano)
April 12 — Bojangles' Southern 500, Darlington, S.C. (Kevin Harvick)
April 26 — Toyota Owners 400, Richmond, Va. (Joey Logano)
May 4 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala. (Denny Hamlin)
May 10 — Kansas 400, Kansas City, Kan. (Jeff Gordon)
May 16 — x-Sprint Showdown, Concord, N.C. (Clint Bowyer)
May 17 — NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race, Concord, N.C. (Jamie McMurray)
May 25 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C. (Jimmie Johnson)
June 1 — Dover 400, Dover, Del. (Jimmie Johnson)
June 8 — Pocono 400, Long Pond, Pa.
June 15 — Quicken Loans 400, Brooklyn, Mich.
June 22 — Toyota/Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif.
June 28 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, Ky.
July 5 — Coke Zero 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.
July 13 — Camping World RV Sales 301, Loudon, N.H.
July 27 — The Brickyard 400, Indianapolis.
Aug. 3 — GoBowling.com 400, Long Pond, Pa.
Aug. 10 — Cheez-It 355 at the Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y.
Aug. 17 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich.
Aug. 23 — Irwin Tools Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.
Aug. 31 — Atlanta 500, Hampton, Ga.
Sept. 6 — Federated Auto Parts 400, Richmond, Va.
Sept. 14 — Chicagoland 400, Joliet, Ill.
Sept. 21 — Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H.
Sept. 28 — AAA 400, Dover, Del.
Oct. 5 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.
Oct. 11 — Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C.
Oct. 19 — GEICO 500, Talladega, Ala.
Oct. 26 — Goody's Headache Relief Shot 500, Ridgeway, Va.
Nov. 2 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas
Nov. 9 — Quicken Loans 500, Avondale, Ariz.
Nov. 16 — Ford EcoBoost 400, Homestead, Fla.

IndyCar schedule

March 30 — Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, Fla. (Will Power)
Apri 13 — Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach, Calif. (Mike Conway)
Apri 26 — Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama, Birmingham (Ryan Hunter-Reay)
May 10 — Grand Prix of Indianapolis (Simon Pagenaud)
May 25 — Indianapolis 500 (Ryan Hunter-Reay)
May 30 — Chevrolet Indy Duel (Race 1) (Will Power)
June 1 — Chevrolet Indy Duel (Race 2) (Helio Castroneves)
June 7 — Firetsone 600, Fort Worth, Texas
June 28 — Grand Prix of Houston (Race 1)
June 29 — Grand Prix of Houston (Race 2)
July 6 — Pocono INDYCAR 500, Long Pond, Pa.
July 12 — Iowa Corn Indy 250, Newton, Iowa
July 19 — Honda Indy Toronto (Race 1)
July 20 — Honda Indy Toronto (Race 2)
Aug. 3 — Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio, Lexington, Ohio
Aug. 17 — ABC Supply Wisconsin 250, West Allis, Wis.
Aug. 25 — GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma, Calif.
Aug. 30 — MAVTV 500, Fontana, Calif.

Formula One schedule

March 16 — Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne (Nico Rosberg)
March 30 — Malaysian Grand Prix, Kuala Lumpur (Lewis Hamilton)
April 6 — Bahrain Grand Prix, Sakhir (Lewis Hamilton)
April 20 — Chinese Grand Prix, Shanghai (Lewis Hamilton)
May 11 — Spanish Grand Prix, Catalunya (Lewis Hamilton)
May 25 — Monaco Grand Prix, Monte Carlo (Nico Rosberg)
June 8 — Canadian Grand Prix, Montreal.
June 22 — Austrian Grand Prix, Spielberg.
July 6 — British Grand Prix, Silverstone, England
July 20 — German Grand Prix, Hockenheim.
July 27 — Hungarian Grand Prix, Budapest.
Aug. 24 — Belgian Grand Prix, Spa-Francorchamps.
Sept. 7 — Italian Grand Prix, Monza.
Sept. 21 — Singapore Grand Prix.
Oct. 5 — Japanese Grand Prix, Suzuka.
Oct. 12 — Russian Grand Prix, Sochi.
Nov. 2 — United States Grand Prix, Austin, Texas.
Nov. 9 — Brazilian Grand Prix, Sao Paolo.
Nov. 23 — Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Yas Marina, United Arab Emirates.

Golf

Ryder Cup points

At Gleneagles Hotel
Gleneagles, Scotland
Sept. 26-28, 2014
Through May 25

United States

1. Bubba Watson	6,283.056
2. Jimmy Walker	4,956.075
3. Matt Kuchar	4,268.529
4. Jordan Spieth	4,120.867
5. Dustin Johnson	4,092.074
6. Jim Furyk	3,924.238
7. Jason Dufner	3,401.048
8. Patrick Reed	3,038.246
9. Phil Mickelson	2,821.562
10. Zach Johnson	2,799.829
11. Harris English	2,717.715
12. Chris Kirk	2,628.753
13. Ryan Moore	2,334.131
14. Brendon Todd	2,309.823
15. Webb Simpson	2,243.837

Europe
European Points

1. Victor Dubuisson	2,297,434.81
2. Jamie Donaldson	2,204,898.77
3. Thomas Bjorn	2,200,031.94
4. Henrik Stenson	1,912,467.23
5. Ian Poulter	1,817,816.47
6. Rory McIlroy	1,712,191.24
7. Joost Luiten	1,450,345.80
8. Miguel Angel Jimenez	1,449,628.33
9. Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	1,261,024.46
10. Sergio Garcia	1,195,816.34

World Points

1. Henrik Stenson	295.30
3. Rory McIlroy	242.19
2. Sergio Garcia	235.86
4. Thomas Bjorn	176.88
9. Luke Donald	155.28
5. Victor Dubuisson	150.56
6. Jamie Donaldson	145.63
7. Justin Rose	145.43
8. Martin Kaymer	140.77
10. Ian Poulter	132.71

Presidents Cup points

At Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea
Incheon, South Korea
Oct. 8-11, 2015
Through June 1

United States

1. Jimmy Walker	2,306
2. Bubba Watson	2,093
3. Zach Johnson	1,780
4. Jordan Spieth	1,754
5. Matt Kuchar	1,715
6. Dustin Johnson	1,628
7. Chris Kirk	1,474
8. Jim Furyk	1,423
9. Patrick Reed	1,376
10. Harris English	1,348
11. Brendon Todd	1,237
12. Kevin Na	1,214
13. Webb Simpson	1,187
14. Ryan Moore	1,110
15. Matt Every	1,081

International

1. Adam Scott	Aus	9.21
2. Jason Day	Aus	6.45
3. Hideki Matsuyama	Jpn	5.24
4. Charl Schwartzel	RSA	4.20
5. Graham DeLaet	Can	3.44
6. Thongchai Jaidee	Tha	3.01
7. Louis Oosthuizen	RSA	2.84
8. Matt Jones	Aus	2.65
9. John Senden	Aus	2.59
10. Ernie Els	RSA	2.44
11. Richard Sterne	RSA	2.25
12. George Coetzee	RSA	2.11
13. Marc Leishman	Aus	2.08
14. Koumei Oda	Jpn	1.99
15. Anirban Lahiri	Ind	1.91

Champions Tour
Charles Schwab Cup leaders

Through June 1

	Points	Money
1. Bernhard Langer	1,511	$1,340,951
2. Colin Montgomerie	1,227	$880,929
3. Jay Haas	1,182	$962,442
4. Fred Couples	781	$780,600
5. Kenny Perry	774	$573,154
6. Tom Watson	612	$345,296
7. Michael Allen	559	$610,600
8. Mark Calcavecchia	530	$440,785
9. Tom Lehman	469	$394,239
10. Tom Pernice Jr.	410	$536,917
11. Jeff Maggert	392	$368,060
12. Olin Browne	379	$345,992
13. Duffy Waldorf	374	$487,156
14. Bart Bryant	342	$323,788
15. Jeff Sluman	305	$365,725
16. Rocco Mediate	303	$313,895
17. Joe Durant	297	$198,950
18. David Frost	286	$297,152
19. Kirk Triplett	284	$351,839
20. Miguel A. Jimenez	270	$270,000
21. Steve Pate	250	$379,182
22. Marco Dawson	200	$138,506
23. Billy Andrade	187	$282,050
24. Chien Soon Lu	165	$263,307
25. John Cook	158	$131,776
26. Doug Garwood	154	$181,792
27. Jeff Hart	151	$203,641
28. Mark O'Meara	140	$261,457
29. Mark Brooks	136	$133,095
30. Esteban Toledo	119	$250,398
31. Kiyoshi Murota	102	$51,000
32. Fred Funk	98	$272,991
32. Steve Elkington	98	$115,999
32. John Inman	98	$93,915
35. Bill Glasson	96	$218,462
36. Mike Goodes	94	$196,046
37. Brad Bryant	70	$92,658
38. Russ Cochran	68	$232,138
39. Scott Dunlap	64	$163,837
40. Bobby Clampett	53	$100,165
41. Willie Wood	50	$171,920
41. Rod Spittle	50	$145,726
41. Tom Byrum	50	$102,922
44. John Riegger	48	$169,903
44. Scott Hoch	48	$67,181
46. Loren Roberts	44	$117,887
47. Wes Short, Jr.	40	$155,612

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Sent OF Francisco Peguero to Norfolk (IL) for a rehab assignment.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Sent RHP Zach McAllister to Lake County (MWL) for a rehab assignment.

DETROIT TIGERS — Designated INF Danny Worth for assignment. Recalled SS Eugenio Suarez from Toledo (IL).

HOUSTON ASTROS — Optioned 1B Marc Krauss to Oklahoma City (PCL). Recalled 1B Jon Singleton from Oklahoma City.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned RHP Preston Claiborne to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Recalled RHP Jose Ramirez from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Designated RHP Alfredo Aceves for assignment.

TEXAS RANGERS — Placed RHP Alexi Ogando on the 15-day DL. Recalled LHP Aaron Poreda from Round Rock (PCL).

National League

COLORADO ROCKIES — Placed OF Carlos Gonzalez on the 15-day DL. Designated C Jordan Pacheco for assignment. Recalled INF Ryan Wheeler and C Michael McKenry from Colorado Springs (PCL).

MIAMI MARLINS — Optioned 2B Derek Dietrich to New Orleans (PCL). Selected the contract of INF Justin Bour from New Orleans. Transferred RHP Carter Capps to the 60-day DL. Sent LHP Brad Hand to Jupiter (FSL) for a rehab assignment.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Optioned UT Elian Herrera to Nashville (PCL). Reinstated 3B Aramis Ramirez from the 15-day DL.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Assigned LHP Jeremy Horst outright to Lehigh Valley (IL). Agreed to terms with 1B Rusty Ryal on a minor league contract.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Optioned RHP Jesse Hahn to San Antonio (TL). Recalled INF Jace Peterson from El Paso (PCL).

FOOTBALL
National Football League

NFL — Suspended N.Y. Giants CB Jayron Hosley four games for violating the NFL Policy and Program for Substances of Abuse.

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed RB Damien Thigpen. Released WR Kevin Smith.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed WR Kelvin Benjamin and G Trai Turner.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed CB Johnny Adams and C FN Lutz.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed LB James Anderson. Released WR Mark Harrison.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Promoted Dom DiSandro to vice president of team security, Rick Mueller to director of pro personnel, Mike Bradway to assistant director of college scouting, Jake Rosenberg to director of football administration, Brad Obee to southwest regional scout and Ryan Myers northeast regional scout and Matt Lindsey to college scouting coordinator. Named Joe Hastings pro personnel assistant.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed WR C.J. Goodwin. Released WR Jasper Collins.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed QB Colin Kaepernick to a six-year contract extension.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to terms with CB Marc Anthony. Placed WR Josh Stewart on the waived/injured list.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

DETROIT RED WINGS — Agreed to terms with Grand Rapids (AHL) coach Jeff Blashill on a three-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Entered into an affiliation agreement with Reading (ECHL).

COLLEGE

NCAA — Appointed BYU director of athletics Tom Holmoe to the men's Division I basketball committee.

BIG EAST CONFERENCE — Named Tania Kennedy director of championships.

SYRACUSE — Named Matt Verni men's assistant soccer coach.

UCONN — Announced RB Lyle McCombs is no longer on the football team.

VANDERBILT — Announced QB Stephen Rivers is transferring from LSU.

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	5	1	.833	—
Washington	3	2	.600	1½
Atlanta	4	3	.571	1½
Indiana	3	3	.500	2
New York	2	4	.333	3
Connecticut	2	5	.286	3½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	7	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	4	1	.800	2
San Antonio	3	4	.429	4
Los Angeles	2	3	.400	4
Seattle	2	6	.250	5½
Tulsa	0	5	.000	6

Tuesday's games
Atlanta 93, Los Angeles 85
Phoenix 87, Seattle 72

Wednesday's games
No games scheduled

Thursday's games
Washington at Connecticut
San Antonio at New York

Friday's games
Indiana at Washington
Phoenix at Tulsa
Los Angeles at Chicago
Minnesota at Seattle

WORLD CUP

Keep calm and carry on

American forward Altidore remains unfazed by scoring drought

By Rachel Cohen
The Associated Press

HARRISON, N.J.

Jozy Altidore appreciates your concern.

"Everybody is so worried about my confidence — it's unbelievable. My confidence is fine, my man," the U.S. forward said Sunday after his sixth straight international match without a goal. "It's not going to change whether I score a hat trick or I don't score at all."

Which better be true, since he hasn't been scoring lately. Since Dec. 4, Altidore has no goals in 27 games for his club and national team.

Add in another drought — U.S. forwards failed to score in the last two World Cups — and no wonder American fans are so worried about his confidence. Everybody except his coach and teammates, who insist there's nothing to fret about with the U.S. opening the World Cup on June 16.

"Sometimes you just need a little bit of luck on your side," said Clint Dempsey, who started alongside Altidore in the 4-4-2 formation in Sunday's 2-1 exhibition winagainst Turkey.

"You're only going to score if you create chances. He's creating chances, so it's just a matter of time."

Indeed, much about Altidore's performance Sunday was encouraging, other than the lack of a goal. "Energetic" is how Jurgen Klinsmann described it.

And when he's playing like that, the defense is occupied with the strong and physical Altidore, which opens up opportunities for his teammates and holds back the opponent's attack. Turkey coach Fatih Terim called him "the type of striker that the center backs don't like much."

DaMarcus Beasley, headed to his fourth World Cup, would like to remind everyone that at this time a year ago, the panic was about how Altidore had gone 19 months without an international goal.

Then he scored in a record-breaking five straight games last summer, including a hat trick in an exhibition against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Every forward goes through a tough time with scoring," Beasley said Friday. "There's not one forward in history — expect maybe Messi."

After setting the record for goals by an American in a European club season with 31 in 2012-13 for the Netherlands' AZ Alkmaar, Altidore joined Sunderland of the Premier League last summer. He figured he'd benefit from playing match after match against many of the same defenders he'll face in the World Cup.

Things did not exactly go as planned.

Altidore scored just twice in 39 appearances. He wasn't even getting many chances: a mere 19 shots in 31 league games.

Asked if he believed a player can quickly rediscover his form after rejoining his national squad, Altidore replied, "I'd be a fool not to."

"Guys try to get me touches a lot," he said Friday of his American teammates. "I feel like I'm on the ball a bit more. I'm just able to be a different type of player."

This season was similar to 2009-10, when Altidore was loaned from Spain's Villarreal to England's Hull and scored twice. At 20, he was the youngest player on the U.S. roster for the 2010 World Cup and he started all four matches.

Altidore's last chance to score before this World Cup comes with Saturday's exhibition against Nigeria in Jacksonville, Fla. The Americans open play in their formidable group against Ghana in Natal in two weeks. The U.S. submitted its roster to FIFA on Monday, so the only changes would be for a serious injury at least 24 hours before its opener.

Klinsmann trusts that the player he's taking to Brazil "is the Jozy that we want to see." Asked what he's shown that makes Klinsmann so confident, Altidore joked: "Kick the ball straight."

"He's been the coach a while now," Altidore added, getting serious. "If a guy like that believes in you, believes you can do good things on the field, I think that says a lot."

Klinsmann quipped Sunday that perhaps the drought is setting up Altidore to break through with a goal against Ghana. For now, his faith must come from seeing his 24-year-old scorer do everything else.

"You've got to stay hungry and grind it out," Klinsmann said, "and sooner or later it's time and, boom, the ball is in the net."

AP Sports Writer Janie McCauley in Stanford, Calif., and Ronald Blum in Harrison contributed to this report.

Team USA forward Jozy Altidore

Chuck Myers/MCT

By the numbers

27
Number of consecutive games without a goal for U.S. forward Jozy Altidore.

19
Number of consecutive months Altidore has gone without scoring an international goal.

0
Number of goals Altidore scored in four games for the U.S. in the 2010 World Cup.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

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NBA FINALS

Wade healthy, dangerous

Miami guard feeling good as he pursues fourth title

BY TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI — The last time Dwyane Wade played in an NBA Finals game, he needed fluid drained from his left knee and eight hours of intense game-day therapy just to get into uniform.

The Miami Heat guard later described it in a single word.

"Hell," Wade said.

It was also worth it, after he scored 23 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and hoisted his third Larry O'Brien Trophy.

Now, unlike last year, Wade is not dealing with any injuries heading into the Miami's finals rematch against the San Antonio Spurs. At 32 years old and with 866 NBA games already on his playing odometer, Wade still deals with plenty of aches and pains, good days and bad days, and basically has a standing appointment in the Heat training room.

But compared to last season's NBA Finals, his knees are good as new.

"He's a big-time, huge piece to our puzzle," four-time NBA MVP and Heat star LeBron James said.

By the numbers

18.7

Dwyane Wade's average points per game this postseason, on 52 percent shooting.

15.9

Wade's average points per game last postseason, on 46 percent shooting. He averaged 23.5 in the Finals

SOURCE: Basketball-reference.com

"To have him out there in the groove that he's in right now, it's going to help us."

The Heat are looking to win their third straight title and Wade is on the cusp of joining a list of all-time NBA greats.

There are just seven players with four championships and at least one NBA Finals MVP award on their resumes: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, John Havlicek, Magic Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and the Spurs' Tim Duncan.

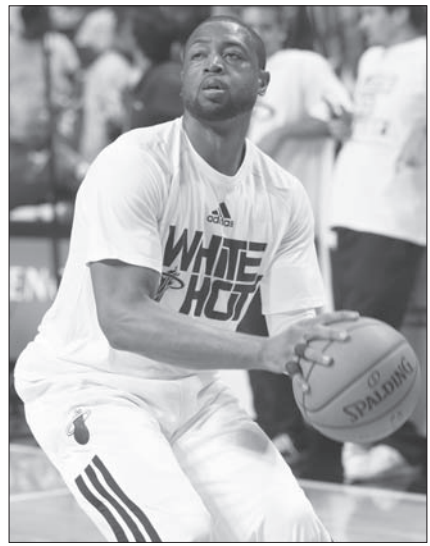
Wade could be the eighth person in that club.

"We just want to continue to add to what we're accomplishing," Wade said.

Almost forgotten amid all the memories of Wade limping about during last year's playoffs — he whacked what was his "good" left knee at this time last year, — is he had big games when Miami needed him.

"He still found a way last year," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He really did. He had some of his biggest games not only in the finals, but Game 7, we didn't think necessarily he was going to even play that game in the Eastern Conference finals."

As for now, when Wade talks about his health, he has just a one-word answer: "Better."



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade played a key role in last season's run to the NBA championship despite playing on two injured knees. Wade is feeling much better this time around and his health could be the difference for Miami in it's quest for a fourth championship.

Five things to know

Legacies, past and future, discussed at media day

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — They talked legacies and dynasties, recalled the past and looked toward the future.

The San Antonio Spurs and Miami Heat met with the media Wednesday in their final practices before Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Thursday night. Here are five things that came up along the way.

1 Duncan's last rodeo?: Tim Duncan is 38 years old and has been in the NBA for 17 years, so he probably knew the question was coming.

He just doesn't know the answer.

Duncan's very first question Wednesday was about retirement, and what could make him consider it. Whenever he does walk away, he will end up in the Hall of Fame five years later, but he's not sure yet when that clock will start.

"I don't know when I'm going to retire. I don't know what the factors are going to be," he said. "I don't know any of that and I don't care about any of that stuff right in now. I'm not thinking about that in that respect. It will happen when it happens. I'll feel it and I'll know it and I'll call it a day."

2 Finals failure: LeBron James lost his first two NBA Finals, but that's nothing compared to Jerry West.

Despite playing on some powerful Lakers teams, West lost in his first seven finals appearances before winning his only championship in 1972.

So James said a conversation with West, and Isiah Thomas, another Hall of Famer, after Miami lost in 2011 helped him deal with his early failures.

"Obviously, I don't know if you guys know the story of Jerry West, the multiple times that it took for him to get over the hump and also Isiah, and they gave me some great pointers, that I like to keep in my Rolodex, until I decide to write a book when I'm done," James said. "But those guys were very helpful."

ERIC GAY/AP

Miami Heat forward LeBron James warms up during practice on Wednesday in San Antonio. They play Game 1 of the NBA Finals against the Spurs on Thursday.

3 Second shot: Chris Bosh and the Heat would have liked the same chance the Spurs have now.

Beaten by Dallas in 2011 in their first NBA Finals after LeBron James and Bosh joined Dwyane Wade in Miami, the Heat never got a chance to avenge that loss. Mavericks owner Mark Cuban decided not to keep the team together in an attempt to have financial flexibility the following summer.

So the Heat understand what the Spurs are feeling in their rematch with Miami.

"We can draw on those feelings, because we'd give anything to play the Mavericks again, but we can't," Bosh said. "They didn't bring that team back and it's disappointing because you always want some get-back for the team that put you out. We can draw off those feelings because we understand, man, if we would have had the chance. Not saying we would have won or lost, we just wanted the chance to compete again and just prove to ourselves that we're a better team."

4 Going Green: Danny Green would have been the NBA Finals MVP last year if the series ended in five games, having already shattered the series record with 25 three-pointers.

The last two games couldn't have gone much worse. He was 1 of 5 behind the arc in Game 6 and 1 of 6 in Game 7, part of a 1-for-12 finale. He said the biggest lesson he learned from his first finals was not to fear the pressure of the big stage.

"At the end of the day, you're not going to die from it or you're not going to go to jail for it," he said. "There are a lot worse things going on in the world. You can't play scared; you've got to be aggressive. Just lose yourself in the game."

5 "Frozen" Heat: He plays in Miami, but the cold doesn't bother Shane Battier anyway.

The Heat forward played along when Guillermo Rodriguez from "Jimmy Kimmel Live" came over to do a segment. Rodriguez asked Battier if he had seen the Disney movie "Frozen," then asked Battier which of the two main characters he considered himself, an Elsa or an Anna.

"I'm an Elsa. I'm an Elsa kind of guy," Battier said. "Just let it go. Just let it go. Let it go."

The two then sang "Let It Go," the Academy Award-winning smash that Idina Menzel, the actress who plays Elsa, sings in the animated film.

NBA/COLLEGE BASEBALL

Sterling agrees to sell Clippers without fight

By Tami Abdollah
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Donald Sterling is leaving without a fight.

He is dropping his plans to sue the NBA, leaving only approval by the league's owners for Steve Ballmer to become the new owner of the Los Angeles Clippers.

> **'(Sterling) has made an agreement with the NBA to resolve all their differences.'**
>
> **Maxwell Blecher**
> Donald Sterling's attorney

Sterling

Sterling agreed Wednesday to sign off on the $2 billion sale to the former Microsoft CEO, bringing the possibility of a resolution to weeks of rumors, uncertainty and looming legal action.

The agreement hadn't been officially signed Wednesday afternoon, according to an individual with knowledge of the negotiations who wasn't authorized to discuss them publicly. But Donald Sterling's attorney, Maxwell Blecher, said he "has made an agreement with the NBA to resolve all their differences."

Sterling gave his consent to a deal that was negotiated by his wife, Shelly Sterling, to sell the team, Blecher said.

Representatives for Shelly Sterling and the NBA declined to comment.

The agreement was an about face for Donald Sterling, who just last week filed a $1 billion suit against the NBA in federal court alleging the league violated his constitutional rights by relying on information from an "illegal" recording that publicized racist remarks he made to a girlfriend. It also said the league committed a breach of contract by fining Sterling $2.5 million and that it violated antitrust laws by trying to force a sale. Blecher said that as a result of the agreement, the federal suit will now be dropped.

Sterling's comments to V. Stiviano included telling her to not bring black people to Clippers games, specifically mentioning Hall of Famer Magic Johnson. They resulted in a storm of outrage from the public and players and even prompted President Barack Obama to comment on what he called Sterling's "incredibly offensive racist statements."

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver ultimately decided to ban Donald Sterling for life and began efforts to force Sterling to sell the team.

For weeks, Donald Sterling said through his attorneys that he would fight the NBA's decisions to try to force his ouster as the team's owner. Then last week Shelly Sterling utilized her authority as sole trustee of The Sterling Family Trust, which owns the Clippers, to take bids for the team and ultimately negotiate a deal with Ballmer.

Ballmer beat out bids by Guggenheim Partners and a group including former NBA All-Star Grant Hill. Ballmer made more than an hour-long personal visit to Shelly Sterling's Malibu home last week and laid out his plan. He could be approved quickly, given the league's familiarity with him.

If the NBA owners approve the sale, it will be a record sum for a team that cost Donald Sterling about $12 million in 1981. Blecher's co-counsel, Bobby Samini, said the vote by league owners is expected to take place in mid-July.

This is not Ballmer's first foray into potential NBA ownership. Ballmer and investor Chris Hansen headed a group that agreed to a deal to buy the Kings from the Maloof family in January 2013 with the intention of moving the team to Seattle, where the SuperSonics played until 2008.

But Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson lobbied the NBA for time to put together a bid to keep the team in California, and though the Ballmer-Hansen group later increased its offer, owners voted to deny the bid for relocation and the Kings were sold to Vivek Ranadive.

All-NBA first team

Kevin Durant, Oklahoma City Thunder, F: League MVP was lone unanimous choice with 125 first-team votes; fifth overall selection.

LeBron James, Miami Heat, F: Eight-time All-NBA first team selection received 124 of 125 first-team votes.

Chris Paul, L.A. Clippers, PG: Fourth first-team selection for the first time all-defense first-teamer.

James Harden, Houston Rockets, G: First time selected to All-NBA first team for fifth-year star.

Joakim Noah, Chicago Bulls, C: League's defensive player of the year named to first team for first time.

Second-team: Tony Parker, San Antonio; Stephen Curry, Golden State; Blake Griffin, L.A. Clippers; Dwight Howard, Houston; Kevin Love, Minnesota.
Third-team: Damian Lillard and LaMarcus Aldridge, Portland. Goran Dragic, Phoenix; Paul George, Indiana; Al Jefferson, Charlotte.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Steve Cannon/AP

Kennesaw State fans raise their flag in celebration during an NCAA regional tournament game. The first-time tournament participant Owls are just one of the underdog teams hoping to advance to the College World Series next week.

NCAA super regionals

Underdogs on the rise

By Eric Olson
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Five of the eight national seeds already have been eliminated from the NCAA baseball tournament. If the upsets continue in super regionals, there'll be some new faces at the College World Series next week.

The winner between Texas Tech and College of Charleston will make its CWS debut, Maryland will be going for its first trip to Omaha, Neb., and you can't forget about those Owls of first-time NCAA tournament participant Kennesaw State.

Here are 10 topics to consider heading into the best-of-three super regionals, which start Friday:

1 **Big 12 bounty:** While the SEC laments having eight of its record 10 NCAA tournament teams eliminated, the Big 12 is celebrating having Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, TCU and Texas hosting super regionals. Four ACC teams hosted super regionals last year. Before that, no conference had so many host since the tournament went to its current format in 1999.

2 **Follow the money:** Houston coach Todd Whitting said Monday he was certain his team would be a host for its first super regional since 2003. He found out Tuesday that the Cougars couldn't match Texas' super-regional bid. Houston and Texas both were No. 2 regional seeds. But the Longhorns have a bigger stadium and, according to the Houston Chronicle and San Antonio Express-News, guaranteed the NCAA gross revenue of $253,250 for a three-game series. Houston promised $135,787.

3 **Stanford power surge:** Of Stanford's 35 home runs, nine were hit in its five regional games. No other team hit more than four. Two of Stanford's were timely — Wayne Taylor's pinch-hit, three-run shot that keyed a comeback win over Indiana to force a second championship game, and Tommy Edman's two-run walk-off homer in the bottom of the ninth in the clincher. Vanderbilt, the Cardinal's opponent, has given up one home run in its last eight games and just 15 for the season.

4 **All-ACC matchup:** Maryland travels to No. 3 national seed Virginia for the first super regional matching teams from the Atlantic Coast Conference. The Terrapins won their only meeting of the season, 7-6 in the conference tournament.

5 **Frogs on a roll:** No. 7 national seed TCU goes into its series against Pepperdine on a nation-best, nine-game win streak and with a pitching staff that's allowed no more than one run in 32 of 60 games. Big 12 pitcher of the year Preston Morrison and fellow all-conference first-teamers Brandon Finnegan and Riley Ferrell lead a staff that's first nationally with a 2.14 ERA.

6 **Tech turnaround:** Texas Tech second-year coach Tim Tadlock has overseen one of the nation's biggest turnarounds. The Red Raiders, who host College of Charleston, are 43-19 — a 17-win improvement from 2013. They've won 14 straight in Lubbock, and their 31 home wins are tied for third most in the nation.

7 **Give it a poke:** After allowing just seven runs in four games in regionals, UC Irvine will be tested by an Oklahoma State team that batted a tournament-best .355 and averaged nine runs a game in its regional. The Cowboys batted .363 (28 of 77) and scored 19 runs in two games against Cal State Fullerton, which went into the tournament with a nation-leading 2.03 ERA. Donnie Walton (.583) and Conor Costello (.500) were the biggest of the Cowboys' boppers.

8 **Cardinals' strong arms:** Louisville starters Kyle Funkhouser, Anthony Kidston and Josh Rogers combined to allow three earned runs in 21 innings (1.28 ERA) with 21 strikeouts in regionals. They're backed up by a bullpen that has a 2.37 ERA in the last 79 $^{2}/_{3}$ innings.

9 **Win record in sight:** If No. 6 national seed Louisiana-Lafayette gets past Mississippi, the Ragin' Cajuns (57-8) will have a chance to set the record for most wins since the NCAA went to a 56-game regular season in 1992. Florida State won 60 games in 2002. Wichita State's 73 wins in 87 games in 1982 is the overall record.

10 **Kennesaw bandwagon:** Kennesaw State never drew more than 879 fans to its 1,200-seat stadium this season. A lot more folks are following the Owls now. Kennesaw State became a full-fledged Division I member in 2009-10, and the school is capitalizing on the unexpected exposure that's come with the Owls' run in the tournament. Watch parties have been organized at a suburban Atlanta restaurant, with discounts for folks dressed in black and gold, and the school bookstore has been fielding requests for apparel to mark the occasion.

"People on campus are definitely excited. This is kind of new for us, being on a national stage," bookstore assistant director Sean Rowland said.

MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	36	24	.600	—
Baltimore	30	27	.526	4½
New York	29	29	.500	6
Boston	27	32	.458	8½
Tampa Bay	23	37	.383	13
Central Division				
Detroit	31	24	.564	—
Chicago	31	30	.508	3
Cleveland	30	30	.500	3½
Minnesota	28	29	.491	4
Kansas City	28	31	.475	5
West Division				
Oakland	37	22	.627	—
Los Angeles	31	27	.534	5½
Seattle	31	28	.525	6
Texas	29	30	.492	8
Houston	25	35	.417	12½

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	31	27	.534	—
Miami	31	28	.525	½
Washington	29	28	.509	1½
New York	28	31	.475	3½
Philadelphia	24	33	.421	6½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	35	25	.583	—
St. Louis	31	29	.517	4
Pittsburgh	28	31	.475	6½
Cincinnati	27	30	.474	6½
Chicago	22	34	.393	11
West Division				
San Francisco	38	21	.644	—
Los Angeles	31	30	.508	8
Colorado	28	30	.483	9½
San Diego	27	33	.450	11½
Arizona	25	36	.410	14

Wednesday's games

Seattle 2, Atlanta 0
Cleveland 7, Boston 4, 12 innings
Oakland 7, N.Y. Yankees 4
Toronto 8, Detroit 2
Miami 5, Tampa Bay 4
Baltimore 6, Texas 5
L.A. Angels 4, Houston 0
Minnesota 6, Milwaukee 4
St. Louis 5, Kansas City 2, 11 innings
San Diego 3, Pittsburgh 2
Washington 8, Philadelphia 4
San Francisco 3, Cincinnati 2
Chicago Cubs 5, N.Y. Mets 4
Arizona 16, Colorado 8
Chicago White Sox 2, L.A. Dodgers 1

Thursday's games

Oakland at N.Y. Yankees
Toronto at Detroit
Miami at Tampa Bay
L.A. Angels at Houston
Baltimore at Texas
Milwaukee at Minnesota
St. Louis at Kansas City
San Francisco at Cincinnati)
Philadelphia at Washington
N.Y. Mets at Chicago Cubs
Arizona (Arroyo 4-4) at Colorado (Nicasio 5-3)

Friday's games

Oakland (Milone 3-3) at Baltimore (W.Chen 6-2)
St. Louis (Lynn 6-3) at Toronto (Stroman 2-0)
Boston (R.De La Rosa 1-0) at Detroit (Smyly 2-4)
Seattle (C.Young 5-2) at Tampa Bay (Bedard 2-4)
Cleveland (Bauer 1-2) at Texas (Darvish 5-2)
Houston (Keuchel 6-3) at Minnesota (P.Hughes 6-1)
N.Y. Yankees (Whitley 0-0) at Kansas City (Guthrie 2-5)
Chicago White Sox (Rienzo 4-2) at L.A. Angels (Weaver 6-4)
Miami (Eovaldi 4-2) at Chicago Cubs (Hammel 6-3)
Milwaukee (Lohse 7-1) at Pittsburgh (Cumpton 0-2)
Philadelphia (Hamels 1-3) at Cincinnati (Cueto 5-4)
L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 6-2) at Colorado (E.Butler 0-0)
Atlanta (Teheran 5-3) at Arizona (McCarthy 1-7)
Washington (Roark 3-4) at San Diego (T.Ross 6-4)
N.Y. Mets (Niese 3-3) at San Francisco (M.Cain 1-3)

Wednesday

Cardinals 5, Royals 2 (11)

St. Louis	ab	r	h	bi
MCrpnt 3b	5	2	5	2
Grichk lf	4	0	0	0
Jay ph-lf	1	1	1	0
Hollidy dh	5	0	0	1
Craig 1b	5	0	1	2
YMolin c	5	0	2	0
JhPerlt ss	5	0	0	0
Tavers rf	5	0	1	0
M.Ellis 2b	4	1	1	0
Wong ph-2b	1	0	0	0
Bourjos cf	4	1	1	0
Totals	44	5	12	5

Kansas City	ab	r	h	bi
Infante 2b	5	0	0	0
Hosmer 1b	5	1	0	0
BButler dh	4	0	1	0
Criaco pr-dh	1	1	0	0
AGordn lf	3	0	1	0
S.Perez c	3	0	0	1
Aoki pr	0	0	0	0
Hayes c	1	0	0	0
L.Cain rf	4	0	1	1
Mostks 3b	4	0	0	0
AEscor ss	4	0	2	0
Dyson cf	3	0	0	0
Totals	37	2	5	2

St. Louis	010	000	100	03	—5
Kansas City	000	000	002	00	—2

DP—St. Louis 1. LOB—St. Louis 12, Kansas City 6. 2B—M.Carpenter 2 (16), Taveras (1), A.Gordon (16), A.Escobar (15). SB—M.Ellis (3), Bourjos (4), A.Escobar (16). S—Grichuk, Dyson.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
St. Louis						
Wainwright	8	4	2	2	2	8
Rosenthal BS,3-19	1	1	0	0	1	1
S.Freeman W,1-0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Neshek S,1-3	1	0	0	0	0	1
Kansas City						
Vargas	8	9	2	2	2	3
Mariot	1	0	0	0	1	1
G.Holland	1	0	0	0	0	2
K.Herrera L,1-2	⅓	2	3	3	1	0
Ti.Collins	⅔	1	0	0	0	0

Wainwright pitched to 2 batters in the 9th. HBP—by Ti.Collins (Holliday). WP—Wainwright, Mariot. T—3:46. A—22,126.

Twins 6, Brewers 4

Milwaukee	ab	r	h	bi
Segura ss	4	0	0	0
Braun rf	4	0	0	0
Lucroy c	3	1	1	0
CGomz cf	4	1	1	0
ArRmr dh	4	1	1	3
RWeks 2b	4	1	1	0
MrRynl 3b	4	0	2	1
Overay 1b	3	0	0	0
LSchfr lf	3	0	0	0
Totals	33	4	6	4

Minnesota	ab	r	h	bi
DSantn cf	4	0	0	0
A.Hicks cf	0	0	0	0
Dozier 2b	3	1	2	0
Mauer 1b	4	0	0	0
Wlngh lf	3	2	2	1
Arcia rf	4	2	2	4
Plouffe 3b	4	0	1	1
KSuzuk c	4	0	2	0
Pinto dh	4	0	0	0
EEscor ss	4	1	1	0
Totals	34	6	10	6

Milwaukee	010	000	300—4
Minnesota	000	310	20x—6

E—Mar.Reynolds (4). LOB—Milwaukee 3, Minnesota 9. 2B—R.Weeks (5), Mar.Reynolds (4), Dozier (10), Willingham (2). HR—Ar.Ramirez (6), Arcia (3). SB—Dozier (13).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Milwaukee						
Estrada	6	6	4	4	3	4
Wooten L,1-3	⅔	1	1	1	0	0
W.Smith	⅓	2	1	1	0	0
Duke	1	1	0	0	1	2
Minnesota						
Nolasco W,4-5	7	6	4	4	0	7
Fien H,10	1	0	0	0	1	1
Perkins S,16-18	1	0	0	0	0	1

HBP—by Estrada (Dozier). T—2:52. A—31,144 (39,021).

Orioles 6, Rangers 5

Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi
Markks rf	3	1	2	2
Machd 3b	5	1	2	0
N.Cruz dh	5	2	3	0
A.Jones cf	5	0	2	2
C.Davis 1b	3	1	1	1
Hardy ss	4	0	0	1
Schoop 2b	4	0	1	0
Lough lf	3	0	1	0
CJosph c	5	1	1	0
Totals	37	6	13	6

Texas	ab	r	h	bi
Choo lf	3	0	0	0
Sardns ss-2b	5	1	3	0
Morlnd 1b	3	2	1	0
Choice ph	1	0	0	0
ABeltre dh	4	2	2	5
Rios rf	4	0	2	0
DMrph 3b	4	0	0	0
LMartn cf	4	0	1	0
Chirins c	4	0	1	0
Odor 2b	2	0	0	0
Andrs ph-ss	2	0	1	0
Totals	36	5	11	5

Baltimore	103	011	000—6
Texas	200	030	000—5

E—Machado (7), Sardinas 2 (2). DP—Baltimore 2, Texas 1. LOB—Baltimore 12, Texas 7. 2B—Machado (3), Rios (14). HR—Markakis (4), C.Davis (8), A.Beltre 2 (8). CS—Lough (2). SF—Hardy.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Baltimore						
B.Norris W,4-5	5	6	5	5	2	5
McFarland H,2	1⅔	2	0	0	0	2
O'Day H,7	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1
Z.Britton S,5-6	1	2	0	0	0	1
Texas						
N.Martinez L,1-2	5⅓	9	6	4	3	1
Poreda	⅓	2	0	0	0	0
Sh.Tolleson	1	1	0	0	1	1
Cotts	1⅓	1	0	0	1	2
Frasor	1	0	0	0	2	0

HBP—by B.Norris (Choo). T—3:33. A—27,934 (48,114).

Angels 4, Astros 0

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi
Calhon rf	4	1	1	0
Aybar ss	5	1	2	1
Pujols 1b	4	1	1	0
JHmltn cf-lf	4	0	0	0
HKndrc 2b	4	0	1	1
Freese 3b	3	1	2	1
Cowgill pr-cf	0	0	0	0
Ibanez lf	4	0	0	0
JMcDnl 3b	0	0	0	0
Cron dh	4	0	2	1
Conger c	4	0	0	0
Totals	36	4	9	4

Houston	ab	r	h	bi
Fowler cf	4	0	2	0
Altuve 2b	4	0	1	0
Springr rf	3	0	0	0
JCastro c	4	0	1	0
Singltn 1b	4	0	0	0
MDmn 3b	4	0	0	0
Carter dh	2	0	0	0
Presley lf	3	0	0	0
MGnzlz ss	3	0	0	0
Totals	31	0	4	0

Los Angeles	000	012	001—4
Houston	000	000	000—0

LOB—Los Angeles 8, Houston 6. 2B—Aybar 2 (16), Freese (4), Fowler (8).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Los Angeles						
Richards W,5-2	8	4	0	0	0	9
J.Smith	1	0	0	0	0	1
Houston						
Cosart L,4-5	6⅔	8	3	3	1	8
Farnsworth	1⅓	0	0	0	1	1
Williams	1	1	1	1	1	1

HBP—by Richards (Carter, Springer). WP—Williams. PB—J.Castro. T—2:53. A—23,902 (42,060).

Athletics 7, Yankees 4

Oakland	ab	r	h	bi
Gentry cf	5	0	0	0
Lowrie ss	4	1	2	1
Dnldsn 3b	5	2	3	1
Cespds lf	5	2	3	2
DNorrs c	4	1	1	0
Moss rf	4	0	1	1
Blanks 1b	3	0	1	1
Callasp dh	3	1	0	1
Punto 2b	3	0	1	0
Totals	36	7	12	7

New York	ab	r	h	bi
Gardnr lf	5	1	2	0
Jeter ss	5	1	1	1
Ellsury cf	5	1	3	3
Teixeir 1b	4	0	1	0
McCnn dh-c	4	0	0	0
Solarte 3b	4	0	1	0
BRorts 2b	3	0	0	0
ISuzuki rf	3	1	1	0
JMrphy c	3	0	0	0
KJhnsn ph	1	0	0	0
LeBlnc p	0	0	0	0
Totals	37	4	9	4

Oakland	000	112	102—7
New York	004	000	000—4

E—Lowrie (7), D.Norris (2), Jeter (5). DP—New York 1. LOB—Oakland 10, New York 8. 2B—Blanks (1). HR—Donaldson (16), Cespedes 2 (12), Ellsbury (3). SB—Gardner (14), I.Suzuki (4). SF—Lowrie, Blanks, Callaspo.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Oakland						
J.Chavez W,5-3	6	7	4	4	2	5
Abad H,6	⅓	1	0	0	0	0
Otero H,7	1⅔	1	0	0	0	2
Doolittle S,7-8	1	0	0	0	0	0
New York						
Nuno	4⅔	6	2	2	1	5
Daley	⅓	1	2	1	0	0
Thornton BS,3-3	1	1	0	0	1	1
J.Ramirez L,0-1	2	2	1	1	1	2
LeBlanc	1	2	2	2	1	0

Daley pitched to 2 batters in the 6th. HBP—by LeBlanc (Moss). T—3:22. A—37,734 (49,642).

Indians 7, Red Sox 4 (12)

Boston	ab	r	h	bi
Holt 1b	6	0	1	2
Bogarts 3b	5	1	0	0
Pedroia 2b	6	0	1	0
D.Ortiz dh	4	1	2	2
Przyns c	3	0	1	0
D.Ross c	2	0	0	0
GSizmr rf	3	0	0	0
JGoms ph-lf	1	0	0	0
Drew ss	4	1	0	0
Nava lf-rf	4	1	1	0
BrdlyJr cf	4	0	1	0
Totals	42	4	7	4

Cleveland	ab	r	h	bi
Bourn cf	6	1	1	0
ACarer ss	5	3	2	3
Brantly lf	5	1	3	1
Kipnis 2b	4	1	1	1
Chsnhll 1b	4	0	1	0
DvMrp rf	5	0	1	2
YGoms c	4	0	0	0
Giambi dh	4	0	1	0
Rabrn pr-dh	1	0	0	0
Aviles 3b	5	1	1	0
Totals	43	7	11	7

Boston	000	002	200	000—4
Cleveland	100	003	000	003—7

One out when winning run scored. DP—Boston 1. LOB—Boston 8, Cleveland 6. 2B—Pierzynski (8), Giambi (1). HR—D.Ortiz (13), A.Cabrera (5). SB—A.Cabrera (5). S—Bradley Jr., Chisenhall.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Boston						
Workman	5	4	3	3	2	3
Capuano BS,1-1	0	3	1	1	0	0
Badenhop	1⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Breslow	1⅔	0	0	0	0	2
Tazawa	1	1	0	0	0	1
Uehara	2	0	0	0	1	2
Mujica L,2-2	⅓	3	3	3	0	1
Cleveland						
Kluber	6⅓	5	4	4	2	4
Atchison	⅔	0	0	0	0	1
Hagadone	⅔	0	0	0	0	1
Axford	⅔	0	0	0	0	2
Outman	⅔	1	0	0	0	0
Shaw	1	1	0	0	0	2
Carrasco W,1-3	2	0	0	0	0	4

Workman pitched to 2 batters in the 6th. Capuano pitched to 3 batters in the 6th. HBP—by Carrasco (J.Gomes), by Kluber (Nava, Bogaerts). WP—Kluber, Atchison. T—4:29. A—20,209 (42,487).

Blue Jays 8, Tigers 2

Toronto	ab	r	h	bi
Reyes ss	5	1	1	0
MeCarr lf	5	3	3	2
Bautist rf	4	2	3	2
Lind dh-1b	5	0	2	3
Encrnc 1b	3	0	1	0
Jenkins p	0	0	0	0
JFrncs 3b	3	0	0	0
StTllsn ph-2b	1	0	0	1
Lawrie 2b-3b	4	0	1	0
Thole c	3	0	0	0
Kratz c	1	1	1	0
Gose cf	4	1	1	0
Totals	38	8	13	8

Detroit	ab	r	h	bi
RDavis lf	5	0	1	0
Kinsler 2b	5	1	1	1
MiCarr 1b	4	1	1	1
VMrtnz dh	4	0	0	0
TrHntr rf	4	0	0	0
AJcksn cf	3	0	0	0
Avila c	3	0	2	0
Cstllns 3b	3	0	1	0
AnRmn ss	1	0	1	0
JMrtnz ph	1	0	0	0
Suarez ss	1	0	0	0
Totals	34	2	7	2

Toronto	100	002	032—8
Detroit	101	000	000—2

E—Encarnacion (6), Lawrie (3), E.Reed (1). DP—Toronto 1, Detroit 2. LOB—Toronto 5, Detroit 11. 2B—Me.Cabrera (14), Bautista (10), Lind 2 (12). HR—Me.Cabrera (9), Kinsler (5), Mi.Cabrera (11). SB—Castellanos (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Toronto						
Dickey W,6-4	5	7	2	2	4	4
Loup H,11	2	0	0	0	1	1
Cecil	⅔	0	0	0	0	1
McGowan H,3	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit						
Porcello L,8-3	7	6	3	3	1	3
E.Reed	⅓	4	3	3	1	1
Coke	⅔	0	0	0	0	0
Knebel	1	3	2	2	0	1

Dickey pitched to 3 in the 6th. HBP—by Cecil (Avila). T—3:14. A—32,033 (41,681).

Mariners 2, Braves 0

Seattle	ab	r	h	bi
Blmqst 1b	4	0	1	0
Rodney p	0	0	0	0
EnChvz cf-rf	5	0	1	0
Cano 2b	5	1	1	0
Romer rf	4	0	2	0
J.Jones pr-cf	0	1	0	0
Seager 3b	4	0	1	1
Zunino c	4	0	1	0
Gillespi lf	4	0	2	1
BMiller ss	3	0	0	0
Iwakm p	1	0	0	0
Medina p	0	0	0	0
Smoak ph-1b	1	0	0	0
Totals	35	2	9	2

Atlanta	ab	r	h	bi
Heywrd rf	4	0	2	0
BUpton cf	4	0	0	0
FFrmn 1b	4	0	0	0
J.Upton lf	4	0	1	0
Gattis c	4	0	1	0
CJhnsn 3b	3	0	1	0
LaStell 2b	3	0	1	0
ASmns ss	3	0	0	0
Minor p	2	0	0	0
Avilan p	0	0	0	0
Smmns p	0	0	0	0
Doumit ph	1	0	0	0
DCrpnt p	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	0	6	0

Seattle	000	100	010—2
Atlanta	000	000	000—0

DP—Seattle 1. LOB—Seattle 10, Atlanta 5. 3B—Romero (2). S—Iwakuma.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Seattle						
Iwakuma W,4-2	7	6	0	0	0	7
Medina H,10	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rodney S,16-18	1	0	0	0	0	1
Atlanta						
Minor L,2-4	7	5	1	1	3	10
Avilan	⅓	2	1	1	0	0
S.Simmons	⅔	0	0	0	0	2
D.Carpenter	1	2	0	0	0	1

WP—Minor. T—2:51. A—26,960 (49,586).

Padres 3, Pirates 2

Pittsburgh	ab	r	h	bi
JHrrsn 2b-rf	4	0	3	1
Snider rf	3	0	0	0
NWalkr ph	1	0	0	0
Barmes 2b	0	0	0	0
AMcCt cf	4	1	1	1
I.Davis 1b	4	0	0	0
Tabata lf	3	0	1	0
PAlvrz 3b	4	0	1	0
Mercer ss	4	1	1	0
CStwrt c	3	0	0	0
RMartn ph	1	0	0	0
Liriano p	1	0	0	0
JHughs p	0	0	0	0
SMarte ph	1	0	0	0
Watson p	0	0	0	0
Melncn p	0	0	0	0
Totals	33	2	7	2

San Diego	ab	r	h	bi
Denorfi rf	1	1	0	1
Smth ph-rf-lf	1	0	0	0
ECarer ss	4	1	1	0
Quentin lf	3	0	0	1
Benoit p	0	0	0	0
Street p	0	0	0	0
Headly 3b	1	0	0	0
Amrst ph-3b	2	0	0	0
Medica 1b	3	1	0	0
Maybin cf	3	0	0	0
Rivera c	2	0	0	0
Petersn 2b	1	0	0	0
Kenndy p	1	0	0	0
Alonso ph	0	0	0	0
Vincent p	0	0	0	0
Venale rf	0	0	0	0
Totals	22	3	1	2

Pittsburgh	000	110	000—2
San Diego	200	100	00x—3

E—J.Harrison (2). DP—Pittsburgh 1. LOB—Pittsburgh 6, San Diego 7. 2B—J.Harrison 2 (7). 3B—J.Harrison (3). HR—A.McCutchen (6). SB—Denorfia (7), Maybin (2). S—Liriano, Peterson. SF—Quentin.

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Liriano L,1-6	5	1	3	2	6	7
J.Hughes	1	0	0	0	3	0
Watson	1	0	0	0	0	2
Melancon	1	0	0	0	0	1
San Diego						
Kennedy W,5-6	6	5	2	2	1	7
Vincent H,7	1	0	0	0	0	2
Benoit H,10	1	1	0	0	0	0
Street S,18-18	1	1	0	0	0	1

HBP—by Liriano (Headley). T—2:49. A—17,923 (42,302).

White Sox 2, Dodgers 1

Chicago	ab	r	h	bi
Eaton cf	5	0	1	0
GBckh 2b	4	0	1	0
JAreu 1b	3	0	1	0
A.Dunn lf	4	1	1	1
Sierra rf	0	0	0	0
AlRmrz ss	4	0	0	0
De Aza rf-lf	4	0	2	0
Flowrs c	4	0	0	0
LeGarc 3b	3	1	2	1
JhDnks p	3	0	1	0
Putnm p	0	0	0	0
SDowns p	0	0	0	0
Konerk ph	1	0	0	0
Belisari p	0	0	0	0
Totals	35	2	9	2

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi
DGordn 2b	4	1	2	0
Puig rf	2	0	0	0
HRmrz ss	3	0	0	1
AdGnzl 1b	4	0	0	0
Kemp lf	4	0	0	0
VnSlyk cf	1	0	0	0
JuTrnr 3b	4	0	0	0
Butera c	3	0	0	0
Beckett p	2	0	0	0
League p	0	0	0	0
BWilsn p	0	0	0	0
Figgins ph	1	0	0	0
JWrght p	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	1	2	1

Chicago	001	100	000—2
Los Angeles	000	000	010—1

E—G.Beckham (7), H.Ramirez (9). DP—Chicago 1, Los Angeles 1. LOB—Chicago 8, Los Angeles 6. 2B—Eaton (7), J.Abreu (12), D.Gordon (10). HR—A.Dunn (9), Le.Garcia (1). SB—De Aza (7), D.Gordon (35). CS—Al.Ramirez (3), De Aza (4), D.Gordon (4).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chicago						
Joh.Danks W,4-5	7⅓	2	1	1	3	5
Putnam H,7	⅓	0	0	0	1	0
S.Downs H,5	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Belisario S,5-8	1	0	0	0	0	1
Los Angeles						
Beckett L,3-3	6	9	2	2	2	6
League	1	0	0	0	0	1
B.Wilson	1	0	0	0	0	2
J.Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0

HBP—by Joh.Danks (Van Slyke, Van Slyke). T—3:03. A—45,540 (56,000).

Cubs 5, Mets 4

New York	ab	r	h	bi
dnDkkr cf	4	0	0	0
DnMrp 2b	5	1	3	0
DWrght 3b	3	0	0	0
Grndrs lf	5	1	2	0
BAreu rf	4	1	0	0
Duda 1b	3	0	1	2
Recker c	4	0	0	0
CTorrs p	0	0	0	0
Tejada ss	3	1	1	1
Matszk p	1	0	0	0
Evelnd p	0	0	0	0
Famili p	0	0	0	0
CYoung ph	1	0	0	0
Carlyle p	0	0	0	0
Rice p	0	0	0	0
dArnad c	1	0	0	0
Totals	34	4	7	3

Chicago	ab	r	h	bi
Bonifac 2b	5	1	1	0
Ruggin cf	2	2	1	0
Rizzo 1b	2	2	1	0
SCastro ss	4	0	3	3
Schrhlt rf	4	0	0	1
Coghln lf	2	0	1	0
Olt 3b	3	0	0	0
Strop p	0	0	0	0
HRndn p	0	0	0	0
JoBakr c	4	0	0	0
EJcksn p	1	0	0	0
Barney ph	1	0	0	0
Villanv p	0	0	0	0
Wrght p	0	0	0	0
Lake ph	1	0	0	0
Russell p	0	0	0	0
Grimm p	0	0	0	0
Valuen 3b	1	0	1	0
Totals	30	5	8	4

New York	300	100	000—4
Chicago	200	030	00x—5

E—S.Castro (9). DP—New York 1, Chicago 1. LOB—New York 10, Chicago 9. 2B—Dan.Murphy (15), Duda (9), Ruggiano (3), S.Castro (14). 3B—Coghlan (1). HR—Tejada (2). SB—Granderson (4). CS—Ruggiano (2).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
New York						
Matsuzaka	4⅓	4	4	4	5	2
Eveland L,0-1	⅓	2	1	1	1	0
Familia	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Carlyle	1⅓	1	0	0	1	3
Rice	⅓	0	0	0	1	1
C.Torres	1⅓	1	0	0	0	3
Chicago						
E.Jackson W,4-5	5	5	4	1	5	4
Villanueva H,1	⅔	1	0	0	2	2
W.Wright H,3	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Russell H,2	⅔	0	0	0	0	0
Grimm H,4	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Strop H,4	1	0	0	0	0	1
H.Rondon S,7-8	1	1	0	0	0	2

WP—Familia. T—3:40. A—28,185 (41,072).

Marlins 5, Rays 4

Miami	ab	r	h	bi
RJhnsn lf	4	0	0	0
Yelich lf	1	0	0	0
Lucas 3b	5	0	1	0
Stanton rf	4	2	2	0
McGeh dh	4	0	1	1
Ozuna cf	4	1	1	0
JeBakr 1b	3	1	1	0
GJones ph-1b	1	0	0	0
Solano 2b	4	1	1	3
Mathis c	4	0	1	0
Hchvrr ss	4	0	2	0
Totals	38	5	10	4

Tampa Bay	ab	r	h	bi
DeJess dh	4	1	0	1
Zobrist 2b	5	1	2	2
Longori 3b	4	1	1	1
Loney 1b	4	0	0	0
DJnngs cf	4	0	0	0
Joyce lf	3	0	3	0
SRdrgz ph-lf	1	0	0	0
YEscor ss	4	1	1	0
Kiermr rf	3	0	1	0
JMolin c	2	0	1	0
Forsyth pr	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	4	9	4

Miami	104	000	000—5
Tampa Bay	300	000	001—4

E—Lucas (2), Longoria (5). DP—Miami 3. LOB—Miami 6, Tampa Bay 9. 2B—Stanton (14), Joyce (11), Kiermaier (1). HR—Solano (1), Zobrist (4), Longoria (6). SB—Ozuna (1), Hechavarria (3).

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Koehler W,5-5	5	6	3	3	4	4
Morris H,5	2	2	0	0	0	1
M.Dunn H,9	1	0	0	0	0	2
Cishek S,13-14	1	1	1	0	2	0
Tampa Bay						
Price L,4-5	7⅓	9	5	1	0	11
Boxberger	⅔	0	0	0	0	1
Oviedo	1	1	0	0	0	2

WP—Price. T—3:17. A—10,897 (31,042).

Giants 3, Reds 2

San Francisco	ab	r	h	bi
Pagan cf	4	0	0	0
Pence rf	4	0	1	0
Posey c	4	0	1	0
Sandovl 3b	4	0	0	0
Morse 1b	4	1	1	1
B.Hicks 2b	4	1	1	0
J.Perez lf	4	1	2	2
Machi p	0	0	0	0
Romo p	0	0	0	0
BCrwfr ss	2	0	0	0
Vglsng p	3	0	1	0
JGutrrz p	0	0	0	0
J.Lopez p	0	0	0	0
Blanco lf	1	0	0	0
Totals	34	3	7	3

Cincinnati	ab	r	h	bi
BHmltn cf	4	0	3	0
Frazier 3b	4	1	1	1
Phillips 2b	3	1	1	0
Bruce rf	4	0	1	1
Mesorc c	4	0	0	0
Ludwck lf	3	0	0	0
B.Pena 1b	4	0	0	0
Cozart ss	4	0	0	0
Cingrn p	2	0	1	0
Ondrsk p	0	0	0	0
Heisey ph	1	0	0	0
LeCure p	0	0	0	0
MParr p	0	0	0	0
Totals	33	2	7	2

San Francisco	000	003	000—3
Cincinnati	002	000	000—2

E—Vogelsong (2), Posey (3), B.Crawford (7). DP—San Francisco 1. LOB—San Francisco 7, Cincinnati 6. 2B—Pence (13), Posey (4), J.Perez (1), Vogelsong (2), Phillips (17), Bruce (7). HR—Morse (12), J.Perez (1), Frazier (11). CS—B.Hamilton (7).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
San Francisco						
Vogelsong W,4-2	6⅓	7	2	2	1	9
J.Gutierrez H,7	⅔	0	0	0	0	2
J.Lopez H,6	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Machi H,7	⅔	0	0	0	0	0
Romo S,18-20	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cincinnati						
Cingrani L,2-6	5⅔	6	3	3	3	7
Ondrusek	1⅓	1	0	0	0	0
LeCure	1	0	0	0	0	2
M.Parra	1	0	0	0	0	1

J.Gutierrez pitched to 1 batter in the 8th. HBP—by Vogelsong (Phillips). T—3:12. A—26,333 (42,319).

Diamondbacks 16, Rockies 8

Arizona	ab	r	h	bi
Gregrs ss-2b	6	3	3	1
GParra rf	4	4	3	2
Gldsch 1b	5	3	3	4
Prado 3b	5	2	3	1
MMntr c	4	1	3	6
Hill 2b	4	0	2	0
Ziegler p	0	0	0	0
ErChvz ph	0	0	0	0
OPerez p	0	0	0	0
Evans ph	1	0	0	0
Cahill p	0	0	0	0
DPerlt lf	5	1	1	0
Inciart cf	5	1	2	0
Cllmntr p	2	0	0	0
C.Ross ph	1	0	0	0
Delgad p	0	0	0	0
Thtchr p	0	0	0	0
Owings ss	2	1	1	1
Totals	44	16	21	15

Colorado	ab	r	h	bi
Blckmn cf	4	1	2	0
Dickrsn lf	5	1	2	0
Tlwtzk ss	5	1	2	2
Cuddyr rf	4	1	2	2
Mornea 1b	5	0	1	0
Rosario c	4	1	2	0
Culersn 3b	3	0	0	0
Whelr ph-3b	2	1	0	0
LeMahi 2b	5	1	1	1
Lyles p	1	0	0	0
Morals p	0	1	0	0
Barnes ph	1	0	0	0
Logan p	0	0	0	0
Ottavin p	0	0	0	0
Stubbs ph	1	0	1	2
Brothrs p	0	0	0	0
Masset p	0	0	0	0
Belisle p	0	0	0	0
Totals	40	8	13	7

Arizona	301	000	165—16
Colorado	000	040	400— 8

E—Owings (10), Culberson (1). DP—Colorado 1. LOB—Arizona 8, Colorado 9. 2B—G.Parra 2 (11), Goldschmidt (23), Tulowitzki (13), Cuddyer (6), Rosario (9). HR—Gregorius (1), M.Montero (6). SB—Er.Chavez (2). SF—M.Montero 2.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Arizona						
Collmenter	5	9	4	4	2	2
Delgado	1	2	2	2	0	1
Thatcher H,4	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Ziegler W,2-1 BS,3-3	⅔	2	2	1	1	0
O.Perez H,4	1	0	0	0	1	1
Cahill	1	0	0	0	0	1
Colorado						
Lyles	4	7	4	2	1	3
Morales	2	3	0	0	0	0
Logan	⅓	0	1	1	1	1
Ottavino	⅔	1	0	0	0	2
Brothers L,2-4	0	4	5	5	1	0
Masset BS,1-1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Belisle	1	5	5	5	0	1

Brothers pitched to 5 batters in the 8th. Delgado pitched to 2 batters in the 7th. HBP—by Ottavino (Prado). WP—Lyles. T—3:58. A—26,199 (50,480).

Nationals 8, Phillies 4

Philadelphia	ab	r	h	bi
Rollins ss	5	0	0	0
Utley 2b	5	0	0	0
Byrd rf	4	0	0	0
Howard 1b	4	0	2	0
Ruiz c	3	0	1	0
DBrwn lf	4	1	1	0
Brignc 3b	4	1	2	1
Revere cf	4	1	1	0
ABrntt p	2	0	0	0
Mayrry ph	1	1	1	2
DeFrts p	0	0	0	0
Bastrd p	0	0	0	0
CHrndz ph	1	0	1	0
Totals	37	4	9	3

Washington	ab	r	h	bi
Span cf	5	1	2	2
Rendon 3b	5	1	3	3
Werth rf	4	0	0	0
LaRoch 1b	3	1	1	0
Zmrmn lf	4	0	1	0
WRams c	3	1	1	0
Dsmnd ss	3	1	0	0
Espinos 2b	4	2	2	2
Strasrg p	2	1	1	1
Barrett p	0	0	0	0
Hairstn ph	1	0	0	0
Blevins p	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	8	11	8

Philadelphia	000	020	200—4
Washington	000	413	00x—8

E—LaRoche (3), Strasburg (2). LOB—Philadelphia 7, Washington 6. 2B—Brignac (2), Span 2 (15), LaRoche (7), Espinosa (8). HR—Mayberry (3), Rendon (8). SB—Espinosa (5). CS—Span (2).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Philadelphia						
A.Burnett L,3-5	6	10	8	8	4	3
De Fratus	1	1	0	0	0	2
Bastardo	1	0	0	0	0	2
Washington						
Strasburg W,5-4	7	7	4	2	0	11
Barrett	1	1	0	0	1	1
Blevins	1	1	0	0	0	1

PB—W.Ramos. T—3:00. A—33,614 (41,408).

Calendar

June 5-7 — Amateur draft, Secaucus, N.J. (day 1) and New York (days 2-3)

July 15 — All-Star Game, Minneapolis.

July 18 — Deadline for amateur draft picks to sign.

July 27 — Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.

MLB

Interleague roundup

Carpenter, Cards trip Royals in 11

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Matt Carpenter had a career-high five hits for St. Louis on Wednesday. The last of them was arguably the most important.

Carpenter delivered a go-ahead double in the 11th inning, and the Cardinals added two more runs on a single by Allen Craig, sending them to a 5-2 victory over the Kansas City Royals and ending a frustrating three-game losing streak.

"Sometimes it takes an emotional victory like this to kind of jumpstart a team," said Carpenter, who also reached base on a walk. "Maybe this one will be the one for us."

The Royals rallied with two runs in the ninth, and the game remained tied until the 11th, when Peter Bourjos worked a one-out walk off Royals reliever Kelvin Herrera (1-2). Carpenter then rapped his double to center field, drawing a roar from a crowd comprised mostly of Cardinals fans.

Craig added his single off Tim Collins later in the inning, and Pat Neshek breezed through the bottom half to end the Royals' six-game winning streak against National League clubs.

Sam Freeman (1-0) earned the win with a perfect 10th inning.

Marlins 5, Rays 4: Donovan Solano hit a three-run homer off David Price to help Miami extend host Tampa Bay's longest losing streak in nearly five years to nine games. It is the second-longest losing streak in the majors this season.

Twins 6, Brewers 4: Oswaldo Arcia drove in four runs, including the go-ahead run in the seventh inning to lead host Minnesota to its seventh win in its last eight games against Milwaukee.

Mariners 2, Braves 0: Hisashi Iwakuma combined with two relievers on a six-hit shutout and streaking Seattle completed a two-game sweep of host Atlanta.

White Sox 2, Dodgers 1: John Danks and three relievers combined on a two-hitter and Leury Garcia hit his first major league home run as visiting Chicago defeated Los Angeles.

TONY DEJAK/AP

Cleveland Indians shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera, front, is mobbed by teammates after hitting a game-winning three-run homer off Boston Red Sox relief pitcher Edward Mujica in the 12th inning to give the Indians a 7-4 victory on Wednesday in Cleveland, the Indians' sixth victory in a row.

NL roundup

D-Backs slug way by Rockies

The Associated Press

DENVER — Miguel Montero predicted this kind of night for himself, an evening he would long remember.

He told Henry Blanco as they hung around the batting cage before the game that he was due to have "one of those crazy days when you get 6 or 7 RBIs. ... So, I guess I called it."

Montero drove in a career-high six runs, Paul Goldschmidt hit a go-ahead, three-run double in the eighth inning and the Arizona Diamondbacks sent the Colorado Rockies to their sixth straight loss, 16-8 on Wednesday night.

The Rockies led 8-5 when the Diamondbacks scored six times in the eighth to reclaim the lead. They were hardly done, adding five more in the ninth to turn a close game into a runaway. The Diamondbacks tied a season high with 21 hits.

The top five hitters in the lineup had three hits each and combined for 14 RBIs. Montero led the way as he drove in two runs on sacrifice flies, had a run-scoring single and hit a three-run homer in the ninth.

Brad Ziegler (2-1) got two outs in the seventh to earn the win. Rex Brothers (2-4) took the loss after the big eighth.

JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Arizona's Miguel Montero hits a ninth inning, three-run homer in Wednesday's 16-8 win over the Colorado Rockies in Denver.

Nationals 8, Phillies 4: Stephen Strasburg struck out 11 in seven innings and host Washington kept Philadelphia's bats quiet yet again in the rain-interrupted game. Strasburg (5-4) had the Phillies flailing as he hit double digits in Ks for the 15th time

Padres 3, Pirates 2: Host San Diego had only one hit — Everth Cabrera's single in the first inning — but beat Pittsburgh thanks to Francisco Liriano's wildness.

Giants 3, Reds 2: Michael Morse and Juan Perez homered with two outs in the sixth inning and San Francisco ended host Cincinnati's season-high four-game winning streak.

Cubs 5, Mets 4: Starlin Castro went 3 for 4 with three RBIs and host Chicago outlasted New York in a mistake-filled game that featured a combined 13 pitchers.

AL roundup

Cabrera punctuates streaking Indians' sweep over Red Sox

Walk-off, 3-run HR gives Cleveland its sixth straight win

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Johnny Manziel had scrambled away long before Asdrubal Cabrera came to the plate in the 12th inning.

And when Cabrera connected for a three-run homer in the 12th inning, ending a game that took nearly seven hours to play, Indians manager Terry Francona was relieved to be finally leaving the ballpark.

"Nice to see anyone come through," Francona said.

Cabrera connected for a three-run homer in the 12th, giving Cleveland a 7-4 victory over the Boston Red Sox early Thursday and a three-game sweep of the defending World Series champions.

With two runners on and Boston playing five infielders and only two outfielders, Cabrera made the shift moot by driving an 0-1 pitch from Edward Mujica (2-2) into Boston's bullpen as the Indians won their sixth straight overall and ninth in a row at home. Cleveland is an AL-best 21-11 at Progressive Field.

"That pitch was a big mistake and he hit it out," said Mujica, a former Indians' pitcher. "I left it over the plate. It was a little crazy, but we had to keep it going however we could."

Cabrera slid into home plate after his fifth homer and was doused with water by his teammates, who were relieved to end a game that finished at 2:02 a.m.

The start of the game, originally set for 7:05 p.m., was delayed by rain until 9:33 p.m., canceling a scheduled ceremonial first pitch by Manziel, the Browns' popular rookie quarterback.

CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Blue Jays designated hitter Adam Lind connects for a two-run double in the sixth inning of Wednesday's 8-2 win over the Tigers in Detroit.

"Regardless of the time, anytime you go 12 innings, losses sting a little bit," Red Sox manager John Farrell said. "We were doing everything we could to extend the ballgame. Guys came out of the bullpen and did a good job. Cabrera just got hold of a breaking ball and put an end to this one."

Carlos Carrasco (1-3), the Indians' seventh pitcher, worked two innings for the victory.

The surging Indians have trimmed seven games off first-place Detroit's lead in the AL Central in 17 days. Cleveland is within 3½ games and back to .500 for the first time since April 24.

David Ortiz homered for the Red Sox, who came in riding a seven-game winning streak.

The Indians scored three runs in the sixth on an RBI single by Jason Kipnis and another clutch hit by David Murphy, who is batting .383 (18 of 47) with 31 RBIs with runners in scoring position.

Blue Jays 8, Tigers 2: Adam Lind doubled twice to drive in three runs and Melky Cabrera added a homer and three hits, lifting visiting Toronto over Detroit. The AL East-leading Blue Jays added three runs in the eighth and two in the ninth in winning for the 18th time in 22 games.

Athletics 7, Yankees 4: Yoenis Cespedes homered twice, Josh Donaldson hit a tiebreaking shot in the seventh inning and visiting Oakland overcame a four-run deficit to beat skidding New York for its fifth straight victory.

Orioles 6, Rangers 5: Nick Markakis hit a home run and a go-ahead single, and Chris Davis homered for visiting Baltimore against his former team just as Nelson Cruz did a day earlier in the victory over Texas.

Angels 4, Astros 0: Garrett Richards stuck out nine to match his career best over eight excellent innings and Los Angeles snapped a season-worst four-game skid to beat host Houston.

BELMONT STAKES/STANLEY CUP FINALS

GARRY JONES/AP

California Chrome, with exercise rider Willie Delgado up, gallops in the rain at Belmont Park race track Thursday in Elmont, N.Y. California Chrome was installed as a 3-5 favorite to win the race.

Down to the last leg

10 rivals between California Chrome, Triple Crown

BY MIKE FARRELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Trainer Billy Gowan let out a whoop when Ride on Curlin landed a midpack post for the $1.5 million Belmont Stakes.

You look for any possible edge when facing California Chrome, the 3-5 favorite to become horse racing's 12th Triple Crown champion, and first in 36 years.

The Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner will face 10 rivals on Saturday, not a good omen in the quest for racing's ultimate prize. This would be the largest Belmont field ever beaten by a Triple Crown winner. The 11 previous Triple Crown champions never faced more than seven rivals in the 1½-mile Belmont, the longest of the three races in the series.

Since Affirmed became the last Triple Crown winner in 1978, three Belmont fields with the same history on the line also drew 11 horses in 1981, 1988 and 2002.

None of that bothers Art Sherman, California Chrome's trainer.

"They better worry about me," he said.

Ride on Curlin is one of the handful of challengers with a realistic chance of pulling an upset. Gowan's colt is the 12-1 fourth choice from post No. 5.

Post positions are not a huge factor in the Belmont. In a race this long over a track with sweeping turns, jockeys have plenty of time to strategically position their horses.

California Chrome will break from the No. 2 post under Victor Espinoza. Eleven Belmont winners have come out of that spot in the starting gate, the last being Tabasco Cat in 1994.

Medal Count, 30-1, wound up on the rail. He ran eighth in the Kentucky Derby and skipped the Preakness.

Tonalist, 8-1, got post No. 11 as the third choice in his Triple Crown debut.

Wicked Strong was a distant second choice at 6-1 on the morning line and drew post No. 9. The colt is based at Belmont, and has one win in two previous races at the sprawling track.

Todd Pletcher recently became racing's leading money-winning trainer and owns two Belmont wins: Rags to Riches and Palace Malice last year.

Pletcher sends out Commissioner, 20-1 after finishing second in the Peter Pan, and 30-1 shot Matterhorn, fourth in that same race.

Matuszak was second in the Federico Tesio at Pimlico on April 19, making him the most well-rested colt in the race. The 30-1 shot is trained and ridden by Hall of Famers Bill Mott and Mike Smith, respectively.

Ride On Curlin and General a Rod are the only other horses besides California Chrome that will run in all three legs of the Triple Crown. General a Rod, 20-1, was 11th at Churchill Downs and fourth at Pimlico.

Commanding Curve, the Derby runner-up, is 15-1 in his first start since then while Samraat, the lone New York bred in the field, is 20-1.

Belmont post positions

	Jockey	Trainer	Odds
1 Medal Count	R. Albarado	D. Romans	20-1
2 California Chrome	V. Espinoza	A. Sherman	3-5
3 Matterhorn	J. Bravo	T. Pletcher	30-1
4 Commanding Curve	S. Bridgmohan	D. Stewart	15-1
5 Ride on Curlin	J. Velazquez	B. Gowan	12-1
6 Matuszak	M. Smith	B. Mott	30-1
7 Samraat	J. Ortiz	R. Violette	20-1
8 Commissioner	J. Castellano	T. Pletcher	20-1
9 Wicked Strong	R. Maragh	J. Jerkens	6-1
10 General a Rod	R. Napravnik	M. Maker	20-1
11 Tonalist	J. Rosario	C. Clement	8-1

SOURCE: Belmont Park MCT

Game 1: Kings take control in third period

FROM BACK PAGE

the Stanley Cup finals might resemble if New York can't respond.

The Kings crushed the Rangers into the boards, dominated the puck and controlled the third period, outshooting New York 20-3. The domination abated slightly in overtime, but Los Angeles pounced when the puck bounced over Girardi's stick and forced his panicked pass right to Mike Richards, who fed Williams for his eighth goal of the postseason on a high shot to Henrik Lundqvist's stick side.

"The puck is going to me, I'm trying to make a play up the middle, and it bounced on me," Girardi said. "I kind of got down to one knee, and I'm just thinking about getting it to the wall. But the guy was there and made a smart play. You can't give Justin Williams a shot like that. He's pretty clutch in the playoffs."

Lundqvist made 40 saves and nearly stole an early win for the Rangers. Benoit Pouliot scored on a breakaway and Carl Hagelin got a short-handed goal in the first period, but New York spent much of the final two periods on its heels.

"Not quite sure what happened there in the third," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. "Not sure if it was them being that good, or us stopping moving the puck and skating and going north-south. They definitely took it to us in the third, and they were able to get a bounce on the winning goal and put it in the back of the net."

The tension-filled opener was a fitting start to the finals for two teams that traversed perilous paths to the first New York-L.A. championship playoff meeting since the Yankees-Dodgers World Series in 1981.

Pouliot scored the first goal of the series on a breakaway, stealing the puck from Doughty and skating past a stumbling Jake Muzzin. The Rangers' small contingent of fans roared again 2:42 later when Hagelin's breakaway shot was kicked in by Slava Voynov, who hadn't been able to keep up with Hagelin out of the New York zone.

Los Angeles answered late in the period when Jeff Carter passed from behind the net to Clifford, who banged in a sharp-angled shot for his first playoff goal since April 23, 2011. The grinding forward had played 37 straight postseason games without a goal.

Doughty tied it for the Kings with a beautiful move, toe-dragging around Derek Dorsett and firing a wrist shot past Lundqvist for his fourth goal in six games.

NHL scoreboard

Stanley Cup finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
Los Angeles 1, N.Y. Rangers 0
Wednesday: Los Angeles 3, NY Rangers 2, OT
Saturday: at Los Angeles
Monday: at NY Rangers
Wednesday, June 11: at NY Rangers
x-Friday, June 13: at Los Angeles
x-Monday, June 16: at NY Rangers
x-Wednesday, June 18: at Los Angeles

Wednesday
Kings 3, Rangers 2 (OT)

N.Y. Rangers	2	0	0	0—2
Los Angeles	1	1	0	1—3

First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Pouliot 4, 13:21. 2, N.Y. Rangers, Hagelin 7 (Boyle, McDonagh), 15:03 (sh). 3, Los Angeles, Clifford 1 (Carter), 17:33.
Second Period—4, Los Angeles, Doughty 5 (Williams, Clifford), 6:36.
Overtime—5, Los Angeles, Williams 8 (M.Richards), 4:36.
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 13-9-3-2—27. Los Angeles 14-7-20-2—43.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3; Los Angeles 0 of 4.
Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 12-8-0 (43 shots-40 saves). Los Angeles, Quick 13-9-0 (27-25).
A—18,399 (18,118). **T**—2:51.

JAE C. HONG/AP

Los Angeles left wing Dwight King goes over New York Rangers defenseman Raphael Diaz during the second period of Game 1 of the NHL Stanley Cup finals Wednesday in Los Angeles.

FRENCH OPEN/SPORTS BRIEFS

Michel Euler/AP

Russia's Maria Sharapova shouts as she wins the second set against Canada's Eugenie Bouchard during their semifinal French Open match Thursday in Paris. Sharpova won the match 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Sharapova, Halep in final

By Chris Lehourites
The Associated Press

PARIS — For the third straight year, Maria Sharapova will play in the French Open final.

The seventh-seeded Russian again lost the first set Thursday, but again managed to turn things around, beating Eugenie Bouchard of Canada 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Sharapova will face fourth-seeded Simona Halep of Romania in Saturday's championship match. Halep reached her first Grand Slam final by defeating 28th-seeded Andrea Petkovic of Germany 6-2, 7-6 (4).

Sharapova won eight of the last 10 games against Bouchard, and has won 19 straight three-set matches on clay — the last three at Roland Garros after losing the first set.

"I would love to win those matches in two sets, but I always feel like I put in the work to be ready to play whatever it takes," Sharapova said. "If it takes three hours to win the match in three sets, I will be ready for that."

Sharapova completed a career Grand Slam by winning the French Open in 2012, but lost to Serena Williams in last year's final.

Bouchard, a 20-year-old Canadian seeded 18th, was playing at Roland Garros for only the second time. Last year, she lost to Sharapova in the second round.

Sharapova struggled a bit with her serve, double-faulting nine times and getting broken four times. But she made up for her shaky serving with solid groundstrokes, either going for winners or waiting out errors from Bouchard.

"I don't feel that I played my best tennis, but to be in the semifinals of a Grand Slam and winning a match where I felt my opponent played extremely well, exceptional tennis, and I didn't feel that I was playing my best, I fought, I scrambled, and I found a way to win," Sharapova said.

In the second semifinal, Halep played aggressive in the first set. She finished the set with 12 winners and seven unforced errors, while Petkovic had only three winners and 14 unforced errors.

The second set was much closer as Petkovic played with more consistency, but the 22-year-old Romanian was able to close it out in the tiebreaker with a forehand winner.

Both Halep and Petkovic were playing in a major semifinal for the first time. Bouchard, however, also reached this stage at the Australian Open in January.

"It's always disappointing to be a little bit off," Bouchard said. "I felt like I was trying to do what I wanted to do, which was be aggressive, go for my shots. But often I constructed the point well and then didn't finish it as well as I could."

Scoreboard

Thursday

At Stade Roland Garros
Paris
Purse: $34.12 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Women
Semifinals

Simona Halep (4), Romania, def. Andrea Petkovic (28), Germany, 6-2, 7-6 (4).

Maria Sharapova (7), Russia, def. Eugenie Bouchard (18), Canada, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Doubles
Men
Semifinals

Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez (12), Spain, def. Marin Draganja, Croatia, and Florin Mergea, Romania, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

Julien Benneteau and Edouard Roger-Vasselin (11), France, def. Andrey Golubev, Kazakhstan, and Samuel Groth, Australia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Mixed
Championship

Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Germany, and Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, def. Julia Goerges, Germany, and Nenad Zimonjic (8), Serbia, 4-6, 6-2, 10-7.

Briefly

T-wolves president Saunders returning as coach

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves' best days came with Flip Saunders on the sideline.

Now that the organization is shrouded in uncertainty surrounding the long-term future of star forward Kevin Love, Saunders is returning to the bench to try revive a franchise that hasn't made the playoffs in 10 years.

With the team's coaching search complicated by Love's status, the Timberwolves decided the best course of action was to have Saunders, who was hired last season as president of basketball operations, step in for a second stint as coach until the situation stabilized, two people with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Thursday. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not officially announced the move. A news conference was scheduled for Friday.

Saunders previously coached the Timberwolves from 1995-2005. He won 411 games in 10½ seasons in Minnesota and guided the Wolves to the only eight playoff appearances in franchise history, including the Western Conference finals in 2004. He has a career record of 638-526 in 16 seasons as an NBA head coach, a career that also includes stops in Detroit and Washington.

Saunders is joining a short list in the NBA of coaches that also have final-say executive authority, one that includes newly hired Stan Van Gundy in Detroit, Doc Rivers with the Los Angeles Clippers and, to a certain extent, Gregg Popovich in San Antonio. Saunders will continue to work closely with GM Milt Newton in the front office while handling coaching duties.

MLB fixture Zimmer dies

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Don Zimmer, a popular fixture in professional baseball for 66 years as a manager, player, coach and executive, died Wednesday. He was 83.

Zimmer had been in a rehabilitation center in Florida since having seven hours of heart surgery in mid-April.

After starting as a minor league infielder in 1949, Zimmer went on to have one of the longest-lasting careers in baseball history.

Zimmer played alongside Jackie Robinson on the only Brooklyn Dodgers team to win the World Series, played for the original New York Mets, nearly managed the Boston Red Sox to a championship in the 1970s and was Joe Torre's right-hand man with the New York Yankees' most recent dynasty.

Along the way, Zimmer played for Hall of Fame manager Casey Stengel and coached Derek Jeter .

Kaepernick gets $126M deal

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Colin Kaepernick insists he just happened to pull on a pair of socks with dollar bill prints all over them Wednesday morning — before he learned he had struck a new fortune with the San Francisco 49ers.

One of the NFL's most dynamic young playcallers, Kaepernick received a $126 million, six-year contract extension Wednesday that keeps him with the organization through the 2020 season. The deal includes $61 million in guaranteed money, a person with knowledge of the contract said, speaking on condition of anonymity because terms weren't disclosed.

Bills DE admits to role in race

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Bills defensive end Jerry Hughes confirmed he was driving the second car in an alleged race on city streets that led to teammate Marcell Dareus crashing his 2012 Jaguar into a tree last week.

"I was there. I was involved in it," said Hughes following practice Wednesday.

Hughes said Hamburg Town police have contacted him regarding his role in the accident, which occurred near Ralph Wilson Stadium and about 3 hours after the team ended a minicamp practice on Friday. He added no other Bills were involved.

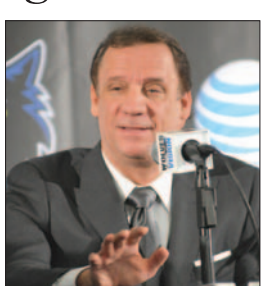
His comments come a day after police announced Dareus had been arrested and charged with reckless endangerment and ticketed for several traffic violations, including drag racing.

After receiving a complaint of two cars racing at high speeds just before the start of rush-hour, police arrived to discover Dareus' Jaguar badly damaged after crashing into a tree near a busy intersection. Dareus was arrested and then released and is scheduled to appear in court June 17.

The accident occurred about a month after Dareus was arrested in his native Alabama and charged with possession of synthetic marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Haas gets Presidents Cup nod

RIDGEDALE, Mo. — The PGA Tour selected Jay Haas to be the U.S. captain for the 2015 Presidents Cup matches in South Korea in what amounts to a role reversal.



Richard Sennott, The Star Tribune/AP

Flip Saunders, who was hired last season as president of basketball operations for the Timberwolves, will also take over coaching the team.

After three years as an assistant captain to Fred Couples — all three U.S. victories — Haas will in charge and Couples will be his assistant.

Nick Price was selected to return as captain for an International team that has one only once since this event began 20 years ago.

The Presidents Cup will be Oct. 8-11, 2015, at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea, the first time it has been held in Asia. The only continent where it has not been played (among those with players eligible for the International team) is in South America.

SPORTS

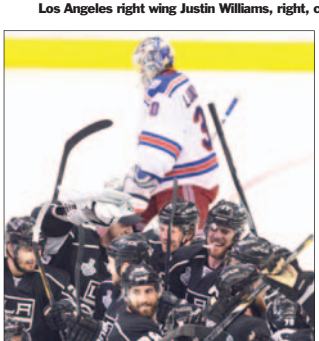
Final leg of Triple Crown
California Chrome to face 10 rivals in Belmont | **Page 30**

STANLEY CUP FINALS

Comeback Kings

JAE C. HONG/AP

Los Angeles right wing Justin Williams, right, celebrates his game-winning goal in front of New York Rangers left wing Benoit Pouliot on Wednesday in Los Angeles.



WALLY SKALIJ, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Los Angeles players celebrate winning Game 1 of the Stanley Cup finals as New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, top, skates off the ice.

LA rallies to win Game 1 in OT

BY GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Justin Williams usually saves his greatest postseason heroics for seventh games, not openers.

And for all of his series-saving feats over the years, the two-time NHL champion had never scored an overtime playoff goal.

When Williams got the puck on his stick with an uncontested chance to stake the Los Angeles Kings to an early lead in the Stanley Cup finals, Mr. Game 7 buried the shot and the New York Rangers.

Williams scored 4:36 into overtime after a turnover by Dan Girardi, and Los Angeles beat New York 3-2 Wednesday night in a thrilling series opener.

Kyle Clifford had a goal and an assist, and Drew Doughty made up for an early mistake by scoring the tying goal in the second period. Jonathan Quick made 25 saves as the Kings moved one victory closer to their second Stanley Cup title in three years — but only after another rally in a postseason full of comebacks.

"We certainly don't want to make a habit out of this," Williams said. "That is a world-class team up there with world-class offense. There could have been a lot of storylines tonight. They had a breakaway in the end of the third period that (Jonathan) Quick made a great save on. We wouldn't be sitting here right now. A lot of things [went] awry during the game."

Game 2 is Saturday in Los Angeles.

For the fourth time in their 13 victories during this postseason, the Kings rallied from a multigoal deficit to win. After the Rangers took an early two-goal lead and the Kings erased it, Los Angeles demonstrated what the rest of

SEE GAME 1 ON PAGE 30

Living on the edge

The Los Angeles Kings have been in overtime games in each round of the playoffs. Here's how they've fared:

First round

April 22 — San Jose 4, Los Angeles 3, OT, Patrick Marleau, 6:20.

Second round

May 3 — Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 2, OT, Marian Gaborik, 12:07.

Conference finals

June 1 — Los Angeles 5, Chicago 4, OT, Justin Williams, 5:47.

Stanley Cup finals

June 4 — Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT, Justin Williams, 4:36.

— The Associated Press

Cabrera extends Indians' winning streak to six
MLB, Page 29

Pressure on Altidore to break scoring drought
Soccer, Page 25