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MIDEAST EDITION

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Free to Deployed Areas

AFGHANISTAN



400 fuel trucks torched

Attack outside Kabul triggers protest from drivers over slow response

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Flames rise from fuel tankers after an attack on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Saturday. An Afghan security official said about 400 trucks were set on fire late Friday.

RAHMAT GUL/AP

Fragmented future for Afghanistan?

As US pulls back, regional powers will have plenty of say in country's course

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

As the NATO coalition packs up in Afghanistan, regional powers have stepped up efforts to protect their interests there. Though they all have a stake in a truly stable Afghanistan, it's an open question whether they will be able to put aside their rivalries and work toward achieving that goal.

Clues can be found in their efforts so far. Analysts say that on both security and economic issues, Afghanistan's neighbors will likely pursue strategies of engagement and investment that avoid picking sides or tying agendas to any one faction in the country's complicated internal politics.

Until now, the large presence of the United States and its allies, which have invested heavily in fighting the insurgency and Islamic terrorist networks, allowed regional powers to pursue their initiatives at relatively low cost and effort. Countries such as India and Iran — and even major powers like Russia and China — have kept a low profile.

As U.S. troops are set to withdraw no later than the end of 2016, however, it may be time for those countries to step up to the plate.

Afghanistan's post-NATO prospects have been clouded most recently by the controversy over the vote for a new president to replace Hamid Karzai, who has headed the country since 2004. It will be up to the new leader to sign a security agreement that would allow a contingent of U.S. forces to remain after combat troops leave.

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ONLINE 
An interactive guide to countries with interests in Afghanistan
stripes.com/go/agendas

US weighs what information advisers can give Iraq

By NANCY A. YOUSSEF
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The United States finds itself confronting a delicate issue as it opens two joint operations centers in Iraq to help that nation's forces battle Sunni Muslim extremists who have seized much of the countryside:

How much information can U.S.

military advisers give their Iraqi counterparts without having sensitive data end up in the hands of two countries with whom the United States often is at odds, Iran and Russia?

Like the United States, which has authorized at least 300 troops to advise Iraqi government forces, Iran and — to a lesser extent — Russia have “boots on the ground” to help the government of Prime Minister

Nouri al-Maliki counter the advance by the extremist group Islamic State. Russia provided a dozen jet fighters and what it calls “technical advisers” on the planes to Iraq, while Iran has provided equipment and perhaps 100 military advisers who are thought to be deployed with the Shiite Muslim militias who have been called on to supplement the besieged Iraqi troops.

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Fearing Russia, NATO says it won't welcome new membership

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QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“The United States really has to be realistic. This thing about ‘sovereignty,’ this thing about the borders of Iraq, Iraq ‘unity’ — I mean, this is just an old story.”

— Najmaddin Karim, Kurdish governor of Iraq’s oil-rich region of Kirkuk, on the potential fracturing of the country

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MILITARY

Fuel trucks burn near Afghan capital

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Attackers set fire to hundreds of fuel tanker trucks in a parking lot on the outskirts of the Afghan capital, witnesses said Saturday, prompting angry drivers to block a major highway to demand reimbursement for their losses.

Hundreds of other drivers stood by helplessly on Saturday morning, unable to salvage any property as flames and smoke rose from the area and several fire engines rushed to the site.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the militants were targeting fuel tankers belonging to NATO forces.

“We couldn’t tell if the attackers were Taliban or other people,” one of the drivers, said Juma Gul, 35. “They were dressed in uniforms; we couldn’t understand what was happening. They were shooting toward the drivers and they were setting the tankers on fire. The gunmen were targeting any of the drivers who wanted to return to their trucks.”

Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said about 400 trucks caught fire late Friday and continued to burn through Saturday morning, but he did not confirm the cause nor provide other details. The Interior Ministry



RAHMAT GUL/AP

An Afghan soldier stands guard Saturday at the site of burning oil tankers after an attack claimed by Taliban militants on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan.

said it has set up a team to investigate the incident.

Truck drivers later blocked the

main highway between Kabul and the southern city of Kandahar to protest what they said was a slow

response by the government and to demand reimbursement for their losses.

Alaska military sites vulnerable to climate change

By CASEY GROVE
Fairbanks (Alaska)
Daily News-Miner

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A yearlong study on the effects of climate change on U.S. military installations included four Alaska military sites or complexes studied for vulnerabilities, according to a report out last week from the Government Accountability Office.

The Alaska locations are among the most at risk, according to the GAO report released Monday. Those locations have seen problems associated with climate change that include increased wildfires preventing training, coastal erosion threatening equipment and melting

permafrost making road travel in some areas difficult, the GAO report says. The locations in the assessment included Fort Wainwright, the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex, the Yukon Training Area, and the 611th Civil Engineer Squadron remote radar sites.

The Department of Defense had found that climate change could affect military readiness and could result in heavy spending at any of its more than 550,000 facilities around the world, covering a footprint of roughly 28 million acres and worth about \$850 billion, the report says. The GAO staff were asked to assess the 15 sample sites and actions they had taken to mitigate the risks.

Officials at nine of the 15 sites

noted changes in precipitation patterns, which resulted in weeks of rain at one location that experienced flooding and mudslides and, at an unspecified Alaska location, drought conditions that led to wildfires that prevented training with certain types of weapons, the report says.

“For example, there was no live-fire training allowed in one training area for two months,” the report says.

At another Alaska training zone, melting permafrost under two gravel roads and a drop zone forced more than \$500,000 in repairs, according to the GAO report. And the combination of permafrost and sea ice melting, along with rising sea levels, was causing erosion at radar and

communication sites on Alaska’s coast, including one that needed seawall and runway improvements expected to cost \$25 million, the report says.

The report notes that the Department of Defense has taken steps to protect its facilities from climate change-related issues, but says officials at individual installations do not often propose such projects, because “climate change adaptation” is not included as a criteria in the funding process. “As a result, installation planners may believe that climate change adaptation projects are unlikely to successfully compete with other military construction projects for funding,” the report says.

DODDS SPORTS

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MILITARY

NATO signals no new members for now

By JOHN THOR DAHLBURG
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Faced with a newly aggressive Russia, NATO has been mulling how to react, but it is ruling out one option: rapid expansion.

Four would-be members, including the former Soviet republic of Georgia, have been informed that admission to NATO isn't in the cards anytime soon. For some, that means dashed hopes. Macedonia's foreign minister told The Associated Press in a statement it was a "step backward."

The bottom line: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, celebrating important anniversaries this year of a dozen nations joining its ranks, will welcome no new members when President Barack Obama and other leaders convene for a summit in Wales in early September.

Analysts say that NATO members are worried about granting, or being perceived as granting, security guarantees that could quickly be tested by Russia. That's particularly true of Georgia, which has been waiting since 2008 for the U.S.-led military alliance to make good on its promise of admission.

Before taking over Crimea from Ukraine, Russia invaded and occupied two regions of Georgia nearly a year ago — and NATO is reluctant to take any action that might provoke a riposte from Moscow.

"The conflict over Ukraine has made it clear to them at NATO they have to be careful, both about security commitments and credibility," said Liana Fix, an associate fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations. "If you give Georgia their membership ac-



VIRGINIA MAYO/AP

Flags blow in the wind in front of NATO headquarters in Brussels.

tion plan but don't defend them if something happens, what does it say about your credibility?"

NATO won't publicly hang up the "No Vacancy" sign.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the alliance's secretary general, proclaimed recently that "NATO's door remains open. And no third country has a veto over NATO enlargement."

But even before Crimea's annexation, some NATO countries were experiencing "enlargement exhaustion" and had become reluctant to increase the alliance's membership rolls, said Jorge Benitez, senior fellow for trans-Atlantic security at the Atlantic

Council, a Washington-based think tank.

Post-Crimea, "the issues are much bigger," Benitez said. "The question is, how much insecurity would you add to the alliance versus how much security would you bring to the alliance?"

To try to tilt the balance in its favor, Georgia has been an enthusiastic NATO partner, and until recently had been fielding the largest non-NATO contingent of soldiers in alliance-led operations in Afghanistan.

In Wales, Georgia had been hoping to receive a formal action plan for membership, but instead will be given a "substantive

package" to help move it closer to NATO, Rasmussen said. He declined to give details. But Fix said the package was likely to include stepped-up training programs, increased military cooperation and advice, and a detailed checklist of what NATO wants Georgia to do to qualify for membership.

The small Balkan nation of Macedonia also was assured of a membership invitation by NATO leaders six years ago, but will have to wait for the foreseeable future. The deal-breaker is an unresolved conflict over the country's name, which duplicates that of a Greek region. Because Greece is a NATO member and

all 28 members must give their assent to admit a new nation, Athens has effective right of veto.

"Greece is acting from a position of power because it is a full member state," Macedonian Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki said in the written statement. Lamenting the "step backward," he said Macedonia will keep trying "to introduce sense into the Greek-Macedonian dialogue."

Another former Yugoslav republic, Montenegro, is widely considered the candidate closest to achieving membership. Rasmussen said that by the end of 2015, NATO foreign ministers will assess whether "the time is ripe" to invite Montenegro to join. That deadline was the only one to come out of the July 24-25 Brussels meeting of foreign ministers that reviewed NATO's "open door" policy.

What was not spoken about publicly was the reason for NATO's delay: the reported penetration of Montenegro's intelligence service by the Russians.

"That was the sticking point," a NATO official told AP. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record. He estimated the number of Montenegrin intelligence agents with links to Russia at between 25 and 50. Steps are already under way to neutralize their activities, he added, but that "it will take some time to manage."

The fourth country classified as a NATO aspirant, Bosnia-Herzegovina, has been unable to pass a key condition set by the alliance: transfer of 63 defense facilities from local authorities to the central government, NATO officials said.

Army to buy training helos without competitive bidding

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — One is perhaps the best-known helicopter in the world, the Marine One, and uses the south lawn of the White House as its landing pad. The other, the combat rescue helicopter, performs the "sacred mission" of saving downed troops.

Winning the contract for either program would be a major coup for any defense contractor, worth hundreds of millions of dollars. But when the bidding opened for both contracts, only one company came forward.

The Army is looking to replace its training helicopters. But the program isn't being put out to the market for competition. Rather, the Army intends to purchase an additional 100 Lakota UH-72 helicopters from Airbus. No chance for other companies to bid.

With defense budgets tightening, Pentagon acquisitions officials say that fostering com-

petition is one of the best ways to drive prices down and to ensure efficiency. And defense officials have made competition top priority, saying in a recent report that it "is the single best way to motivate contractors to provide the best value."

Despite those efforts, the percentage of defense contract obligations that were competed dropped to 57 percent last year, the lowest in nearly a decade. And in the four years since the Pentagon started setting goals for competition, it has never met them.

The Government Accountability Office said in a recent report that the Pentagon "continues to obligate significant amounts on one-off awards" — contracts that receive only one bid. In 2013, \$2.6 billion was awarded in contracts that only had single bidders, the GAO found.

In urging the Pentagon to do more to safeguard against waste, the GAO said that "competitive contracts can help save money,

improve contractor performance, curb fraud and promote accountability for results."

Given the talk about increasing competition, some in the defense industry were surprised that the Army decided not to put its new training helicopter out to bid. Officials at Bell Helicopter, which currently supplies the Army with most of its training helicopters, said they received no warning that the Army was replacing the fleet.

"The aircraft was meeting its mission," said Mike Miller, Bell's director of military business development. "We thought things were going along well."

The average age of its helicopters, the TH-67, is 16 years old, he said. That's still relatively young, he said, and there was no pressing need to replace them. The TH-67 also is a single-engine helicopter, which means it is easier for novices to learn on and far less expensive to operate than Airbus's Lakotas, which have two engines.

"We believe this should have

been competed," he said. "We think the Army could have gotten a better deal if they did compete it. . . . You don't want to overpay for that capability."

The Army said that the decision to use the Lakotas as training helicopters is part of a larger restructuring program that ultimately will save more in the long run, Army officials said.

The Army is reassigning 100 Lakotas it already owns — and were purchased through a competition — and using them for training. Then it plans to purchase 100 more. Upgrading the existing helicopters and buying the new ones will cost about \$800 million, officials said.

As part of the restructuring, the Army is getting rid of three lines of helicopters entirely, meaning it will soon operate just four different kinds. That will ultimately save millions of dollars, officials said, and allow a more modern approach to training.

Since all of the helicopters left in the Army fleet will be twin

engines, it only makes sense that upcoming pilots learn on a more modern aircraft, said Col. Frank Tate, chief of the Army's aviation force development.

"It did not make sense to continue forward with the training paradigm that we have been following since the Vietnam war," he said. "By only having four types [of helicopters] you save hundreds of millions of dollars down the road."

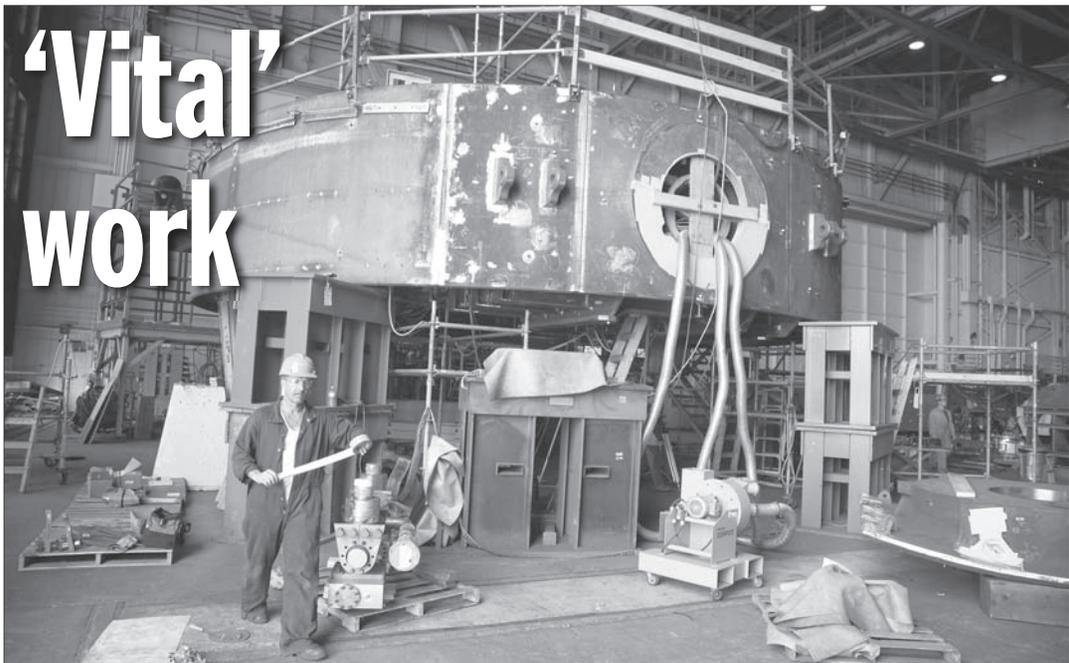
James Darcy, a spokesman for Airbus, the Lakota manufacturer, said the helicopters have been used in training before and that there is a great efficiency in using something that is "already in the Army inventory." "We don't imagine that anyone is more qualified than the Army to know what the Army aviation community needs," he said.

But industry officials said it would be worth at least looking at other options.

"Competition would have driven to a more cost-effective solution," said Miller from Bell.

MILITARY

'Vital' work



PHOTOS BY STEPHAN SAVOIA/AP

A hull section of the Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarine USS Colorado is under construction July 1 at the Electric Boat company's Quonset Point facility in North Kingstown, R.I.

Submarine maker plans expansion in unemployment-ravaged Rhode Island

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT
The Associated Press

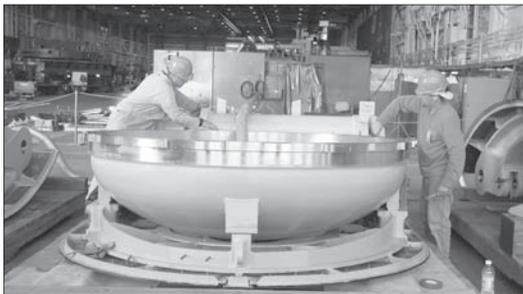
NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. — Submarine maker Electric Boat plans to double its workforce in Rhode Island to build a new class of submarines under a \$95 billion Navy program, welcome news in the state with the nation's highest unemployment rate.

The workforce at the North Kingstown manufacturing plant could double by 2028 to about 6,000 people, said Sean Davies, the site's general manager. That is roughly the same number of employees who built submarines there at the peak of the Cold War.

Rhode Island's economy has struggled to rebound since the Great Recession. The state's unemployment rate is 8.2 percent, considerably above the national average of 6.3 percent.

The construction contract has not yet been awarded, but Electric Boat anticipates receiving it. The Groton, Conn.-based manufacturer recently leased an additional 42 acres in the Quonset Business Park to expand. Davies said he is focused on ensuring the company's training programs can handle the influx of new hires because few job applicants have experience in the manufacturing trades. Electric Boat, a subsidiary of General Dynamics Corp. of Falls Church, Va., employs more than 12,000 people, mainly in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Construction is expected to begin in 2021 on a class of 12 ballistic-missile submarines to replace the current Ohio-



Electric Boat employees work on a missile hatch for a Virginia-class submarine July 1. Electric Boat plans to double its workforce in Rhode Island, welcome news in the state with the nation's highest unemployment rate.

class boats. Electric Boat could hire more than 1,000 people in a single year at its manufacturing plant after construction is underway.

"We can't literally put all of our eggs in one basket, but without submarine construction here, we would be in a much worse economic situation, and we would have a much less hopeful outlook," said U.S. Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I.

"That work is very, very significant," said Molly Donohue Magee, executive director of the Southeastern New England

Defense Industry Alliance. "And it's not just for one year."

In the past four years, 2,000 people were hired by Electric Boat in Rhode Island largely because Congress approved building two attack submarines per year instead of one.

Davies said he wants to support the community by hiring Rhode Island residents to work on the new submarine, but it is has been challenging to find enough people with the necessary skills.

Leonard Lardaro, an economics pro-

fessor at the University of Rhode Island, said the state's unemployment rate has remained high and persistent because of its inadequately skilled workforce.

The New England Institute of Technology worked with Electric Boat to develop a curriculum for welders, and most of the graduates in the first class were hired at the shipyard, Davies said. The Community College of Rhode Island may start a similar program.

The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training is helping match the state's residents with open positions at Electric Boat. The monthly sessions, which began in April, are booked through November. Charles J. Fogarty, the department's director, said the program has helped start Rhode Island workers onto higher-paying and more meaningful careers.

"Electric Boat is one of Rhode Island's bellwether companies in one of our economy's most important sectors, and so our public-private partnership with EB is a vital one," he said.

A high school graduate with no experience can earn between \$35,000 and \$40,000 per year as a welder at Electric Boat, according to the company. An experienced welder can make more than \$60,000 per year with overtime. The workforce is not unionized at the Rhode Island site.

Robert Fenley, 35, of West Warwick, said he worked two jobs to support his wife and two children before he was hired as a pipefitter in June.

"It's more stable and it will be better for my family," he said. "There is not that much work in Rhode Island."

MIDEAST

Fragmented: Regional powers share goal of a stable Afghanistan

FROM FRONT PAGE

One of the two candidates is now alleging massive fraud, calling into question the election's legitimacy. The insurgency, meanwhile, is far from defeated.

"None of the countries in the region want to see Afghanistan descend into chaos," said Michael Keating, a researcher with the U.K.-based Chatham House and a former United Nations official in Afghanistan. "All of them want a stable Afghanistan."

Security interests

While the NATO coalition waged a protracted war against Taliban insurgents and trained the Afghan security forces, much of the involvement by regional players was focused on economic aid and investment. That is changing as the security situation remains unresolved on the eve of NATO's withdrawal.

"If the Afghan political system sustains itself in the coming years and the country gradually moves toward stability by the time all foreign troops leave the country, regional powers will most likely play a stabilizing role by assisting the Afghan government," said Ahmad Majidiyar, an analyst for the American Enterprise Institute.

However, if the country lapses back into chaos and anarchy after the foreign troops withdraw, similar to the 1990s, regional countries may yet again turn the country into a proxy battlefield by supporting different factions for influence.

The historical rivalry between Pakistan and India is one of the major potential stumbling blocks. For decades Pakistan has been accused of interfering in Afghan politics, including tolerating or supporting the Afghan Taliban and terrorist groups as a way to protect itself and prevent Indian influence.

"The Pakistani Army, which is in charge of the country's policies in Afghanistan and India, sees domestic terrorist attacks as a manageable crisis rather than an existential threat," said Majidiyar. "The army's perceived key enemy remains India."

Afghan officials, including Karzai, have not been shy about linking terrorism in Afghanistan to Pakistan or complaining about ongoing border disputes that have sometimes turned deadly. For their part, Pakistani have long been wary of increased Indian influence in its western neighbor.

For years, Pakistan's big fear was that it might be surrounded someday by a hostile India to the east and a pro-India Afghanistan to the west.

While Indian government officials say the country has been repeatedly attacked by insurgents — there were two attacks on the Indian Embassy in Kabul in 2008 and 2009 that killed 75 people — New Delhi has fostered closer ties to the U.S.-backed government in Kabul. Interest in the security situation from falling under too much



An Afghan policeman stands guard near the scene of a Taliban attack on NATO fuel trucks in Torkham, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, on June 19.



NASA/Amnran/Stars and Stripes

Leaving Afghanistan

ratists were accused of killing more than 70 people in attacks in western China earlier this year. Chinese officials fear a security vacuum in neighboring Myanmar could allow the militants to step up their campaign.

In the West, Iran has no interest in seeing the Taliban return to power. But that hasn't stopped it from using the war there to irritate the United States.

"Tehran's measured assistance to some Taliban groups over the past decade has not been aimed at toppling the Kabul government or helping a Taliban comeback; it was primarily to cause a headache for the Americans and use this leverage against a potential American or Israeli military attack on its nuclear assets," Majidiyar said.

A combination of the withdrawal of U.S. troops, and a relative thaw in relations between Tehran and Washington will likely lead to less support for militant groups, he predicted. Still, along the Afghan border with Iran, there remains skepticism. The Wall Street Journal reported last month that Iran has been recruiting and paying Afghan refugees to fight for the government regime in Syria's civil war (a charge the Iranians deny), potentially placing Afghans once again at the center of what has often become a proxy war.

With its history of bloody involvement in Afghanistan, Russia isn't likely to make much of a military push in the coming years. But that doesn't mean they'll sit on the sidelines.

While Russian officials have an eye on terrorist threats, some old Stars and Stripes late last year that they still expect the U.S. to be involved in counterterrorism for years to come. The tidal wave of illegal drugs pouring out of Afghanistan and into countries such as Russia is a cause for deep con-

cern in Moscow. Afghanistan's production of drugs such as opium and hashish has continued to hit record levels during the NATO occupation. That has Russia, which is home to some 1.8 million injection drug users, worried that the problem will get only worse.

So far Russia and the U.S. have not been able to agree on broad drug-control programs, but there has been some cooperation. In any case, analysts warn that for Russia, like other countries, staying out of the complicated domestic politics in Afghanistan will likely be the best policy.

"It would be dangerous and pointless for Russia to get involved in Afghanistan's internal power struggle," researchers with the Carnegie Moscow Center wrote in a report released in May. "Moscow can work with any potential leaders in Kabul and maintain ties with any regional or ethnic groups as long as they do not engage in activities directed against the Russian Federation."

Economic interests

Rampant corruption, dangerous operating conditions and poor infrastructure are only a few of the issues that make Afghanistan less than ideal for major economic investment. And economic interests still tend to take a backseat to security fears.

The challenge of political corruption has been highlighted by the drawn-out presidential elec-

tion, which managed to go forward despite Taliban threats but has since become bogged down with complaints of widespread fraud.

Regional powers have not shied away completely from trying to provide aid as well as more opportunities for their own companies in Afghanistan. Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, there has been marked improvement in much of the economy, especially in larger cities. Whether that continues after the international coalition departs, remains to be seen.

In keeping with what it sees as a close relationship, India has invested more than \$2 billion in Afghan projects such as roads and power infrastructure. It is expected to continue to play a major economic role.

China is one country that has long focused mostly on economic issues in Afghanistan. It is stepping in to organize a "Heart of Asia" conference on Afghanistan in August, to which regional leaders are expected to be invited. China has spent about \$250 million in aid since 2001 and has multibillion-dollar deals for oil drilling and copper mining projects.

Russia has also made business deals, but on a smaller scale, selling helicopters to Afghanistan for use by its security forces. But Stepan Anikeev, the spokesman for the Russian Embassy in Kabul, said his country wants to "enlarge our role in the region."

To that end Russia is pouring millions of dollars into new economic investment, many that involve reviving projects from the Soviet era. The timing of some of the most significant investment efforts came right as the U.S. announced its withdrawal in 2012.

But uncertainty over the future of the security situation in Afghanistan has led to a slump in economic growth, according to the World Bank. It predicts that will last through this year as security concerns remain. "A smooth political and security transition would help restore confidence in the economy and enable a pickup in growth in 2015," the institution noted in a summary of its program in Afghanistan.

Still, analysts say that the strong incentives most countries have for a stable and relatively secure Afghanistan could provide powerful tools if Afghan officials take advantage of them.

"You can't change decades of mutual suspicion overnight and, you can't wave away the tension between India and Pakistan," Keating said. "But if the incoming president of Afghanistan plays his cards smartly he should be able to exploit the fact that all the neighbors want stability."

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CRISIS IN IRAQ

Iraq PM retires 2 senior officers

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister removed the chief of the army's ground forces and the head of the federal police from their posts Saturday as part of his promised shake-up in the security forces following their near collapse in the face of a militant blitz last month, an official said.

Military spokesman Lt. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi said Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki signed the papers to retire Lt. Gen. Ali Ghaidan, commander of the army's ground forces, and Lt. Gen.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has also vowed to bring the full weight of military law, including execution, on anyone who flees the battle.

Mohsen al-Kaabi, the chief of the federal police. Al-Moussawi said both men leave their jobs with their pensions.

No replacements have been named. Iraqi military forces in the city of Mosul and across much of the country's

north melted away in the face of the militant offensive spearheaded by the Islamic State extremist group. Shiite militiamen and volunteers have had to fill the void as the regular army struggles to regroup.

The Islamic extremists have destroyed at least 10 ancient shrines and Shiite mosques in territory they have seized in northern Iraq, according to residents' images posted online.

A series of 21 photographs posted on a website that frequently carries official statements from the Islamic State document the destruction in Mosul and the town of Tal Afar.

Also Saturday, video posted online purported to show the leader of the Islamic State delivering a sermon at a mosque in Iraq, in what would be a rare — if not the first — public appearance by the shadowy militant.

The video was released on at least two websites known to be used by the group, but it was not possible to independently verify whether the person shown was indeed the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.



AP photos

An elite unit of female Kurdish peshmerga fighters trains in Sulaimaniyah, 160 miles northeast of Baghdad, to help beat back the imminent threat of Islamic militants and to protect their land.

Kurds gain more control as Iraq fractures

By ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER
AND BEN VAN HEUVELN
The Washington Post

KIRKUK, Iraq — As this country veers further toward a break-up, one group is maneuvering the crisis with far more leverage than the others: Iraqi Kurds.

Here in the contested, oil-rich region of Kirkuk, Iraq's Kurdish minority has been steadily consolidating control for weeks. On the southern edge of the province, in an area once secured by central government forces, Kurdish soldiers are reinforcing a shaky border separating them from their new southern neighbors, the Sunni militants of the Islamic State.

Massoud Barzani, president of the largely autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government, has repeatedly suggested he will soon initiate a referendum on the region's independence, which would likely pass, local officials and analysts say.

The Kurds have already governed their territory, a land of wheat fields and rugged mountains that extends from Iraq's northern and western border with Turkey to the Iranian border in the east, for more than two decades.

They have overseen a construction boom, built an oil industry and maintained security even as fresh turmoil has wracked much of the rest of the country.

Yet for many Kurds, the Iraqi region of Kurdistan could never be complete without Kirkuk. Under Saddam Hussein's brutal Arabization campaigns, many Kurds were forced to leave. The ethnically mixed area has been the flashpoint of a bitter territorial dispute.

On Thursday, Barzani told a closed-door meeting of the Kurdish parliament that he would pursue independence only after formalizing Kurdish control of Kirkuk and other disputed areas, according to



two legislators who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of political sensitivities.

A move to annex Kirkuk could ignite fighting with Baghdad, which is intent on holding on to the territory — particularly Kirkuk's resources — and could alienate Western allies, who fear that Iraq's fracturing could further threaten regional security.

Washington has urged the country's factions to work together toward forging a new government that would see the country's Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki step aside.

"A united Iraq is a stronger Iraq," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters Wednesday.

But Iraq's parliament failed to reach an agreement last week on the government's top posts.

In a statement Friday, al-Maliki reminded Iraqis that his party holds the largest majority in parliament and that it would not accept "conditions" set by opposition members despite escalating pressure to step aside.

"I will never give up my candidacy for the post of prime minister," he said.

The country's top Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali Sistani, who has appeared to endorse al-Maliki's removal, issued a statement Friday calling the political deadlock "a regrettable failure."

Meanwhile, scattered fighting and airstrikes continued across the country as Iraq's Shiite-dominated armed forces, with the help of Shiite militias, struggled to recapture territory seized by the Islamic State.

On Friday, the army reclaimed control of Hussein's birthplace, Awja, a Sunni Arab stronghold north of Baghdad, the Iraqi armed forces and residents told Reuters. But several days of attacks have so far failed to dislodge the militants from the larger city of Tikrit, just north of Awja, and other areas they control.

In the Kurdish regions in particular, Iraqis of all ethnicities and religions talk increasingly of the emergence of three states.

"The United States really has to be realistic," said Najmiddin Karim, the Kurdish governor of Kirkuk. "This thing about 'sovereignty,' this thing about the borders of Iraq, Iraq 'unity.' — I mean, this is just an old story."

Info: Source of shared intel likely to be concealed

FROM FRONT PAGE

Like the United States, which is flying as many as three dozen reconnaissance flights over Iraq daily to gather information, Iran also is flying surveillance drones over the country.

But the United States, Russia and Iran have long been rivals in a wide range of conflicts, not the least of which is Syria next door, where the U.S. is supporting rebels who were once allied with the Islamic State in their efforts to topple the government of President Bashar Assad, who Iran and Russia support.

Because of the odd alliance unfolding in Iraq, every piece of intelligence the United States obtains about the military situation will be assessed to determine how much can be shared with the Iraqis, three U.S. defense officials told McClatchy.

The officials, none of whom was willing to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue, said they anticipated that the Iraqis would get only limited information, and the source of the information often would be concealed. In some instances, it's likely that the U.S. will provide only a summary or analysis of what it knows.

But it remains possible that the United States might end up sharing intelligence information with Iran, a country that it hasn't had diplomatic relations with, much less a working military relationship, since the 1970s.

In a question-and-answer session with reporters Thursday, however, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it was "not impossible in the future" that the United States would be communicating with Iran about the situation in Iraq.

"We're always careful, of course, with dealing with other nations and intelligence. But we believe there's great value, and we can't frankly do our job unless there's a measure of trust and open dialogue that we can have with Iraq security forces," said Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman.

In addition to sharing intelligence, the troops the United States has deployed to Iraq are assessing the situation to determine whether the U.S. should conduct additional operations.

Aside from sharing intelligence, the U.S. might also find that its advisers are on the same battlefield with Iraqis fulfilling a similar assignment. U.S. officials said they'd already determined that Iraqi units would benefit from having American troops stationed at brigade-level headquarters.

Iran has assigned perhaps 100 advisers to work with smaller units on ways to fend off the threat from the Islamists, Pentagon officials think.

NATION

Arthur downgraded to a tropical storm

By EMERY P. DALESIO
The Associated Press

MANTEO, N.C. — Businesses on two of North Carolina's barrier islands hoped to salvage the rest of the holiday weekend after Arthur clipped the state without causing major damage before churning north toward Canada and losing strength early Saturday morning.

Arthur was downgraded to a tropical storm early Saturday as its winds weakened to 70 mph. Arthur was moving at about 22 mph and located about 65 miles southwest of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Island, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, from the U.S.-Canada border to Grand-Anse.

Meanwhile, in North Carolina, some homes and businesses were flooded, trees toppled and initially thousands were without electricity after Arthur raced through the Outer Banks on Friday, but no deaths or serious injuries were reported. Independence Day fireworks were postponed.

About 20 feet of the fragile road connecting Hatteras Island with the rest of the world buckled and required repairs.

The hurricane's effects were mostly confined to the Hatteras and Ocracoke islands, and some vacationers were already back on beaches to the north and south on Friday.

Gov. Pat McCrory expressed relief and started encouraging vacationers to return to the beaches, a message echoed by locals.

"This ain't no damage at all. Everybody will be able to come back probably," Lindell Ferguson of Manteo said after driving around to view the aftermath. "It just held up the Fourth (of July) for a little bit, but everything will be open again."

John Wilson was at work Friday sucking water off the floor of the

flooded Manteo building he rents to an art gallery. He felt lucky that the building along the town's waterfront took only a foot of water.

"We'll be back in business in a day or two," Wilson said.

The storm that struck the state's southern coast late Thursday as a Category 2 hurricane quickly moved north Friday to cloud the skies over the Delaware and New Jersey shores. Rain from Hurricane Arthur disrupted some New York-area independence

'This ain't no damage at all. Everybody will be able to come back probably.'

Lindell Ferguson said he was in effect for coastal areas as far north as Cape Cod, Mass., and southeastern Canada.

Forecasters predicted the storm would weaken before its center moved over western Nova Scotia in Canada early Saturday.

North Carolina officials worked to restore access to Hatteras Island on the island's only road. The state Transportation Department said it was aiming to restore traffic on North Carolina Highway 12 sometime Saturday, when many vacationers were due to start their weeklong cottage rentals.

Farther south, Ocracoke Island's electricity distribution system was badly damaged by Arthur, leading officials to order residents to quit using air conditioners and water heaters so that generator-supplied power could provide refrigeration and other necessities during a cycle of planned outages.



COURTESY OF DAVID DIAZ/AP

This image made from video, a California Highway Patrol officer straddles a woman while punching her in the head on the shoulder of a Los Angeles freeway.

Calif. officer punches woman on video

By ANDREW DALTON
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The California Highway Patrol has vowed to carry out a thorough investigation after a video emerged of one of its officers repeatedly punching a woman pinned down on the side of a Los Angeles freeway.

The woman had been walking on Interstate 10 west of downtown Los Angeles, endangering herself and people in traffic, and the officer was trying to restrain her, CHP Assistant Chief Chris O'Quinn said at a news conference. O'Quinn said the woman had begun walking off the freeway but returned when the confrontation occurred.

The video shows the woman struggling and trying to sit up while the officer punches her in the face and head until an off-duty law enforcement officer appeared and helped him handcuff her.

Passing Driver David Diaz recorded the Tuesday incident and provided it to media outlets including The Associated Press. He told the AP in a phone interview Friday that he arrived as the woman was walking off the freeway. He said she turned around only after the officer shouted something to her.

"He agitated the situation more than helped it," said Diaz, who started filming soon after.

The officer is on administrative leave while the patrol investigates. He has not been identified.

The video caught the attention of local civil rights leaders, who expressed shock and outrage at their own news conference.

"Speaking for the women of this community, we are angry, we are upset," said Lita Herron, of the Youth Advocacy Coalition.

O'Quinn said the CHP would answer community concerns, and that an investigative team already has been assembled and

has begun its work.

"We are known as an agency that really polices itself," O'Quinn said.

Community activist Earl Ofari Hutchinson, speaking at the local leaders' news conference, agreed. "Over the years, CHP has had a very good track record in terms of community relations," Hutchinson said. "That's why this was so shocking."

O'Quinn said the incident reportedly listed no injuries for the woman, who would not give her name. She is undergoing psychiatric evaluation, he said.

O'Quinn said he could not say what prompted the officer to act as he did. But he noted CHP officers have a heightened sense of the dangers of being on the freeway compared with a citizen "who is not accustomed to the speed and conditions," especially outside of a car.

"The most dangerous thing that we face is traffic," O'Quinn said.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

A demonstrator who opposes illegal immigration, left, shouts at immigration supporters on Friday outside a U.S. Border Patrol station in Murrieta, Calif.

Dueling immigration rallies held in California

By MATT HAMILTON
The Associated Press

MURRIETA, Calif. — Rumors had swirled among anti-immigration activists near a U.S. Border Patrol station in Southern California that the agency would try again to bus in some of the immigrants who have flooded across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Instead, they got dueling anti-pro-immigration rallies Friday. The crowd of 200 outside the station in Murrieta waved signs and sometimes shouted at each other. One banner read: "Proud LEGAL American. It doesn't work any other way." Another countered: "Against illegal immigration? Great! Go back to Europe!"

Law enforcement officers separated the two sides and contained them on one approach to the sta-

tion, leaving open an approach from the opposite direction.

It was not certain, however, that any buses would arrive on Friday. Because of security concerns, federal authorities have said they will not authorize immigrant transfers among Border Patrol facilities.

Six people were arrested, five for interfering with police who were investigating a fight and one for disorderly conduct, police said. One of the five was a woman who jumped on an officer's back, but police did not give details on the actions of the rest.

Earlier last week, the city became the latest flashpoint in the intensifying immigration debate when a crowd of protesters waving American flags blocked buses carrying women and children who were flown from overcrowded Texas facilities.

Federal authorities had hoped to process them at the station in Murrieta.

"This is a way of making our voices heard," said Steve Prime, a resident of nearby Lake Elsinore. "The government's main job is to secure our borders and protect us — and they're doing neither."

Immigration supporters said the immigrants need to be treated as humans, and that migrating to survive is not a crime.

"We're celebrating the 4th of July and what a melting pot America is," said Raquel Alvarado, a high school history teacher and Murrieta resident who chalked up the fear of migrants in the city of roughly 106,000 to discrimination.

"They don't want to have their kids share the same classroom," she said.

NATION

Obama backs off issue of income inequality

By ZACHARY A. GOLDFARB
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — After making fighting income inequality an early focus of his second term, President Barack Obama has largely abandoned talk of the subject this election year in a move that highlights the emerging debate within the Democratic Party over economic populism and its limits.

During the first half of this year, Obama shifted from income inequality to the more politically

palatable theme of lifting the middle class, focusing on issues such as the minimum wage and the gender pay gap that are thought to resonate with a broader group of voters.

The pivot is striking for a president who identified inequality as one of his top concerns after his re-election, calling it "a fundamental threat to the American Dream, our way of life and what we stand for around the globe."

The shift also underscores the ongoing dispute between the Democratic Party's liberal and

moderate wings over how to address inequality issues. Whereas the left takes a more combative tone, seeking to focus on the income gap and what it views as the harmful influence of big business and Wall Street, more centrist forces in the party favor an emphasis on less-divisive issues.

White House officials say the change in the president's rhetoric was driven by a desire to focus just not on the problem — economic inequality — but also on solutions that could address it. Others close to the White House

contend that the move is at least partly driven by Democratic polling that found that talking about income inequality does not register strongly with the American public and risks accusations of class warfare.

"It was clear in 2013 that income inequality was the top narrative for the White House, but they abruptly switched away from it," said Jim Kessler, senior vice president for policy at Third Way, a centrist Democratic think tank that has advised the White House and Democrats to avoid excessive

populism. "Income inequality seems like it's on the back burner now — at least in terms of their rhetoric."

The shift hints at a broader repositioning of Democratic messaging ahead of the midterm elections and, perhaps, the 2016 presidential race. House and Senate strategists and their pollsters have concluded that they should focus less on the wealth gap and more on emphasizing that all Americans should have economic "opportunity" to get ahead or a "fair shot."

CIA employee says his push for disclosure destroyed his career

By GREG MILLER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — His CIA career included assignments in Africa, Afghanistan and Iraq, but the most perilous posting for Jeffrey Scudder turned out to be a two-year stint in a sleepy office that looks after the agency's historical files.

It was there that Scudder discovered a stack of articles, hundreds of histories of long-dormant conflicts and operations that he concluded were still being stored in secret years after they should have been shared with the public.

To get them released, Scudder submitted a request under the Freedom of Information Act — a step that any citizen can take, but one that is highly unusual for a CIA employee. Four years later, the CIA has released some of those articles and withheld others. It also has forced Scudder out.

His request set in motion a harrowing sequence. He was confronted by supervisors and accused of mishandling classified information while assembling his FOIA request. His house was raided by the FBI and his family's computers seized. Stripped of his job and security clearance, Scudder said he agreed to retire last year after being told that he risked losing much of his pension.

Scudder, 51, cast his ordeal as a struggle against "mindless" bureaucracy, but acknowledged that it was hard to see any winners in a case that derailed his CIA career, produced no criminal charges from the FBI, and ended with no guarantee that many of the articles he sought will be in the public domain anytime soon.

"I submitted a FOIA and it basically destroyed my entire career," Scudder said. "What was this whole exercise for?"

The CIA declined to comment on the case, citing privacy restrictions and litigation related to his FOIA request. CIA personnel also accuse Scudder of having classified materials on his home

computer and "a history of difficulty in protecting classified information."

"The CIA does not retaliate or take any personnel action against employees for submitting [FOIA] requests or pursuing them in litigation," said CIA spokesman Dean Boyd. "Of course, officers at CIA must also exercise their rights consistent with their obligations to protect classified material."

At a time of renewed debate over the balance between secrecy and accountability for U.S. spy agencies, Scudder's case reveals the extent to which there can be intense disagreement even inside agencies over how much information they should be allowed to withhold from the public and for how long.

Scudder's case also highlights the risks to workers who take on their powerful spy-agency employers. Senior U.S. intelligence officials have repeatedly argued that Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency contractor, should have done more to raise his concerns internally rather than exposing America's espionage secrets to the world. Others who tried to do that have said they were punished.

Scudder's actions appear to have posed no perceptible national security risk, but he found himself in the crosshairs of the CIA and FBI. The documents he sought amount to a catalog of a bygone era of espionage, among them an article titled "Intelligence Lessons from Pearl Harbor."

Scudder's attorney, Mark Zaid, described the case as an example of "aggressive retaliation against employees who seek to act in the public's interest and challenge perceived poor managerial decisions. ... The system is really broken."



Scudder



SEAN M. HAFFEY, UT SAN DIEGO/AP

California wildfires tamed

Anne Elizabeth, whose house was spared in a wildfire, hugs Paul Thomas, volunteer firefighter with the Julian/Cuyamaca Fire Protection Service, on Thursday in Julian, Calif. Firefighters said 70 percent of the fire in the historic mining town in San Diego County had been contained as of Friday. At the opposite end of the state, crews in wine-growing Napa County said a wildfire there, which had burned nearly 7 square miles since Tuesday, was 65 percent contained Friday night and was no longer threatening homes.

Troubled college firm to sell 85 campuses

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The troubled for-profit education company Corinthian Colleges Inc. and the Education Department reached an agreement late Thursday that has 85 of the company's 100-plus campuses going up for sale, and 12 others closing.

Corinthian owns Everest College, Heald College and WyoTech schools. It serves about 72,000 students in 26 states and Ontario, Canada, and receives about \$1.4 billion in federal financial student aid annually. The highest concentrations of students are in California, Florida and Texas. Students

generally receive career training in areas such as auto mechanics or health care.

Jack Massimino, Corinthian's chairman and chief officer, praised the agreement in a statement.

"This agreement allows our students to continue their education and helps minimize the personal and financial issues that affect our 12,000 employees and their families," Massimino said. "It also provides a blueprint for allowing most of our campuses to continue serving their students and communities under new ownership."

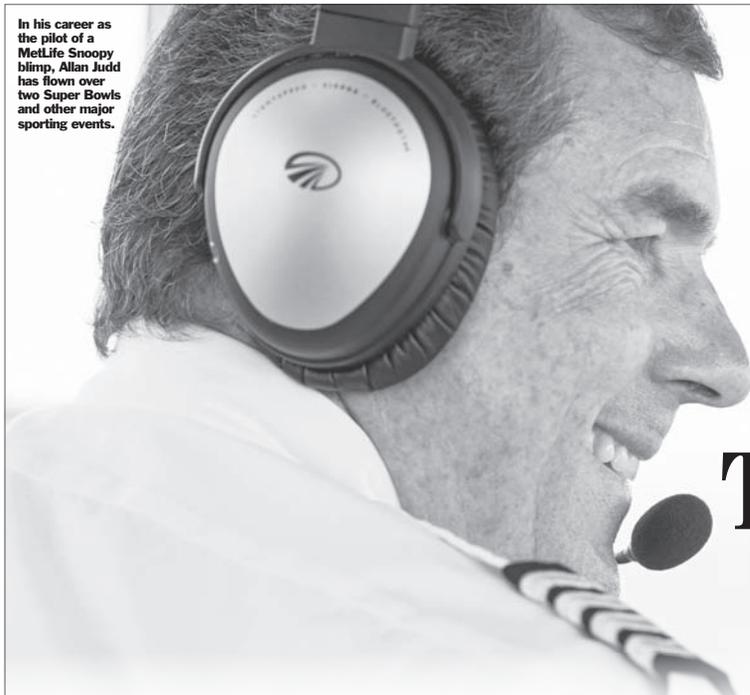
The company declined to identify the schools that will close.

Ted Mitchell, the undersecretary at the Education Department, said the agreement will "protect students' futures and fulfill the department's responsibilities to taxpayers moving forward."

The department put Santa Ana, California-based Corinthian on heightened financial monitoring last month with a 21-day waiting period for federal funds. That came after Corinthian failed to provide adequate paperwork and comply with the department's requests to address concerns about the company's practices.

NATION

In his career as the pilot of a MetLife Snoopy blimp, Allan Judd has flown over two Super Bowls and other major sporting events.



“ I JUST LOVE IT UP THERE ”

Blimp pilots are loner rangers, and you can't beat the view

By ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON

A birthday he was inevitably going to miss was fast approaching, so when Allan Judd stopped by a pilot's shop for tarts, he looked for something to send his young son. The pilot of a MetLife Snoopy blimp, Judd asked the clerk if she had any stuffed Snoopys.

She looked at him for several seconds before silently walking away. She returned with a Snoopy dressed in a leather pilot's outfit and goggles and holding a Tommy Bahama bag. She told Judd she had hidden the Snoopy in the store for eight years, but it would be happier with him.

It's still with him, hanging above the dashboard facing out so it always sees something different. Six years later, Judd says he still sends photos of Snoopy, with different backdrops, to the store clerk. It's a reminder to both of the adventures he and Snoopy are having.

Blimp pilots have the best seats to some of the grandest sporting events. Judd has flown over two Super Bowls. Fellow pilot Charlie Smith watched Tiger Woods win the 2008 U.S. Open from 2,000 feet above Torrey Pines.

The tradeoff is what they don't see



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE FREY/The Washington Post

Allan Judd, piloting Snoopy Two with Snoopy One just ahead of him, flies above the Quicken Loans National at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md.

very often — family, friends, a bathroom. Blimp pilots live in the confines of the 8-foot-by-5-foot carriage attached to the belly of their inflated submarine balloon. As the blimp flies from one sporting event to the other, so do the pilots, spending nearly every day in the air. They pack their meals, and they also bring empty bottles to use when they need to relieve themselves.

There are more astronauts than blimp pilots, and Judd, 62, considers it a privilege.

"I feel very special to have been able to see some of these really cool events because they're timeless," Judd said. "Those moments in time will never hap-

pen again. I was part of it."

Judd's done every job from disc jockey to taxi cab driver, but he spent most of his years before blimps on airplanes and ships. When a blimp in Judd's area had half-price tickets for rides, Judd's then-wife bought him one as a surprise birthday present. As soon as he stepped on board, he felt it move beneath his feet like a ship while suspended in air — the perfect combination of his two loves.

The pilots prefer the term airship to blimp because of the nautical nature of its movements. The seat has wheels on each side that Judd constantly pushes forward and backward to control the nose. Judd's feet do the steering: one pedal to move

left, one to move right. The manual operation combined with wind and varying temperature causes Snoopy Two to sway, similar to a boat over waves.

Snoopy Two is rarely grounded, still floating up and down even when it's docked by the nose to a mooring mast. Snoopy Two never deflates, and it's never alone. The crew takes shifts guarding the Snoopy blimps 24/7 to make sure they aren't damaged.

Though Snoopy Two has a constant companion, blimp pilots rarely do. Smith has tried to have girlfriends, but long-distance relationships take on a new meaning when he's flying across the country all year and only has four weeks of vacation.

"Some of the downtime can get lonely," Smith said.

Judd is a rarity in the profession — he's in a relationship and he has kids. He frequently texts, video chats and makes phone calls from the air. Judd's girlfriend is the rare significant other who understands his lifestyle. A commercial hot air balloon pilot, she has a similar schedule, and the two see each other when they cross paths on the West Coast.

Judd says his days "begin in peace and end in peace, and everything in the middle is peace." "Magnificent River" by Patrick O'Hearn plays in Judd's ear. He doesn't stream video or television when he's flying because the sights outside his window are better. He sometimes puts his phone on airplane mode so the buzzing doesn't disrupt his zen.

After 25 years in the blimp, Judd sways when he walks on the ground.

"If I'm on the ground too long, I need to go back up there," Judd said. "I just love it up there."

NATION

Homeless parolees a problem for Calif. counties

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Gov. Jerry Brown based his recent overhaul of the state corrections system in part on the idea that having those convicted of lower-level crimes supervised by county probation officers instead of state parole agents when they are released would help them stay clean, find jobs and avoid committing new crimes.

A cornerstone of the law's success is housing, yet county probation officers throughout the state say homelessness continues to undermine their ability to help ex-cons rehabilitate, get drug treatment and find jobs. Some California counties report that up to one in five of the parolees they supervise under the governor's re-alignment law is homeless.

"You've got somebody and ... they're gang-involved, you want to get them in classes, but they live under a bridge," said Andrew Davis, an analyst with the Santa Cruz County Probation Department. "They're not going to show up, they don't know what day of the week it is."

Counties across the state are dealing with the problem in different ways. Many are trying a patchwork of solutions as they adapt.

In Marin County, probation officers sometimes pick homeless parolees up at the prison gates and park for motel rooms until they can find a bed. Santa Cruz County has contracted with local homeless shelters, a move that stirred controversy last year.

Homeless parolees in Riverside County are required to check in at an electronic kiosk and have their photo taken daily. In San Diego County, where nearly 400 former prison inmates are reporting as homeless, there's a plan to spend \$3 million to add 150 shelter beds.



Top left: Arthur Scott buffs a floor as part of a Goodwill Industries custodial skills class in Oakland, Calif.

Above: The parolee, shown in class, credits the program for helping him start a new life.

Left: Scott stands in front of an Oakland, Calif., Acura dealership, from which he said he had stolen more than five cars;

PHOTOS BY NOAH BERGER/AP



Parolees who say they are homeless must check in weekly with probation.

In Los Angeles County, where 758 convicts released under realignment say they have no permanent address, county attorneys are considering whether being homeless could be classified as an automatic violation of a parolee's terms of release. That's in part because many counties are finding that former inmates will claim homelessness to avoid close

supervision.

Los Angeles has spent more than \$6.5 million on housing for convicts who would have previously been the responsibility of state parole.

Counties say the number of lower-level offenders — defined as those who have committed crimes that are not serious, sexual or violent — who are homeless upon their release has not necessarily changed since the realignment law took effect in 2011. State offi-

cials are still tallying the number.

The difference is that previously, these felons were the state's responsibility. Counties are not strangers to dealing with homeless probationers, but now the numbers have increased.

"By and large, the speed with which this whole thing was rolled out created some challenges for everybody," said Los Angeles County Probation Deputy Chief Reaver Bingham, who is forming homeless task forces in which pro-

bation officers will have 20 offenders to monitor instead of 75 to 100. "We anticipated there would be a homeless population, but how to provide services?" he said. "We had to work feverishly to put together a program to deal with it."

The realignment law was passed as part of the response to federal judges who ordered a drastic reduction in California's inmate population. Redirecting those convicted of lower-level offenses to county jails was intended to save space in state prisons while providing a modest savings for the state.

"The need for housing is always very high," said Sean Becker, a housing services coordinator with Abode Services in Alameda County, which has a contract to provide beds for recently released state inmates. "If people have housing, they're less likely to have mental health issues and break the law again."

That's been the case for Arthur Scott. When Scott was released in March after serving time on his 22nd auto theft conviction, probation officials referred him to Becker's nonprofit for housing. Scott, who has never been free for more than two weeks in the past 22 years, has been living on his own for three months. He is sober, working toward a janitorial certificate and has a job parking cars at an auction lot.

For him, stable housing was critical, he said. Each time he was released, he found himself homeless or in a halfway house with other men who did drugs and he would get re-arrested within days.

I drove a Phantom Rolls Royce yesterday. I'm going to do what I love. A year ago, I would have stolen every car in that damn lot," said Scott, 51, of his new job. "That's when I realized, 'You know what? You've changed.' And I have changed."

Catholic priest who killed nun dies in prison

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A Roman Catholic priest convicted of killing a nun who was found strangled and stabbed 34 years ago in a hospital chapel has died, a day

after a judge refused his request to be released to family care so he could die in his hometown.

Attorney Richard Kerger said the Rev. Gerald Robinson's sister-in-law told him the priest died Friday morning.

"I'm sure he's in a better place," Kerger said.

Robinson, 76, had been serving a sentence of 15 years to life in which church historians have characterized as the only documented case of a Catholic priest killing a nun.

From The Associated Press

Imprisoned for life by abnormal sentence

By Ed White
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Mich. — Good conduct makes Leon Echols eligible for a number of jobs in prison: porter, barber, cook. He chooses to be a photographer in the visitor room, taking pictures of other inmates and their families.

"I can see children. I can feel normal," Echols, 43, explained. "I love being able to see families interacting with each other. I'm not an inmate for that moment."

But he could be an inmate forever. Echols has been a Michigan prisoner nearly 25 years — his entire adult life — for killing a man during a sudden dispute over a car near Detroit. In 1989, Judge Michael Talbot sentenced the 18-year-old to a minimum of 75 years, an astonishing punishment when the guidelines called for a minimum of 10 to 25.

Echols essentially is serving a life sentence. Years of good behavior will shave time, but he'll still have to live to age 83 to file his

first application for parole.

"That's the injustice," he said. In March, the Michigan Supreme Court turned down his personal 40-page appeal for help but noticed the unusual facts. The justices said he could apply to have his sentence shortened by a governor, a difficult process with extremely long odds of success. Justice Michael Cavanaugh, however, said Echols deserved more from the state's top court.

"This is an exceptional case in which defendant's sentence is illegal," wrote Cavanaugh, who believes a new sentence is appropriate.

Echols spoke to The Associated Press at the Cotton prison in Jackson. Without making excuses or blaming others, he described his turbulent childhood, the circumstances of the crime and his unrestrained optimism about winning freedom someday and becoming a mentor to young people.

Prison has "saved my life, but I don't want it to be the sum of my life," Echols said. "I see guys go



Echols

home every Tuesday." I saw the seat and came up — whom! I knew I was hit with something, I'm dropping blood ... I didn't go there looking to kill a man. I had no malice in my heart. I swear to God I didn't want that to happen.

He said he turned down a plea deal because he genuinely up to be shot in self-defense. A Wayne County jury, however, convicted him of second-degree murder. Guidelines called for a minimum sentence of 10 to 25 years, but Talbot, the judge, felt it wasn't enough. He ordered 75 to 150 years, plus two years for using a gun.

Why? It's not known today because the transcript is missing. In 1992, the Michigan appeals court affirmed the conviction and sentence, saying Talbot "thoroughly explained his reasons" to stretch far beyond the guidelines.

Talbot, now an appeals court judge, declined to be interviewed by the AP.

He grabbed something from under the seat and came up — whom! I knew I was hit with something, I'm dropping blood ... I didn't go there looking to kill a man. I had no malice in my heart. I swear to God I didn't want that to happen.

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Talbot, now an appeals court judge, declined to be interviewed by the AP.

"He just went berserk," Echols

WORLD

Ukraine claims victory in rebel stronghold

By YURAS KARMANAU
AND BALINT SZLANKO
The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — Government troops have taken a rebel stronghold in eastern Ukraine, the country's president and a spokesman for the rebels said Saturday.

President Petro Poroshenko said in a statement that government troops took Sloviansk, a city of about 100,000 that has been a center of the fighting between Kiev's troops and the pro-Russian insurgents, after a night of fighting. It was a rare, significant success for Kiev's forces in their struggle to quell the rebellion.

Poroshenko commanded the armed forces to raise the Ukrainian flag over Sloviansk, which has been under control of the rebels since early April when they seized the city's administrative and police buildings.

Andrei Purgin of the separatist Donetsk People's Republic told The Associated Press that rebels were evacuating, but claimed the army's campaign had left the city "in ruins."

However, Andriy Lysenko, spokesman for the National Security and Defense Council, said mopping-up operations were continuing.

"Sloviansk is under siege. Now an operation is going on to neutralize small groups hiding in buildings where peaceful citizens are living," Lysenko told journalists.

Alexei, a driver and Sloviansk resident who would not give his last name for fear of reprisal, told the AP by phone that he heard

bombing throughout the night. When the bombing stopped in the early morning, he left his house and saw that all the rebel checkpoints were abandoned. He said there was some damage to buildings in the center of the city, but said much of the rest of the city had been left untouched.

A rebel commander who would only give his nom de guerre as Pinciochet told the AP that rebels had relocated to the nearby town of Kramatorsk, 12 miles south of Sloviansk. But outside Kramatorsk, an AP reporter saw an abandoned checkpoint and several hundred rebels, armed and in uniform, driving in minibuses in the direction of Donetsk.

The capture of Sloviansk would be a major victory for the Ukrainian army, which has often appeared feckless in the monthslong campaign against the rebels. On Thursday Poroshenko shook up his defense team, appointing Ukraine's third defense minister since the downfall of the former president in February.

Some rebels played down the significance of Ukraine's advances. Pavel Gubarev, the self-described governor of the Donetsk People's Republic, wrote online that the rebels had staged a tactical retreat.

"Kutuzov also retreated, as that was the plan," he wrote referring to the 19th century general Mikhail Kutuzov who is credited with defeating Napoleon's forces in Russia. "In general, Russians only retreat before a decisively victorious battle."



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

Ukrainian government forces transport an anti-aircraft missile launcher from Sloviansk, eastern Ukraine, on Friday.

4 killed in car bomb attack in Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Four people were killed Saturday when a car laden with explosives blew up near the parliament building in the Somali capital, a police official said Saturday.

The Somali terror group al-Shabab, which recently has targeted parliamentarians, claimed responsibility.

Capt. Mohammed Hussein said the car exploded at a checkpoint where it had been stopped by

Somali troops. The dead were soldiers and refugees from an internal refugee camp near the checkpoint, Hussein said.

Troops had ordered the driver of the car out the vehicle for a search when he detonated the explosives, Hussein said.

Seven children from the camp were wounded in the attack.

Somali legislators were holding a meeting at the parliament at the time of the attack, but al-Shabab did not say what the intended target was.

From The Associated Press



HASSAN SHAALAN/AP

The remains of a car torched by Israeli Arab rioters lie in a fiery street near Qalansawe, central Israel, early Saturday.

Clashes spread after Palestinian boy's funeral

By YOUSUR ALHLOU
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A teenager who Palestinians say was killed by Israeli extremists in a revenge attack was burned to death, an autopsy showed Saturday, as clashes fueled by anger over the case spread into Arab Israeli towns.

Palestinian Attorney General Abdelqhan al-Owaivi said initial results show that 16-year-old Palestinian Mohammed Abu Khdeir, whose death Wednesday had sparked large protests in his east Jerusalem neighborhood, suffered burns on "90 percent of his body."

"The results show he was breathing while on fire and died from burns and their consequences," al-Owaivi said.

Tensions also remained high on Israel's reinforced southern border with the Gaza Strip. Gaza militants fired at least ten rock-

ets at Israel Saturday, injuring a soldier lightly and causing some damage to infrastructure, the military said.

It said it had launched several airstrikes in Gaza overnight against sites used by the militant group Hamas.

Abu Khdeir's charred body was found in a forest after he was seized near his home. Palestinians immediately accused Israeli extremists of killing him to avenge the deaths of three Israeli teens who had been abducted and killed in the West Bank. Israeli police said an investigation is still underway and they have not yet determined who killed the boy or why.

Palestinians took to the streets in protests after news of the boy's death on Wednesday and clashed with police in east Jerusalem. Riots erupted in east Jerusalem Friday as thousands of Palestin-

ians massed for the boy's burial.

The violence spread to Arab towns in northern Israel early Saturday, with protesters throwing rocks at passing cars, burning tires and lobbing rocks and firebombs at police, who responded with tear gas and stun grenades, Israeli police spokeswoman Luba Samri said.

Near the town of Qalansawe, protesters also pulled over a car driven by an Israeli Jew, pulled him out and set the vehicle on fire, Samri said. The driver was not injured.

More than 20 people were arrested before the unrest subsided in the afternoon, she said.

Palestinian protesters in Jerusalem also used an electric saw to damage the light rail that connects the heavily Arab populated eastern sector of the city with the mostly Jewish West, Samri said.

Germany calls in US envoy over spy case

By FRANK JORDANS
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany summoned the U.S. ambassador in Berlin on Friday following the arrest of a man reported to have spied for the United States, heightening friction between the two countries over alleged U.S. eavesdropping in Germany.

U.S. Ambassador John B. Emerson was called in "in connection with an investigation by the federal prosecutor," the German Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The U.S. envoy "was asked to help in the swift clarification" of the case, it added.

Federal prosecutors say a 31-

year-old German man was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of spying for foreign intelligence services. They did not identify the suspect or the intelligence services.

German government spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters that Chancellor Angela Merkel been personally informed of the arrest.

He declined to comment on reports by Der Spiegel magazine and the daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung that the man worked for Germany's foreign intelligence service, known by its German acronym BND.

The newspapers, which didn't identify their sources, said the

man was suspected of passing on information about a German parliamentary committee investigating the activities of U.S. and other intelligence agencies in Germany. He claimed to have worked with U.S. intelligence since 2012, they reported.

Seibert said members of the parliamentary panel also had been informed of the arrest.

Reports that the National Security Agency spied on German citizens, including on Merkel's cellphone, have caused friction between Berlin and Washington since they were first published last year, based on documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

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OPINION

Chechens influential among militants

By ADAM TAYLOR

While Islamic State's famously reclusive leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi remains in hiding and is rarely photographed, another young, Islamist fighter has come forward to publicly represent the group in videos and photographs shared on social media. This man, however, stands out from his largely Arabic fellow fighters.

That's because the militant known as Omar al-Shishani, a rising star in Islamic State's Islamist campaign across the Middle East, is from the Russian Republic of Chechnya. What's more, he's one of more than 500 militants from Russia who have joined the fight in Syria, according to Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB). And that estimate could be low; another from the Soufan Group suggests that more than 800 may have headed to the Middle East to fight.

The Associated Press reports that Shishani had been in charge of Islamic State's military operations in Syria and may now be the overall leader on the battlefield after the death of Abu Abdul-Rahman al-Bilawi al-Anbari in early June. Like other Chechens, he has come to be thought of as among the best fighters in the Islamist groups.

In many ways, this isn't a surprising turn of events: Chechnya and its people have a modern history of violence that has created a number of battle-hardened fighters. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 led to the chaotic creation of the Chechen Republic, which in turn sought independence from Russia. The two sides came to war in 1994, in a particularly bloody conflict, with tens of thousands of civilians finally to have been killed before Russia finally retreated in 1996.

The Chechens, though Muslim, generally lacked an Islamist element: Dzhokhar Dudayev, the most prominent leader of the rebels, was fighting for nationalist reasons rather than religious ones. However, the chaotic and indiscriminate use of force by Russian forces against Chechens led a deep mark on many, and members of Islamist groups such as al-Qaida came to the



Omar al-Shishani, a Chechen, stands among Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant fighters as they declare the elimination of the border between Iraq and Syria.

country, drawn by media reports. While the influence of these Islamist fighters may have been limited at the time (most did not speak Russian, and their religious practices bore little resemblance to the moderate Sufi practices of most Chechens), they do appear to have had longer-term influences.

After the First Chechen War ended, a period of insurgency followed, and in 1999, the Second Chechen War was sparked by Islamist attempts to invade the neighboring region of Dagestan and a series of apartment bombings in Russia and Dagestan. While Russian troops were eventually able to quash the Chechen rebels and to regain control of Chechnya, it was another brutal, bloody war, leaving tens of thousands of civilians dead. This time, foreign jihadists had a far stronger influence, which was notable in a number of spectacular terrorist attacks, including the 2002 taking of hostages at a Moscow theater and the 2004 storming of a school in Beslan, North Ossetia.

After virtually two decades of fighting and insurgency in Chechnya, many Chechen fighters have extensive battlefield ex-

perience. They have already made contact with foreign Islamist groups that now fight in Syria and Iraq. They were well-versed in the use of guerrilla tactics that could be used against traditional armies that are technologically and numerically superior. They also understood how to use propaganda and terror attacks to win over converts and to awe their enemies, clearly a key part of Islamic State's current strategy. In Iraq and Syria right now, these are all very useful skills.

For Chechens, too, taking their fight outside the Caucasus makes sense: It shows their solidarity with a global jihad movement and allows them to escape Russia (where many may be wanted by authorities) or Turkey (where many live in illegal exile). And, in the case of Syria, it allows them to battle the ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin (Bashar Assad). Many may hope to pick up contacts for an eventual return to fighting in Russia, a possibility that clearly concerns Moscow.

For Islamists, it seems that being Chechen can be a badge of honor: You've already survived one of the most terrible conflicts of recent memory, so you must know what to do to withstand another. Hussein Nasser, a spokesman for the Islamic Front coalition of Syrian rebels, told the Associated Press that Chechens were feared because they will do whatever their leader tells them to do. "Even if his emir tells him to kill a child, he would do it," Nasser explains. And the Chechen reputation for toughness goes back even further.

"Chechen boys are raised as warriors and survivors, which should not be surprising given the turbulent history of Chechnya and the North Caucasus in general," Simon Saradzhyan, a research fellow at Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University and expert on Russia, told me. "Even Russian czars, who lost many troops conquering Chechnya, recognized these qualities. Hence, Chechens formed a cavalry sub-unit in the Savage Division that fought on fronts of World War I 100 years ago."

Adam Taylor reports on foreign affairs for The Washington Post.

Stop stalling on infrastructure projects

A Washington Post editorial

The Labor Department had encouraging news on Thursday: By its reckoning, the country added 288,000 new jobs last month, and the unemployment rate declined a bit. Now will Congress stall the momentum again?

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx this week warned states that the federal government will have to begin withholding funding for the nation's roads and rails starting Aug. 1. At that point, the federal Highway Trust Fund will be perilously low on cash unless Congress restocks it. States initially will lose about 26 percent of their federal transportation funding. When the federal government's authorization to spend anything on transportation expires in September, the flow of money will dry up entirely. States, which get an average of 50 percent of their transportation fund-

ing from the federal government, already are delaying or canceling infrastructure projects — in the peak of the summer construction season.

There's no reason for lawmakers to put the country through this uncertainty. It's clear the money is needed. It's clear that funding should be long-term and raised from a sustainable source of revenue, allowing for ample planning and enabling big transportation projects. And it's clear that those who use the roads should pay for them, a policy that's fair and efficient. All Congress needs to do is accept the obvious and approve one of the many plans that fit these criteria.

One came last month from Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., and Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn. They proposed a 12-cent increase in the federal gasoline tax, to be phased in over two years; after that, the tax will be indexed to inflation. The gas tax used to raise enough to cover the nation's trans-

portation tab, but Congress did not index it and lawmakers haven't increased it since 1993. Instead, they have regularly slapped together last-minute patches, scraping up revenue here and there.

President Barack Obama has been blasting Congress's inaction, promising to do what he can without lawmakers. Which is not much. The president can't replenish the Highway Trust Fund. He hasn't been a profile in courage, refusing to endorse the needed gas tax hike. The White House at first seemed to indicate that Obama opposed the Corker-Murphy plan, but Foxx subsequently said that the administration is keeping an open mind.

The president and lawmakers in Congress should not just be open to this obvious solution to the perpetually underfunded funding crisis; they should be enthusiastic about it.

At some point, soon, they need to do the right thing.

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OPINION

The regulatory state learns it has limits

By GEORGE F. WILL

WASHINGTON

Two 5-4 decisions last week on the final decision day of the Supreme Court's term dealt with issues that illustrate the legal consequences of political tactics by today's progressives. One case demonstrated how progressivism's achievement, the regulatory state, manufactures social strife, and can do so in ways politically useful to progressives. The other case arose from government coercion used to conscript unwilling citizens into funding the progressives' party.

Under the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act, any government action that substantially burdens religious practices will be subject to strict judicial scrutiny to determine if it, rather than some less intrusive measure, is necessary to achieve a compelling government interest. The Affordable Care Act, as supplemented by regulations, requires for-profit employers to provide health care coverage that includes all 20 FDA-approved birth-control methods.

These include four that prevent a fertilized egg from being implanted in the uterus. Some people consider this tantamount to abortion and oppose these abortifacients for religious reasons. Why did Congress, having rejected RFRA, write this clearly incompatible birth-control mandate? Congress didn't.

In the ACA, Congress simply required health plans to provide "preventive care" for women. An executive branch agency decided the full menu of 20 abortifacients, during oral argument in March. Justice Anthony Kennedy asked: "What kind of constitutional structure do we have if the Congress can give an agency the power to grant or not grant a religious exemption based on what the agency determined?"

The answer is: The constitutional struc-

ture we have is the kind progressives prefer, wherein more and more decisions are made by unelected and unaccountable executive branch "experts" exercising vast discretion. In this instance, the experts were, to say no more, willing to provoke a predictable controversy that would be convenient for the Democratic Party's "war on women" trope. Today, that war consists of subsidizing only 16 of 20 birth-control methods. The court has held that some "closely held" businesses — often family-owned and adhering to religious practices — have a right under RFRA to wage this war.

The court's other end-of-term case arose from overreaching by government employee unions and their Democratic allies. At issue were the First Amendment rights of people herded into unions after being made into government employees by government's semantic fiat.

In the 1950s, about 35 percent of the private-sector workforce was unionized; today just 6.7 percent is. The labor movement and the Democratic Party's funding depend on government employees, 35.3 percent of whom are unionized. So, in Illinois, two Democratic governors manufactured government employees out of home health care workers, a growing cohort — and a tempting target for dues-hungry unions — in a nation with an aging population and many infant elderly.

In 2003, an executive order from Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich, of fragrant memory, decreed that thousands of home health care workers are government employees, and resulted in the Service Employees International Union being recognized as their representative. In 2009, an executive order from the current Democratic governor, Pat Quinn, designated even more home care providers, who essentially are independent contractors, as government employees. The tenuous theory



LEWIS & CLARK
ART BY MICKY RUCKENSTEIN

was that they are government workers because their pay comes indirectly from government — from the Medicaid funds received by the people who hire them.

Under a 1977 Supreme Court decision, which 26 states take advantage of, government employees can be forced to pay certain fees to unions even if the employees do not wish to be in the union and disagree with its positions. In last week's case, the court carved out an exemption for people like the home care providers who are not "full-fledged" government employees.

This certainly seems sensible as applied to the lead plaintiff, a woman caring for her severely disabled son. Because the court has now recognized her First Amendment freedom of association — which includes the freedom not to associate — and freedom from compelled speech, she no longer

will be required to pay fees to a union she refuses to join. SEIU will have to look elsewhere for the approximately \$10 million in fees it has siphoned annually from people like her. This is real campaign finance reform.

Today's court — nine fine minds producing written explanations of their reasoning about important principles — has its own discord. It is, nevertheless, a lagoon of logic in the forest primeval of today's overheated politics and overbearing government. Twice last week the court played its indispensable role as constable, policing portions of this forest where progressivism has produced government guilty of gratuitous bullying.

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Disfunction, disconnect atop branches of government

By DAN K. THOMASSON

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON

Here's the situation as it now stands in this capital of the Western world, if it still is.

The president has had his knuckles rapped by the Supreme Court, which unanimously ruled that he couldn't get away with making recess appointments when the Senate was still in session, which it technically was when he made some to the National Labor Relations Board. It wasn't a good week for the chief executive seeing that unanimity on the Supreme Court is probably rarer than it is in Congress. It's kind of like being hit in the head by a gavel wielded by the chief justice who then passes it to the other justices for their turn.

At the same time, the speaker of the House, John Boehner, of Ohio, is suing Barack Obama on grounds he has overstepped his authority by failing to make sure the laws are faithfully executed. Never mind that the cement-rooted majority has left a vacuum for Obama to fill. Boehner's action pretty much means the top of the president's agenda perhaps for the next three years even though the likelihood of any court action in that period of time is remote.

Why is that? Well, because it clearly reinforces the hard line to do nothing for this chief executive that Republicans have followed pretty much since the take office. Add that to the fact the GOP hard noses are not



JIM MONE/AP

President Barack Obama gives a hug to Rebekah Erlar, who wrote him a letter about economic hardship, before his economic policy speech on June 27 in Minneapolis.

only waiting for what they believe will be a solid victory in the coming congressional elections, they are also determined not to budge until after the 2016 presidential balloting.

Meantime, Boehner is vying with Democratic Pelosi, his predecessor, as the most ineffectual speaker in recent memory, outdoing even Jim Wright and Newt Gingrich, both of whom left the office not only in disarray but in some disgrace.

What a mess, huh? It is problematic that anything less than an all-out military or terrorist attack on this country would bring about any sort of unity in a government being run by intellectual midgets. If his complexion is any

indication, Boehner seems to be spending more time in the tanning salon or on the golf course than he is running the House. Can you imagine a guy of this stature as second after the vice president in the line of succession for the presidency? Heavens to Betsy, Murgatroy. It would be difficult for him to run a two-car funeral let alone the world's largest economy with all its attendant problems including a divided Congress.

And what is the president doing? What he does best, I guess, running around trying to take the pulse of the nation — apparently one person at a time considering the picture of him in a restaurant booth listening intently to the woes of a comely young

lady. What's wrong, pal, is among other things all that jawboning you do outside the Beltway rather than where it really counts on Capitol Hill. While some hanging out with the voters is good, in the current atmosphere playing the inside game is about the only chance for success. But in that regard, Lyndon Johnson you ain't.

With apologies for the sports metaphor, it's time to be Doc Blanchard, Mr. Inside, and not so much Glenn Davis, Mr. Outside, the Army team's magnificent tandem of another era. There are holes to run through if Obama and his team knew how, but six years of not being able to seem to point up the fact that the president isn't really comfortable in the head-licking business of politics.

So gridlock seems to be the rule of the day even when it's in everyone's interests to compromise here and there. "Compromise?" There will be no use of dirty words in the sanctified halls of democracy.

I have come to believe the worst day in American history may have been when those patriots dressed up like Indians dumped that tea in Boston Harbor. The act gave symbolic inspiration nearly 240 years later to those who would toss overboard most of the solutions necessary to meet the needs of the 21st century.

If this sounds like a rant, it pretty much is. Feels good once in a while, particularly when you're locked in the national insane asylum.

Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Burglary suspect hurt in jump from building

IA WATERLOO — Black Hawk County authorities said a burglary suspect has been injured in a leap from a building at the county landfill.

The sheriff's department said deputies responded to a burglar alarm at the landfill's maintenance building early Thursday morning.

The deputies found a stolen pickup outside the building and inside found items stacked on a floor next to an exit.

They soon determined that someone was in an upstairs room. The department said that as the deputies closed in, the man inside the room leaped through a window and down 10 to 15 feet onto a concrete floor.

The man has been taken to a hospital in Iowa City. The department said he likely will face a burglary charge when he leaves the hospital.

Road crew's spelling error prompts laughter

NC CORNELIUS — Crews have fixed a misspelling on an Interstate 77 exit near Charlotte that caused a lot of laughter on social media.

Workers painted "NOLY" instead of "ONLY" on a bridge at an exit on I-77 near Cornelius.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation said crews had been working for 28 hours straight to get the bridge open last weekend and were rushing to finish before it rained. The DOT said the mistake was noticed immediately, but it took two days before the weather cooperated so workers could correct it.

Photos of the mistake were quickly sent around on Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites.

Rape kit DNA tests yield nearly 1,500 hits

OH COLUMBUS — Ohio's attorney general said an initiative to test previously untested rape kits has led to almost 1,500 hits to DNA profiles in a law enforcement database.

A statement from Attorney General Mike DeWine said just over 8,000 sexual assault kits have been submitted by 140 law enforcement agencies since the program began in 2012.

More than 4,100 kits have been tested in the ongoing effort to solve more than 200 sexual assaults with the help of DNA matches.

Information on any match is sent back to the appropriate local law enforcement agency to see if it can advance an investigation.

DeWine said the testing initiative has led to dozens of indictments, including 110 in northeast Ohio's Cuyahoga County, which includes Cleveland.

Man robs bus driver, leaves empty-handed

IN SOUTH BEND — Police in South Bend said a man who tried to rob a school bus driver got away without any cash.



NICK TOMCEK, NORTHWEST (FORT WALTON BEACH) FLORIDA DAILY NEWS/AP

Operation homecoming

Capt. Matt Boyd smiles as his daughter, Olivia, 2, runs to greet him Friday at Hurlburt Field on Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., upon his return from an overseas deployment.

Police spokesman Capt. Phil Trent told the South Bend Tribune that the bus driver had parked at a fast-food restaurant near Washington High School and was waiting to pick up students from a field trip Monday morning.

That's when a man entered the bus. Police said the driver told the man to leave, but instead the man frisked the bus driver and took his wallet. Trent said the bus driver didn't have any cash, so the suspect left.

Arrests made in \$2M baby formula theft ring

FL ORLANDO — Three Florida women have

been charged with running a \$2 million baby formula theft ring.

Sheriff's officials in Brevard and Pinellas counties said the women stole large quantities of baby formula and shipped them to New York, Wisconsin and California.

Alicia Tondreau-Leve, Gullyanna Guzman and Alexis Lyn Dattadeen are charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, which is punishable by up to 30 years in prison.

State wants vets to fill thousands of open jobs

ND BISMARCK — North Dakota is looking to

veterans to help fill the more than 25,000 available jobs in the state.

The state hopes veterans can fill at least 10,000 of these available jobs.

The drive to recruit veterans is part of the state's Find the Good Life campaign to bring additional workers to North Dakota.

The campaign has sent representatives to job fairs in Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Sill, Okla.

North Dakota Economic Foundation chairman Wally Goulet said veterans bring exceptional skills and work ethic to the civilian job market.

The state's oil boom in recent years has significantly expanded

THE CENSUS

205½

The weight in pounds of a swordfish pulled in by a Savannah, Ga., man who was fishing offshore. Officials with the Coastal Resources Division said in a statement this week that Brendin Page is the newest Georgia saltwater game fish record-holder, surpassing the previous mark by almost 20 pounds set in 1980. Page battled the fish for 90 minutes on May 31, and the weight was certified by Charles Russo, of Russo's Fresher Seafoods in Savannah. The Coastal Resources Division maintains records for men and women for 58 species of saltwater fishes, including 13 species of sharks.



the state's economy. North Dakota has added 100,000 jobs since December 2007.

2 hurt when horse is spooked during event

MI HOLLAND — Holland police said two people were hurt when a horse became spooked during a downtown event.

In a statement, police said the horse was pulling a carriage at about 8:30 p.m. Thursday when a person on a skateboard fell in front of the horse, causing it to bolt forward.

According to police, the animal then ran "out of control."

The carriage's driver, a 19-year-old Holland woman, suffered minor injuries while attempting to stop the horse. An Ionia woman, 69, was struck and knocked down by the horse. She also suffered minor injuries.

Police and bystanders eventually helped secure the horse.

The incident happened during the Downtown Holland Street Performers Series.

Man who taped teens in tanning bed imprisoned

IA NEWTON — A central Iowa man who recorded teenagers using a tanning bed in his home has been sent to federal prison.

Des Moines television station KCCI said James Brock, of Newton, on Wednesday was sentenced to eight years.

Prosecutors said Brock admitted possessing child pornography on or about July 2, 2013.

Prosecutors said Brock produced the porn by using hidden cameras to record teenagers using the tanning bed.

In addition to the prison sentence, Brock also was ordered to forfeit his home and all equipment used to commit the crime.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE

Well versed

Teens find voices in poetry program

By JORDAN LEVIN
The Miami Herald



The words and feelings pouring out of Celestelle Webster, 19, and Christelle Roach, 18, on a sunny afternoon seem fiercely, startlingly beyond their years. “The bones in my body are like needles in my skin... I am a bomb, take shelter.”

Facing each other onstage in the small auditorium at the Miami Beach Regional Library, they summon a wrenching vision of domestic violence with lines they wrote together.

“Why are you still here? I’m in love with the arsonist... There is a fire burning inside me.”

Webster and Roach’s verbal fire has been ignited by WordSpeak, a teenage spoken word poetry program run by Miami’s Tigertail Productions that will send them and five compatriots to a national poetry competition. Now in its ninth year, WordSpeak not only teaches young people how to articulate their feelings and ideas, but also gives them a powerful sense of purpose, empowerment and responsibility.

“When a reader reads a poem, they give it their own interpretation,” says Webster. “When you perform your poem, you show them your interpretation of your piece... What the truth is and how the world interprets a story are often different. We feel it’s our job to give clarity.”

Key to finding that clarity is WordSpeak coach Teo Castellanos, who negotiated drugs and gangs growing up in Carol City, Fla., before becoming an award-winning theater writer, director, and teacher — often of kids with a similarly fraught urban background. Conducting one of the team’s recent four-hour rehearsals, Castellanos shifts seamlessly between colloquial street slang and a meticulous focus on language, rhythm, performance and meaning.

“One of the first things I do is

break these stereotypical habits and clichés and get them to be better writers,” says Castellanos.

The team will need that discipline when they get to the Brave New Voices competition in Philadelphia this month, where they’ll compete with 500 peers from across the U.S. and abroad.

In rehearsal, Castellanos urges Roach and Webster not to forget “your intentions, your goals, your rhythms... You’ll find the chaos — it’s the hardest rhythm for most people.”

Then he summons Wesly Oviedo, Steffon Dixon and Al Alexander.

“Better impress me! Let’s see what y’all got!”

Their poem is on gun murders and Florida’s stand-your-ground law, and the boys, who are African-American and Afro-Caribbean, take the subject personally, saying: “I feel like Florida is the sunshine state and I’m living in



PHOTOS BY PATRICK FARRELL/Miami Herald

Above: A WordSpeak team member works on new poems in Miami Beach, Fla., in preparation for a national poetry competition. Left: Momo Manalang, 17, reads her poem aloud.

the bottom of the barrel.”

Castellanos proclaims himself pleased — but pushes for improvement, suggesting changes

in wording and a more dramatic performance, starting with a feeling of celebration so the shift to describing the murders will be more startling.

“Don’t fear going overboard,” he tells them. “The farther you go, the more dramatic the shift — it’s gonna be crazy!”

Oviedo’s face brightens with anticipation.

“That flip’ll be sharp!”

Oviedo and his six compatriots were selected from approximately 1,000 South Florida teens

who participate in WordSpeak and SpeakOut, its sister program for GLBTQ youth. The program features classes and workshops

at 10 mostly inner-city high schools, visits from nationally known guest speakers and several poetry competitions, to choose the team.

Tigertail director Mary Luft says the goal is to give WordSpeak’s participants a sense of confidence as well as skills in literacy and self-expression.

“We see it as a transformative project,” Luft says. “In one year, you’ll see a radical change in the way they command the space, their writing quality, what they’re writing about, how they speak, how they present themselves. They are empowered. They start thinking differently about their place in the greater world and what else is out there.”

Maylin Enamorado started performing her poetry as a freshman in the writing program at Miami Arts Charter school. At first she was afraid of getting onstage, and shocked when she was chosen for the WordSpeak team in her sophomore year.

But when they arrived in San Francisco for the competition, she was exhilarated at being in a literary city with hundreds of kids for whom poetry was paramount.

“For the first time, I was like, poetry is normal!” Enamorado says. “I felt completely at home. And the creativity, the subjects were eye-opening.”

Instead of going to college, Enamorado, who graduated from high school this year, will head to

Senegal in August to teach.

“I don’t think I would have had the courage to go to Africa without WordSpeak,” she says. “The program has made me feel strongly about bringing about change. We try to make a difference.”

Castellanos says many of the kids are unusually dedicated — even with parents who don’t attend their performances or who are dealing with addictions or other problems.

“I’m just floored by their commitment and resilience,” says Castellanos of his students. “I don’t know why some people are blessed with that and some are not.”

But in a world that idolizes sports and pop music, even the most independent teenager can use the support of teachers and friends who share their love for poetry and language. Roach says she’s the only artist in a family focused on sports and business, “the pen in the box of pencils,” who wrote poetry at her brother’s basketball games.

The program’s focus on social rather than personal themes is meant to steer the kids away from adolescent self-absorption, as well as foster a sense of connection to the world outside their neighborhood, and to people other than those just like them.

“They come to understand the world is bigger than their community,” says Castellanos. “It deepens their compassion and understanding.”

But that outward focus seems to have made the WordSpeak poets even surer of themselves.

“My poetry got more relevant and had more meaning when I came on thinking what I could do for the team,” says Roach.

“It’s not just about talent. There’s meaning behind everything we write.”



Christell Roach, left, and Celestelle Webster tweak their piece as Tigertail Productions WordSpeak team members rehearse and work on new poems for a national poetry competition.

LIFESTYLE



PHOTOS BY JAY L. CLENDENIN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Rob Maushund, employed by Stoughton Printing Co., in the City of Industry, Calif., for 27 years, appears on top of a collection of Stoughton-made, vinyl album jackets. At right, a sampling of Stoughton vinyl album jackets through the years.

BY RANDALL ROBERTS
Los Angeles Times

Thousands of old-style cardboard sleeves for Jack White's album "Lazaretto" sit in tightly packed checkerboard rows at Stoughton Printing Plant in the City of Industry, a suburb of Los Angeles, 12.3-inch squares waiting to be stuffed with 12-inch circles.

Jack Stoughton Jr., son of the company's founder, takes one from the newly printed stack and admires the work.

White's blue suit pops off the print as he sits amid a flock of angel statuettes. The inside of the jacket is black — one more flourish to separate it from the others in the increasingly competitive vinyl business.

Nearby, a heavy Heidelberg press pushes Stereolab jackets across a conveyor belt; a reorder of the British band's 1993 drone-rock gem, "Transient Random-Noise Bursts With Announcements," with its close-up image of a turntable tone arm gliding across an album.

In the vinyl comeback of the past decade, people like to credit the so-called warmth of LPs. But don't overlook the artfully crafted jacket. After all, if a label expects fans to spend money on music that's available for free online (and pay a premium over a download or CD), the object had better be desirable.

And Stoughton makes them desirable. "It's like when you get into an Audi or a BMW. You shut the door and it has that sound," says Patrick McCarthy, project manager for Light in the Attic Records, a reissue label that uses Stoughton for most of its packages. "It's this almost imperceptible quality, but you know it when you have it in your hands."

Founded nearly 50 years ago, the unassuming company has ridden a roller-coaster ride from ubiquity to near-death and back, enduring the 45 rpm single, 33 1/3 rpm album, eight-track, cassette, compact disc, laser disc, MP3 and streaming eras — an arc that captures the history of the music business itself.

Jack Jr. recalled the company's early years, after a young Jack Stoughton left a solid job at Bert-Co Press, at the time the music industry's biggest L.A. printer, in the bud-

ding Los Angeles vinyl world of the early 1960s.

"Dad's motto was, 'Large enough to serve you, small enough to know you.'"

Each day, thousands of jackets are crafted with Stoughton's heavy machinery and its employees' deft hands, a rainbow run of colors and titles rolling along presses and glue machines.

You might find employees hand-sticking printed slicks of the War on Drugs' new "Lost in the Dream" onto high-grade cardboard gatefold sleeves, referred to in industry parlance as "old style tip-on jackets" for the way they're constructed. Or working with indie punk label Burger Records on the design for a cardboard cassette box. Or brainstorming an ultra-sexy project involving a high-profile rapper.

With five weeks' worth of a queue behind it, the company's running night shifts all year long for the first time in ages and expanding its printing capacity — all for a product declared dead in the early 1990s.

At the company's headquarters, a two-story entryway features a wall of fame: Nirvana's debut, "Bleach," hangs alongside Bob Stewart's "Every Picture Tells a Story." Frames hold Metallica's "Ride the Lightning," Joanna Newsom's "Ys," Cuban all-star band Buena Vista Social Club's debut, Father John Misty's "Fear Fun."

A virtual history of art of the album era, shelves contain samples, negatives, color separations and more. The more you dig, the more there is to discover, especially upstairs in the building dubbed "the house that Elvis built," where thousands of game-board-sized cardboard envelopes hold old color negatives and reference art.

Though not many remain from the company's early years, when it was born near Vermont Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard, the sheer volume of commissions represented is overwhelming.

"That market was growing like crazy," Jack Jr., the third of Jack Sr.'s four children, says of those years. Soon companies Ode, A&M and Elektra commissioned Stoughton to print the circular LP labels stamped into the middle of albums. Through work with Capitol, Stoughton pressed the iconic Apple label for the Beatles — two sides of a halved Granny Smith.

The company committed to the jacket business when it landed RCA, producing titles for budget country and big band labels including Pickwick, as well as "a whole bunch of Elvis stuff." Just as today, the slicks were mounted to cardboard. Eventually, Stoughton grew to making the whole product: their "old-style tip-on" jackets.



Putting an artistic spin on it
Vinyl revival a boon for album jacket printer

LIFESTYLE

By ANGELA HILL
Oakland Tribune

Groom-to-be Conor Healy has what he calls an “expansive” definition of something blue.

“It all started because I said I wanted blue ties. But it was a lot harder than I thought to get a certain shade of light blue,” says the San Ramon, Calif., banker, who has been eagerly engaged in every organizational aspect of his July wedding.

His fiancée, Heather Vilhauer, who fortunately likes the hue, too, because will it match her groom’s eyes, was amazed at his highly specific azure ambitions, taking him through multiple floors of Britex Fabrics in San Francisco to find the perfect shade. It was a decision that would naturally affect the color of the dresses for the seven bridesmaids, two junior bridesmaids and three flower girls, not to mention the table linens and decorations for their event.

“It kind of dominoed,” he says, “so I get teased for therefore having chosen the colors and the flowers.”

Indeed, such vital decisions usually are considered the bride’s domain. Yet as relationships evolve and more couples pay for their own celebrations, the notion of the “Bride’s Day” may be fading away into the figurative photo album of the past. Now, instead of merely getting fitted for the tux and just plain showing up on time, more grooms are helping choose the cake, the location, the music and more.

Many brides think it’s a turn for the better, not worse.

“It’s fun that he’s so excited,” Vilhauer says. “We talk through all these decisions, and it helps it go a lot more smoothly.”

Jolene Rae Harrington, of the “Here Comes The Guide” wedding-planning resource, says she’s actually seen two major shifts in bridal decision-making.

“When I started 18 years ago, back when most parents were paying for weddings, the mother of the bride had a lot of influence,” she says. “Then we started seeing working women showing their independence, and taking more control.”

“Now, as relationships have evolved and both bride and groom are often contributing financially, wedding planners aren’t dealing with the dynamic between the bride and mother or mother-in-law as much as a dynamic between the bride and groom.”

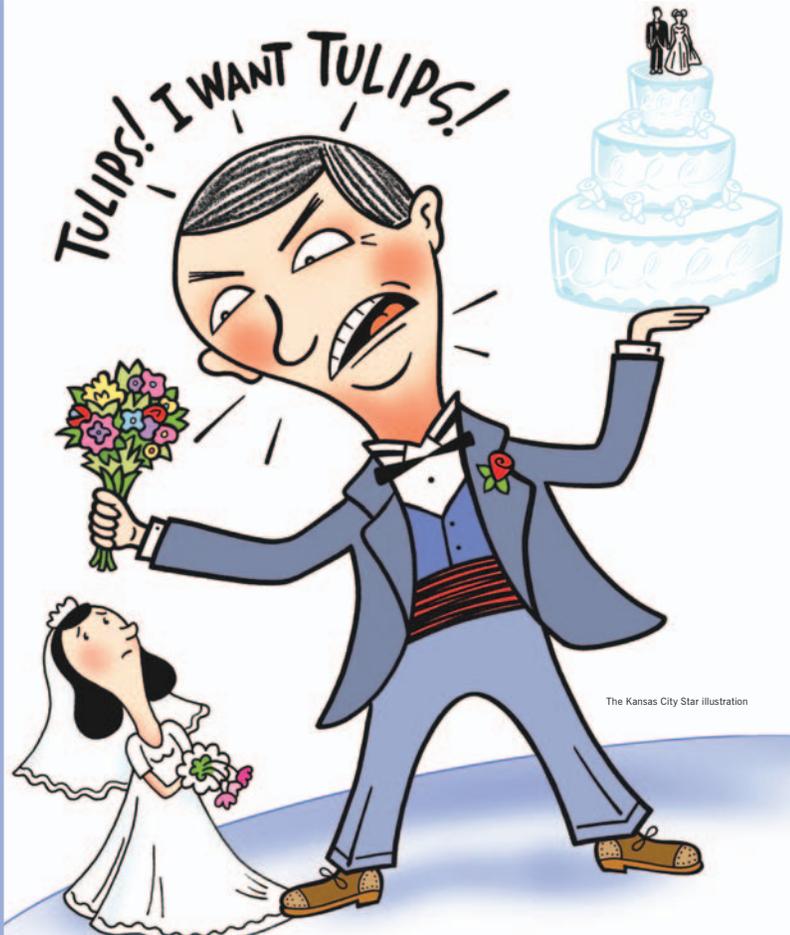
Harrington has noticed a trend of grooms’ engagement rings, and men are stepping up to the plate at bridal fairs, actually asking questions instead of grudgingly following their fiancées around to carry brochures and samples.

She even had one groom who wrapped the “Guide” book in pretty paper and gave it to his sweetie at Christmas to pop the big question. “Using a planning resource as a way of proposal? That’s a pretty good sign he’s gonna be involved,” Harrington says.

Lisette Saavedra, who is marrying her best friend and “best thumb-wag opponent,” Spizuoco, in mid-July, says the shift toward mutual responsibilities may be a reflection of the way we operate in society today.

“Women are having increasingly important career lives, relationships are partnerships, and it’s increasingly important to have a partner to meet you half way on this aspect, too,” says Saavedra, who works in property management. The San Francisco pair will celebrate their union with a barn dance and feast on a farm near Portland, Ore. They realized early on they’d want to try up the tasks according to individual talents.

“Lisette is great at decorating and de-



The Kansas City Star illustration

It's all about the groom

Men taking a more active role in planning big day

signing and working out the vision of the whole thing,” Spizuoco says. “I have no concern about flowers, the colors. So I chose to work on the invites, I designed the website — my first time, which was excruciating, by the way.”

They’re also viewing the event as a way to express their own identities rather than follow a cookie-cutter scenario. A friend is officiating, they’ll have a buffet-style country dinner, and the day before the wedding they’ll get the keys to the barn to go in and decorate.

“Everyone in our wedding party is gonna get in there and work on it, everyone’s involved,” Saavedra says. “I didn’t

want it to be my thing or his thing. We’re basically throwing an epic party for our family and friends.”

Most wedding planners see this as a good thing. Moira Gubbins, longtime owner of Parties, Parties, Parties in San Francisco, says most of her clients are in their 30s and 40s, well-established and know what they want in an event. She thinks it’s great to get both participants’ views.

“More and more, it’s not the woman driving everything,” she says. “Now men are into food choices and music. One groom I had recently remembered table linens from another wedding I did — they were an upscale gray, more masculine — and he reminded his bride of that.

“It will be guys coming in with photos on their phones of what they want, or actually sketching out what they want a cake to look like,” she says. “It’s really fun when a groom is an artist or architect.”

As to cake flavors, “Grooms are very vocal about what they like,” she says. “We’ll do tastings with 12 to 15 different plates and the grooms are plowing through it, and it’s a lot of fun.”

Katrina Rozelle Topp, owner of Katrina Rozelle Pastries & Desserts in Alamo and Oakland, California, has also noticed more enthusiasm about cakes from the male perspective.

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CROSSWORD AND COMICS

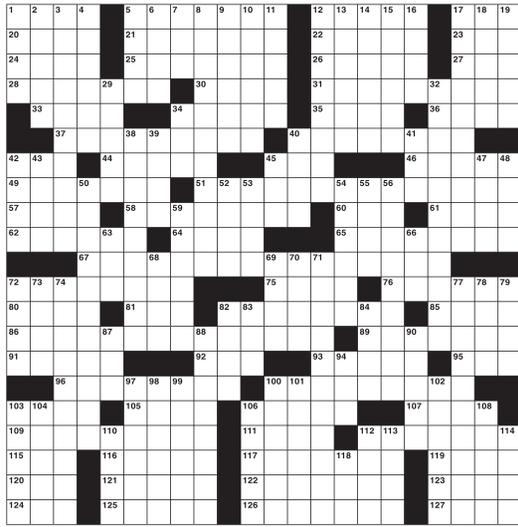
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

DOWNRIGHT TRICKY!
BY BYRON WALDEN/EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 It may be cut by an uppercut
 - 5 Drink cooler
 - 12 Map feature
 - 17 Nurse
 - 20 "From Here to Eternity" setting
 - 21 Stage-diving locale
 - 22 More than willing
 - 23 For
 - 24 Stoker of fear?
 - 25 Not flat or sharp
 - 26 Lay ___
 - 27 Politician with a like button?
 - 28 Adorns
 - 30 Minnesota player, familiarly
 - 31 Microwaveable snack
 - 33 Dress that drapes
 - 34 Hall-of-___
 - 35 Highly desirable to Uncle Sam?
 - 36 Wine-list heading
 - 37 Competitor in some county fairs
 - 40 Offer to buy unspecified stocks, say
 - 42 Lean-meat source
 - 44 Shortstop-turned-ESPN analyst
 - 45 "Thanks a ___!"
 - 46 Stylebook concern
 - 49 Area with XY coordinates?
 - 51 Routine checkup
 - 57 Desire
 - 58 Stay inactive over the summer
 - 60 Paris street
 - 61 Vend
 - 62 Moderator of the first Obama/McCain and Obama/Romney debates
 - 64 Early Chinese dynasty
 - 65 Groan's x-coordinate
 - 67 Statement after long deliberation
 - 72 Relayed
 - 75 Son of Aphrodite
 - 76 Common pool or store posting
 - 80 Word with house or boy
 - 81 Type
 - 82 "The Education of a Golfer" autobiographer
 - 85 What might give you a big head?
 - 86 Hollywood and Bollywood, e.g.
 - 89 Material in the hats of Buckingham Palace guards
 - 91 Byes
 - 92 Litter member
 - 93 Do-nothing
 - 95 Grp. battling consumer fraud
 - 96 1980s video game spinoff
 - 100 Drag staple
 - 103 Et ___
 - 105 Surf sound
 - 106 Ones trapped in boxes of their own making?
 - 107 Connecticut Ivy chain
 - 109 Southern grocery
 - 111 Harry Potter mark
 - 112 Downloader's directive
 - 115 Agents' org.
 - 116 Black ___
 - 117 Post-Weimar period
 - 119 Terrace-farming pioneers
 - 120 Mantel piece
 - 121 "Walk Away ___" (1966 hit)
 - 122 "Absolutely Fabulous," e.g.
 - 123 "JAG" spinoff
 - 124 Fail to keep up
 - 125 Beyond piqued
 - 126 Allow to continue
 - 127 H.S. proficiency exams
 - 15 Part of a hockey goalie's equipment
 - 16 "Cogito, ___ sum"
 - 17 Ray-finned fishes of the Southwest U.S.
 - 18 Ticked off
 - 19 Versifiers
 - 29 Health care giant with a Tree of Life logo
 - 32 Major African humanitarian concern of the 2000s
 - 34 Hollywood setting; Abbr.
 - 38 Like the contents of many attics
 - 39 Traitor Aldrich
 - 40 Nastiness
 - 41 Tour transport
 - 42 Actor Jannings
 - 43 Chess ending
 - 45 '80s TV star who later pitched Snickers
 - 47 Some square dancers
 - 48 "___ Enchanted" (2004 film)
 - 50 1982 holiday country hit by Alabama
 - 52 1960s pop singer
 - 53 Tiny battery
 - 54 Laud
 - 55 LAX, O'Hare and others
 - 56 "Of course!"
 - 59 Grammy-nominated 1998 hit for Alanis Morissette
 - 63 New Year's ___
 - 66 Bill's partner
 - 68 Jell-O-maker
 - 69 Actress Moore
 - 70 Highland tongue
 - 71 "Right away, boss"
 - 72 Kaput

DOWN

- 1 ___ salad
- 2 Proverbial speedsters
- 3 "That's what my Spidey sense told me"
- 4 Quince, e.g.
- 5 Reassuring reply
- 6 Reasons to say no
- 7 Subj. of a thought experiment
- 8 Lament about modern men
- 9 When computers work
- 10 Trade cross words
- 11 C,H,I,O
- 12 European coastal plant once thought to be an aphrodisiac
- 13 Pachelbel classic, familiarly
- 14 When Tatum O'Neal won her Oscar



- 73 "Celeste Aida," for one
- 74 Enterprise for Morton
- 77 Bad way to be caught
- 78 Eats
- 79 Collect on the surface, in chemistry
- 82 Floor
- 83 Dadaism pioneer
- 84 Up to snuff
- 87 AOL, e.g., for short
- 88 Item for a houseguest
- 90 Fast-food chain with the Ultimate Angus sandwich
- 94 One who drills, fills and bills; Abbr.
- 97 Up
- 98 Directing a shell
- 99 Down Easter
- 100 Rogue
- 101 The ___ Mets
- 102 Half a star, maybe
- 103 Label for pans?
- 104 House entered near the autumnal equinox
- 106 "All In" network
- 108 Spanish hero whose 113-Down is represented etymologically six times in this puzzle
- 110 ___ Torres, four-time Olympic swimming gold medalist
- 112 Press
- 113 Moniker
- 114 Colleen
- 118 Green; Prefix

GUNSTON STREET



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

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



KNOWLEDGE

IS POWER.

THE RUPTURED DUCK

STRIPES CENTRAL

Stripes BLOGS

Get your fair share from our award-winning journalists at Stripes.com/blogs.

PACIFIC SPORTSBLOG

PACIFIC STORM TRACKER

OMBUDSMAN

GADGETS & CHARTS



MARK RANDALL, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL/CT

Jack Miller shows off his See2pee toilet light in the bathroom of House of Zen Dali, a boutique in Delray Beach, Fla.

Light up a bowl legally with invention See2pee

By MIRIAM VALVERDE
Sun Sentinel

Jack Miller caught a glimpse of himself in the mirror a few years ago, wearing a blue LED neckpiece. Naturally, he thought: "This should be in my toilet."

Not because he didn't like it, but because the 62-year-old bathroom designer thought that lighting up the toilet bowl would make those nighttime trips a little easier.

Or, as he puts it now, the light would "give men a clear target and women a safe landing."

Before long, Miller had a prototype for "See2pee," a battery-operated light that hooks to the toilet bowl and illuminates when someone walks within 8 feet.

The Boynton Beach, Fla., resident wants to produce 5,000 units of See2pee and has turned to a crowdfunding platform, indiegogo.com, to raise some of the money he needs.

The site serves as a tool for entrepreneurs like Miller to raise money from friends and strangers. Miller's goal is to raise at least \$33,333. He said it will cost him about \$70,000 to manufacture the initial 5,000 units in China, and an investor has agreed to cover any amount he needs beyond \$33,333,

Miller said.

"No one likes to turn bright lights on at night," he said. "It's great for children, too. Sometimes they wet the bed because they're afraid to get up and go in the dark. This solves that problem."

Although the light stays on for only 30 seconds, a slight movement will activate it again, Miller said. And people can choose a color to do their business by: blue or green.

There are other products out there similar to See2pee, but some turn on only when the toilet lid is up, Miller said. He is awaiting a response to the patent application he submitted about two years ago.

Until he gets it, he isn't selling See2pee, but he does have a prototype at a boutique in downtown Delray Beach, Fla.

Jen Scoz, owner of House of Zen Dali, said the blue toilet light fascinates her customers.

"They say, 'Wow, where can I get one like that?'" she said.

Miller eventually plans to sell his gadget on his website, see2pee.com, for about \$30.

If he doesn't raise at least \$33,333, he says, he'll give everyone their money back. The campaign's last day is July 20.

Check out the campaign's progress at www.indiegogo.com/projects/see2pee-2

GADGET WATCH

Grill tool sounds alert when food needs attention

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

With grilling season in full swing, the Oregon Scientific Grill-Right Bluetooth BBQ Thermometer is as timely a gadget as I can write about.

If you're anything like me, you love to grill. If you're a lot like me, you often bring in the food only to return it to the grill for a few additional minutes.

If we all we want to do that less, we should invest in this thermometer.

The device connects a probe to whatever you might be cooking and displays the temperature on the device's 3.25-inch display, as well as sending the information to your iOS or Android device. This is done with a Bluetooth connection and the free Grill Right app (iTunes and Google play) on your smartphone.

The pre-set entire temperature alerts (eight choices) included all the options I needed. Go to the Meat Profile mode and choose what's for dinner. Among the eight choices are chicken, fish, hamburgers and beef.

It also can be programmed for a specific length of time or an exact temperature before it will send an alert.

You can use two probes at once, but if you use only one, make sure it's in the top socket on the right side of the display. Then just put the other end to the closest part of the center of whatever you are cooking.

It's important to know that the Grill-Right is not fireproof. But the 7-inch metal probes connecting it to the meat are, with a temperature range of 32 degrees to 572 degrees. The device is made of a heat-resistant material and has a 39-inch fire safe cable to connect the two.

The Grill-Right measures 3.54-by-3.54-by-1.20 inches and works off a pair of AA batteries (included) and includes one probe. Extras can be purchased.

Connecting it to your smartphone is simple. Just make the Bluetooth connection, start the app and you're all set. You also can use the Grill-Right as a standalone device.

Online: oregonscientific.com, \$55.50

Logitech's Bluetooth audio adapter keeps your other electronic gadgets from becoming dust collectors. In seconds, it can transform an old plug-only speaker into an up-to-date Bluetooth speaker.



SOL REPUBLIC/MCT

The setup is simple; pair up the device with your smartphone, tablet or whatever Bluetooth source your audio will come from, then plug in the included cable to connect the speaker.

The cable has RCA and 3.5mm cables, which can be run in either direction.

You have your choice of standalone speakers, a home stereo system or an A/V receiver.

A power cable is included, and you'll get a range of about 50 feet from your music source to the adapter.

Online: logitech.com; \$39.99

The Sol Republic Tracks Air on-ear wireless headphones look great and sound fantastic.

They are built with a unique headband track system to ensure you get the right fit, no matter how big or small your head is. Each speaker slides onto the headbands track and can be positioned for comfort.

The right speaker (called Sound Engines by the company) has a microUSB port to charge the internal rechargeable battery for up to 15 hours of use. A solid green light indicates that charging is done.

After it's charged, make your wireless connection with Bluetooth or NFC pairing using the multi-functional button on the right speaker, which also can be used for charging tracks.

This side also has power and volume controls, and a microphone for hands-free calls.

I used them on a recent cross-country flight. After 2½ hours, the only reason they came off my head was that the flight had landed.

Both the sound and comfort from the padded ear cups scored high marks in my book.

Another cool feature is the ability to connect a pair of devices to the headphones simultaneously.

Online: solrepublic.com; \$199, available in black, blue, red and white



LOGITECH/MCT

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for July 2:

1. "Trigga" (Deluxe Version), Trey Songz
2. "Don't Kill the Magic," MAGIC!
3. "My Everything" (Deluxe), Ariana Grande
4. "x" (Deluxe Edition), Ed Sheeran
5. "No Other Name" (Deluxe Edition [Live]), Hillsong Worship
6. "Isolate and Medicate" (Deluxe Edition), Seether
7. "In the Lonely Hour" (Deluxe Version), Sam Smith
8. "Remedy," Old Crow Medicine Show
9. "Paula," Robin Thicke
10. "Thanks for Listening," Colt Ford

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from June 23-29:

1. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
2. "Rude," MAGIC!
3. "Problem," Ariana Grande
4. "Summer," Calvin Harris
5. "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
6. "Latch," Disclosure
7. "Wiggle" (feat. Snoop Dogg), Jason Derulo
8. "Classic," MKTO
9. "Sing," Ed Sheeran
10. "Wasted," Tiesto

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for July 2:

1. "Rio 2"
2. "The LEGO Movie"
3. "300: Rise of an Empire"
4. "Lone Survivor"
5. "Transcendence"
6. "The Grand Budapest Hotel"
7. "They Came Together"
8. "Non-Stop"
9. "Rio 1 & Rio 2 Double Feature"
10. "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

The editors of Game Informer ranks the top 10 games from E3 2014:

1. "Evolve," PS4, Xbox One, PC
2. "Batman: Arkham Knight," PS4, Xbox One, PC
3. "Destiny," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, Xbox 360
4. "The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt," PS4, Xbox One, PC
5. "No Man's Sky," PS4
6. "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare," PS4, Xbox One, PC
7. "For Cry 4," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, Xbox 360, PC
8. "Bloodborne," PS4
9. "Assassin's Creed Unity," PS4, Xbox One, PC
10. "Alan Wake 2," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, Xbox 360, PC

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for July 2:

- ANDROID
1. Topia World Builder
 2. Disney Checkout Challenge
 3. The Ministry of Silly Walks
 4. The Rhythm of Fighters
 5. Heads Up!

Top 5 paid apps for July 2:

- APPLE
1. Heads Up!
 2. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
 3. Stickman Soccer 2014
 4. Afterlight
 5. Scanner Pro by Readfile

— Compiled by MCT

BOOKS

A heart-pounding tale of intrigue

Kidnappers turn the war on terror against Americans in 'The Abduction'

By TISH WELLS

McClatchy Washington Bureau

In Jonathan Holt's first book, he introduced readers to Capt. Kat Tupo of the Venice Carabinieri (policer). She and 2nd Lt. Holly Boland make two interesting sleuths, along with the reclusive Daniele Barbo, creator of Carnivia, an elaborate online world that reflects Venice itself.

His newest novel, "The Abduction" deals with the kidnapping of an American girl, interrogation techniques used by the United States in the war on terror, drugs and, on the side plot, the aftermath of World War II in Italy.

This book is not for the weak-stomached. While the plotting is not as strong as the previous

"The Abomination," the visual imagery of torture and sadism is unsettling.

Most of the novel deals with the kidnapping of 16-year-old Mia Elston, daughter of a U.S. officer, and her torture (or "enhanced interrogation," à la Guantanamo).

The kidnappers videotape each brutal interrogation session, saying that to the United States such actions are "NOT TORTURE," then broadcast it on the Internet.

At one point, they start live webcasting their sessions, starting with a re-creation of the famous image from Abu Ghraib using a hooded Mia holding electrical wires.

Finally, it culminates.

"A title appeared. WATERBOARDING IS NOT TORTURE. AT 9 P.M. TONIGHT SHE WILL

NOT BE TORTURED.

"There was a moment's stunned silence, followed by a sound that came from the throats of every single person in the room — a kind of murmured gasp, a collective groan of despair that was also an acknowledgement that this had been always going to happen, if they failed to find her.

"And now they had failed, for it was upon them."

The police and the world watch it live.

Like in the earlier novel, Holt does a good job of winding the personal lives and stories of all his characters with the major story.

Tupo is living through the aftermath of having an affair with her male superior and dealing with the sexist consequences.

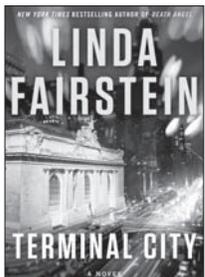
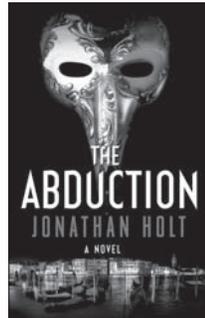
Boland has to deal with the military culture, and her own personal history.

Barbo is slowly coming out of his computer-nerd shell but is still fragile. He is a less fully-realized character this time around.

Hopefully the next novel will have more about him, and less fascination with technology, torture and interrogation techniques, many gleaned from authentic documents released to the American Civil Liberties Union in 2009.

Holt uses computer technology, social media and military jargon skillfully in service to his plotting, but the real fascination in the series is with the online world of Carnivia.

And there isn't enough of it.



Terminal City

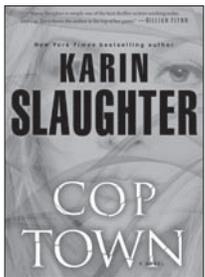
Linda Fairstein

An ongoing pleasure in the novels about assistant district attorney Alexandra "Alex" Cooper is the author's ability to weave in bits of little-known history about New York City into her stories.

These tales of old New York aren't window dressing but become part of the action, moving the plot along while providing glimpses of the Big Apple that many people never see. Grand Central Terminal — "the world's loveliest station" — makes an exciting backdrop as "Terminal City" delivers plenty of suspense, intrigue and twists in the hunt for a killer. Fairstein's latest novel also is a bit of a departure for this series. Since much of the action takes place in or around Grand Central, "Terminal City" works more as a tense police procedural than a legal thriller with Alex only in court for a few scenes.

Fairstein maintains the integrity of Grand Central's history while keeping the solid plot on track. "Terminal City" — which also was Grand Central's nickname in its early years — is one of Fairstein's strongest novels in her always reliable series.

—Oline H. Cogdill/AP



Cop Town

Karin Slaughter

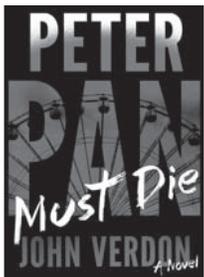
Slaughter wraps an intense thriller around a legacy of sexism, race relations and politics in the engrossing "Cop Town."

Slaughter, author of the Will Trent best-sellers, keeps her first standalone novel from becoming a history lesson by investing it with a gritty, action-packed plot and strong, believable characters.

"Cop Town" opens in 1974, when the appointment of a new public safety commissioner in Atlanta — the first black man to hold such a position — promised that change is coming. But in the police department's rank and file, the good of 'boy attitude' thrived. New female recruits were verbally harassed, obscene drawings were placed on the door of their small changing room, and they were ignored during investigations.

Slaughter's meticulous research of the era infuses "Cop Town" with details that illustrate the tension among the officers who resent that their ranks now include women. The author's evocative look at Atlanta during a formative decade for the city adds to the plot.

—Oline H. Cogdill/AP



Peter Pan Must Die

John Verdon

Verdon's skillful melding of mystery with police procedural and psychological thriller brings a unique spin to his series about retired NYPD homicide Detective Dave Gurney.

"Peter Pan Must Die" again presents Dave with a seemingly insurmountable problem — a murder that, on the surface, was impossible to perform. Verdon expertly takes the novel through a labyrinth of outlandish twists that are somehow believable.

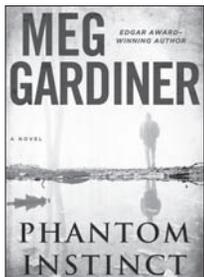
Dave is asked by former colleague Jack Hardwick to help overturn the murder conviction of Kay Spalter, who is in prison for shooting her wealthy husband, Carl, at his mother's funeral.

Jack wants Dave to find irregularities in the investigation that would lead to an appeal. But Dave wants to find out what happened, whether that points to Jack's client or another suspect.

Dave's investigation leads him to several people who had a grudge against the victim.

While a strong crime fiction story fuels "Peter Pan Must Die," the dynamics between Dave and his wife, Madeleine, continue to be the center of Verdon's series.

—Oline H. Cogdill/AP



Phantom Instinct

Meg Gardiner

Gardiner's latest thriller begins with a shootout at the club where Harper Flynn works. Harper's boyfriend is killed, a police officer is severely wounded, the bar burns to the ground and leaves no evidence of how the gunmen ended the highly secure building.

The official report claims the two gunmen who attacked the bar were killed in the fire. But both Harper and the injured cop swear there's a third killer, and they work together to prove his existence. And we're off! "Phantom Instinct" is simply a fantastic story, told at breakneck speed.

Gardiner is one of the best thriller writers around, and this is arguably her best work yet. "Phantom Instinct" is full of twists and quirks. For example, the cop, Aiden, has Fregoli syndrome as a result of his injuries. It's a brain disorder that causes the sufferer to believe that different people are actually the same person in disguise. Harper herself has a complicated past, and it appears to not be a coincidence that she was working on the night of the attack. But to say more would ruin the first of many reveals.

—Michelle Scheraga/AP

Starbucks chair co-writing book on military vets

Starbucks chairman Howard Schultz is collaborating on a book about veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"For Love of Country: What Our Veterans Can Teach Us About Citizenship, Heroism, and Sacrifice" will be released by Alfred A. Knopf on Nov. 4. The book will be co-written by Washington Post correspondent and editor Rajiv Chandrasekaran.

"Given that less than 1 percent of our country has served in the military conflicts of the last decade, this is a time in America when it's crucial to bridge the divide in our society between our civilian and military populations," Schultz said in a statement issued Monday by the publisher.

The book will tell of deeds both on the battlefield and back home, whether an orthopedic surgeon who enlisted at age 60 and saved numerous lives or a military spouse helping wives of severely wounded soldiers.

Schultz has been a prominent advocate for veterans, saying that too little has been done for them once their service was completed. He has pledged to hire 10,000 veterans and military spouses and earlier this year donated \$30 million for research into post-traumatic stress syndrome and brain trauma.

According to Knopf, a "majority" of author proceeds will be donated to veteran services organizations.

From The Associated Press

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Most union members in public sector

By Tom Raum
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Unions representing government workers are expanding while organized labor has been shedding private sector members over the past half-century.

A majority of union members today now have ties to a government entity, at the federal, state or local levels.

Roughly 1-in-3 public sector workers is a union member, compared with about 1-in-15 for the private sector workforce, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Overall, 11.3 percent of wage and salary workers in the United States are unionized, down from a peak of 35 percent during the mid-1950s in the strong post-World War II recovery.

The typical union worker now is more likely to be an educator, office worker or food or service industry employee rather than a

construction worker, autoworker, electrician or mechanic. Far more women than men are among the union-label ranks.

In a blow to public sector unions, the Supreme Court ruled this week that thousands of health care workers in Illinois who are paid by the state cannot be required to pay fees that help cover a union's cost of collective bargaining.

The justices said the practice violates the First Amendment rights of nonmembers who disagree with stances taken by unions.

The ruling was narrowly drawn, but it could reverberate through the universe of unions that represent government workers. The case involved home-care workers for disabled people who are paid by Medicaid funds administered by the state.

Also in June, a California judge declared unconstitutional the state's teacher tenure, dismissal

and layoff laws. The judge ordered a stay of the decision, pending an appeal by the state and teachers union.

"The basic structure of the labor union movement has changed, reflecting changes in the economy," said Ross Baker, a political science professor at Rutgers University. "Manufacturing is a diminishing segment of the economy. Also, a lot of the manufacturing that's being done today is being done nonunion."

Union members continue to be a powerful political force in politics, and Baker said he didn't see the role of unions diminishing. "I just think the colors of the collars are changing," Baker said.

In 2013, 14.5 million workers belonged to a union, about the same as the year before. In 1983, the first year for which comparable figures are available, there were 17.7 million union workers.

The largest union is the National Education Association, with 3.2

million members. It represents public school teachers, administrators and students preparing to become teachers.

Next is the 2.1-million Service Employees International Union. About half its members work in the public sector.

The American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees has 1.6 million, followed by the American Federation of Teachers with 1.5 million and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters with 1.4 million.

There are 1.3 million members in the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

Until four years ago, the unionization rate was far higher in the private sector than in the public sector. Now the roles are reversed.

A 2013 Gallup poll showed that 54 percent of Americans said they approved of labor unions, down from the all-time high of 75 percent in both 1953 and 1957.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 7)	\$1,3996
Dollar buys (July 7)	€0.7145
British pound (July 7)	\$1.76
Japanese yen (July 7)	¥99.00
South Korean won (July 7)	₩985.00

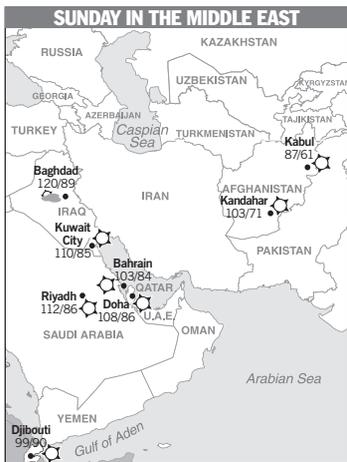
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1,1158
Canada (dollar)	1.0654
China (Yuan)	6.2086
Denmark (Krone)	6.4861
Egypt (Pound)	7.1056
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1,3592/0.7357
Hungary (Forint)	278.38
Israel (Shekel)	3.4268
Japan (Yen)	102.06
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2819
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.4349
Philippines (Peso)	43.45
Poland (Zloty)	3.00
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2458
South Korea (Won)	1,009.25
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8945
Thailand (Baht)	32.38
Turkey (Lira)	1,1334

(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 your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one euro, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.01
90-day bond	3.47

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr				
Ablene, Texas	94	71	Pdly	Chatanooga	89	65	Cir	Fort Wayne	84	69	Pdly	Louisville	89	69	Pdly	Pocatello	97	66	Cir
Akron, Ohio	81	64	Pdly	Cheyenne	89	59	Cir	Fresno	105	73	Pdly	Lubbock	91	68	Pdly	Portland, Maine	84	60	Pdly
Albany, N.Y.	84	64	Cir	Chicago	88	71	Cldy	Goodland	100	65	Cir	Macon	91	68	Pdly	Portland, Ore.	86	62	Pdly
Albuquerque	91	67	Pdly	Cincinnati	85	67	Cldy	Grand Junction	82	69	Cir	Madison	86	67	Cir	Rapid City	80	61	Pdly
Allentown, Pa.	85	61	Cir	Cleveland	82	67	Pdly	Grand Rapids	82	69	Cir	Medford	99	64	Pdly	Reno	100	66	Pdly
Amarillo	94	67	Pdly	Colorado Springs	93	61	Pdly	Great Falls	88	65	Cir	Memphis	90	71	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	88	65	Pdly
Anchorage	67	54	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	91	69	Pdly	Green Bay	82	64	Cir	Miami Beach	88	78	Cir	Richmond	88	64	Pdly
Ashville	82	61	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	84	66	Pdly	Greensboro, N.C.	87	64	Pdly	Midland-Odesa	96	69	Pdly	Reno	100	66	Pdly
Atlanta	87	69	Pdly	Columbus, Ohio	84	66	Pdly	Harrisburg	95	62	Pdly	Milwaukee	86	68	Pdly	Richmond	88	64	Pdly
Atlantic City	85	65	Cir	Concord, N.H.	84	59	Cir	Hartford	87	66	Cir	Miss-St Paul	89	67	Pdly	Roanoke	87	64	Cir
Austin	93	62	Cir	Corpus Christi	94	75	Cir	Helena	92	56	Cir	Mpls-St Paul	89	67	Pdly	Rochester	82	66	Cir
Baltimore	85	66	Cir	Dallas-Ft Worth	97	75	Cir	Honolulu	88	75	Pdly	Mobile	92	72	Pdly	Rockford	67	70	Cir
Baton Rouge	93	62	Cir	Dayton	83	67	Cldy	Houston	92	73	Pdly	Montgomery	91	70	Pdly	Sacramento	97	61	Cir
Bismarck	88	69	Pdly	Daytona Beach	91	75	Cir	Huntsville	90	66	Pdly	Nashville	89	67	Cir	St Louis	91	74	Pdly
Boise	97	59	Cir	Denver	96	63	Pdly	Indianapolis	95	68	Pdly	New Orleans	92	75	Cir	St Petersburg	89	73	Cir
Boston	83	67	Cir	Des Moines	93	69	Pdly	Jackson, Miss.	91	66	Cir	New York City	86	67	Cir	St Thomas	89	69	Pdly
Bridgport	81	64	Cir	Duluth	85	61	Cir	Jacksonville	91	73	Cir	Norfolk	85	69	Cir	Salem, Ore.	87	59	Pdly
Brownsville	93	76	Pdly	El Paso	94	76	Pdly	Kansas City	95	73	Cir	North Platte	95	64	Pdly	Salt Lake City	89	89	Cir
Buffalo	80	66	Cir	Elkins	83	60	Cir	Key West	88	64	Cir	Omaha	95	69	Pdly	San Antonio	93	74	Pdly
Burlington, Vt.	83	61	Pdly	Erie	79	67	Pdly	Knoxville	88	64	Cir	Orlando	93	74	Rain	San Diego	78	69	Pdly
Caribou, Maine	77	61	Cir	Fairbanks	83	60	Cir	Lake Charles	90	74	Cir	Paducah	90	69	Pdly	San Francisco	75	58	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	88	70	Pdly	Fargo	85	66	Pdly	Lansing	84	70	Cir	Panama City	90	69	Pdly	San Jose	85	61	Pdly
Charlotte, N.C.	87	64	Cir	Flagstaff	78	54	Rain	Las Vegas	103	87	Cir	Pendleton	91	63	Cir	Santa Fe	89	59	Pdly
Chicago	88	70	Pdly	Fort Smith	93	72	Pdly	Las Vegas	103	87	Cir	Peoria	87	66	Pdly	St. St. Marie	72	59	Rain
Cincinnati	85	67	Cir	Fort Smith	93	72	Pdly	Lincoln	96	69	Pdly	Philadelphia	87	68	Cir	Savannah	89	71	Pdly
Cleveland	82	67	Pdly	Fort Smith	93	72	Pdly	Little Rock	92	61	Pdly	Phoenix	105	89	Pdly	Seattle	80	61	Cir
Columbus, Ohio	84	66	Pdly	Fort Smith	93	72	Pdly	Los Angeles	82	65	Pdly	Pittsburgh	82	63	Cir	Shreveport	93	72	Pdly

National temperature extremes
Hi: Fri., 119, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Fri., 32, Spincik Lake, Mich.

INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

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

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

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

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

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

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

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

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

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

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

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

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



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

needs of their respective military communities.

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

STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Hero

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

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Average racing

Subway Firecracker 250

At Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Beach, Fla.
(Start position in parentheses)
 1. (13) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 103 laps, 44:58.733 (winning), 201.000
 2. (6) Regan Smith, Chevrolet, 103, 44:58.800
 3. (21) Ryan Reed, Chevrolet, 103, 76.6, 41:58.800
 4. (10) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 103, 43:07.050
 5. (10) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 103, 43:07.050
 6. (11) Joey Logano, Ford, 103, 76.9, 0, 52.24.80
 7. (9) Darrrell Wallace Jr., Toyota, 103, 58.9, 0, 52.28.810
 8. (36) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 103, 59.0, 0, 52.27.710
 9. (2) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 102, 102.7, 36, 59.30.360
 10. (10) Mike Wallace, Dodge, 103, 73, 34, 54, 0, 52.27.710
 11. (17) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 103, 99.2, 33, 54, 0, 52.27.710
 12. (3) Chris Buescher, Ford, 103, 109.3, 32, 52.47.850
 13. (8) Derrick Coe, Chevrolet, 103, 61.6, 31, 52.34.500
 14. (18) James Buescher, Toyota, 103, 81.6, 30, 52.32.825
 15. (10) Ryan Sauter, Toyota, 103, 84.1, 0, 52.44.500
 16. (15) Brian Scott, Chevrolet, 103, 84.1, 0, 52.44.500
 17. (5) Joey Busch, Toyota, 103, 107.9, 0, 51.72.000
 18. (7) John Wes Townley, Toyota, 103, 66.7, 0, 51.72.000
 19. (14) Dakoda Armstrong, Ford, 103, 83.5, 26, 52.47.450
 20. (14) Dakoda Armstrong, Chevrolet, 103, 103.7, 25, 52.35.500
 21. (20) Steven Sadler, Toyota, 103, 94.5, 24, 52.27.000
 22. (31) David Ragun, Ford, 103, 68.6, 0, 52.12.000
 23. (26) Dylan Kwasienski, Chevrolet, 103, 74.2, 20, 52.27.710
 24. (30) David Starr, Toyota, 103, 65.3, 11, 52.12.000
 25. (12) Chad Bow, Chevrolet, 103, 54.2, 19, 51.60.000
 26. (40) Josh Nemechek, Toyota, 102, 58.2, 0, 51.85.870
 27. (34) Brendan Gaughan, Chevrolet, 102, 72.2, 17, 52.16.950
 28. (4) Brandon Inge, Chevrolet, 101, 36.6, 0, 52.17.500
 29. (32) Matt DiBenedetto, Chevrolet, 101, 45, 14, 21, 34.5
 30. (28) Scott Lagasse Jr., Toyota, 101, 40, 14, 21, 34.5
 31. (32) Josh Wise, Chevrolet, 100, 39.8, 0, 52.12.000
 32. (33) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 100, 39.8, 0, 52.12.000
 33. (34) Carlos Contreras, Chevrolet, 99, 33.6, 10, 52.09.950
 34. (29) L.J. Veysey, Dodge, accident, 98, 32.6, 8, 51.97.000
 35. (29) L.J. Veysey, Dodge, accident, 98, 32.6, 8, 51.97.000
 36. (1) Joey Gas, Chevrolet, 92, 24.9, 7, 51.86.625
 37. (29) Mike Bliss, Toyota, over-entire, 68, 32, 51.91.610
 38. (22) Mike Harmon, Dodge, over-entire, 68, 32, 51.91.610
 39. (37) Robert Richardson Jr., Chevrolet, over-entire, 68, 32, 51.91.610

Robert Richardson Jr., Chevrolet, over-entire, 68, 32, 51.91.610

Fastest Lap: 1:10.23

Margin of Victory: 0.020 seconds.

Caution Flags: 3 for 20 laps.

Lead Changes: 14 among 11 drivers.

Key Statistics: 103 laps; 6 cautions; 35; 2: Armstrong; 36: Gaughan; 37: 39: Scott; 40: K. Busch; 41: G. Larson; 42: 43: 44: 45: 46: 47: 48: 49: 50: 51: 52: 53: 54: 55: 56: 57: 58: 59: 60: 61: 62: 63: 64: 65: 66: 67: 68: 69: 70: 71: 72: 73: 74: 75: 76: 77: 78: 79: 80: 81: 82: 83: 84: 85: 86: 87: 88: 89: 90: 91: 92: 93: 94: 95: 96: 97: 98: 99: 100: 101: 102: 103: 104: 105: 106: 107: 108: 109: 110: 111: 112: 113: 114: 115: 116: 117: 118: 119: 120: 121: 122: 123: 124: 125: 126: 127: 128: 129: 130: 131: 132: 133: 134: 135: 136: 137: 138: 139: 140: 141: 142: 143: 144: 145: 146: 147: 148: 149: 150: 151: 152: 153: 154: 155: 156: 157: 158: 159: 160: 161: 162: 163: 164: 165: 166: 167: 168: 169: 170: 171: 172: 173: 174: 175: 176: 177: 178: 179: 180: 181: 182: 183: 184: 185: 186: 187: 188: 189: 190: 191: 192: 193: 194: 195: 196: 197: 198: 199: 200: 201: 202: 203: 204: 205: 206: 207: 208: 209: 210: 211: 212: 213: 214: 215: 216: 217: 218: 219: 220: 221: 222: 223: 224: 225: 226: 227: 228: 229: 230: 231: 232: 233: 234: 235: 236: 237: 238: 239: 240: 241: 242: 243: 244: 245: 246: 247: 248: 249: 250: 251: 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SPORTS BRIEFS

Kahne edges Smith in Nationwide race

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — From his perch atop Regan Smith's pit box, team owner Dale Earnhardt Jr. had a clear view of the Daytona International Speedway finish line.

He thought he was about to watch Smith win as his driver pulled away from the pack on the final lap Friday night in the Nationwide Series race. Then Kasey Kahne came charging through the outside lane, pulled alongside Smith and nipped him at the finish line.

No worries for Earnhardt: Kahne also was in one of JR Motorsports' Chevrolets.

"It was just glad that it was one of our cars when I saw somebody flying by on the top," Earnhardt said. "When I got a glimpse of it, I was happy to see it was (Kahne)."

It was Kahne's first Nationwide victory since a 2007 win at Bristol while driving for Ray Evernham.

He hoped to translate it into another victory Saturday night in the Sprint Cup Series as Kahne looks for his first win of the season. Kahne is the only driver of the four Hendrick Motorsports drivers yet to win this season.

"This will carry. I haven't won in a while. To win in anything is good," Kahne said. "When I first came into this series in '02, I struggled to pick up stock cars. I'd go and race my sprint car and could still win in sprint car races and I'd come back feeling like I could win ... I'd run 15th or 20th, but I still felt way better coming back into that race after running my sprint car. Any momentum is good momentum."

Kahne was 12th on a restart with three laps to go when Chase Elliott, another JR Motorsports driver, sputtered at the front of the field when the race went to green. It stacked up traffic behind Elliott and triggered a four-car crash that halted the restart.

Kahne maneuvered his way through the accident and found



TERRY RENNA/AP

Kasey Kahne celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Nationwide series race Friday at Daytona International Speedway.

himself eighth when the race resumed for a two-lap overtime sprint to the finish. He weaved his way through traffic, but didn't appear to be in the mix for a shot at the win as Smith pulled away from the pack.

But as the field hurtled through the final turn, Kyle Larson jumped out of line and made it three-wide behind Smith.

Kahne moved into the top lane and, using a push from Ryan Sieg, charged alongside Smith and beat him to the line by 0.21 seconds.

It was the sixth win this season for JR Motorsports, and second consecutive following Kevin

Harvick's victory last week at Kentucky.

Ryan Reed finished a career-best fourth and was followed by Larson, Joey Logano and Darrell Wallace Jr. The top 10 was rounded out by Jeremy Clements, Trevor Bayne and Mike Wallace.

Kittel wins first stage of Tour de France

HARROGATE, England — Marcel Kittel of Germany won the first stage of the Tour de France in a crash-marred bunch sprint in front of royalty in the

English countryside on Saturday.

After sprint rival Mark Cavendish fell in a late crash, Kittel won the 118-mile run along rocky, grassy hills from Leeds to Harrogate. The German raised his arms skyward and cried after he edged Peter Sagan of Slovakia in second, and Ramunas Navardauskas of Lithuania in third.

Many British fans were hoping for a win by Cavendish, a native of the Isle of Man, whose mother is from Harrogate. Prime Minister David Cameron, Princes William and Harry, and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, were among throngs of British fans who lined the route, a testament to the cycling craze in the U.K.

England hosts the first three stages of this 101st Tour before riders enter France on Tuesday. In all, the 198 riders are to cover 2,277 miles of road before the July 27 finish in Paris.

AP source: Knicks offer Anthony max contract

NEW YORK — The Knicks would coast to let Carmelo Anthony know they want him to stay in New York.

Team officials traveled to Los Angeles on Thursday night to meet with the free agent and offered him the maximum contract allowable, a person with knowledge of the details said.

Team President Phil Jackson and general manager Steve Mills were part of the meeting but not Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan, an official with knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details of the meeting were to remain private.

The meeting was first reported by ESPN.

Anthony was in Los Angeles to meet with the Lakers, who are among the teams hoping to convince the All-Star forward to leave New York. Anthony already visited Chicago, Houston and Dallas this week.

The Knicks can offer him the largest contract, nearly \$130 million over five years, though Jackson has said he hopes Anthony would take less than a maximum deal. Anthony had previously said he would be willing to do so if it would help build a winning team, but the Knicks have made it clear the money won't be an object.

Other teams can offer Anthony slightly less than \$100 million in a four-year deal, according to NBA rules.

Contracts can't be signed until July 10, so Anthony is under no rush to make a decision. But the Knicks apparently wanted to make sure they got to make a final pitch after his free agency tour.

US tennis player has Hodgkin's lymphoma

LONDON — Victoria Duval, an 18-year-old American tennis player, has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma but expects to make a full recovery within months after undergoing treatment for the cancer.

Duval, who lost in the second round at Wimbledon last week, was diagnosed after a biopsy was taken in England before Wimbledon and further tests in the United States confirmed the results, her management team said Friday.

"It is with a heavy heart that I will have to step away from tennis competition for a short period after being diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma," Duval said in the statement.

The statement said Hodgkin's, the most common form of cancer in adolescents, "was caught in a very early stage."

"(She) will undergo treatment right away and due to her overall good health and isolation of the cancer, the prognosis is a full recovery in a few months," the statement said.

Treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma has a high rate of success among young people.

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WIMBLEDON/GOLF

Title: Kvitova has easy time with Bouchard

FROM BACK PAGE

For Bouchard, the first Canadian to reach a Grand Slam final, it was a humbling defeat. She is named after Britain's Princess Eugenie, the granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II, and the princess was watching from the front row of the Royal Box.

"I feel like it's a step in the right direction," Bouchard told the audience. "I don't know if I deserve all your love today, but I really appreciate it."

Bouchard, the Wimbledon junior champion two years ago, came into the match with the best record in majors this year — 16-4 — and was the only player to reach at least the semifinals of the first three Grand Slams.

But she had no answer for Kvitova, who seized command from the start, attacking Bouchard's second serves and moving her all over the court. Kvitova was always on the offensive, never letting the Canadian get comfortable. After her one bad game, when she was broken while serving for the first set at 5-2, Kvitova won the rest of the games.

"I had a great tactic from my coach," she said. "He always knows (how) I have to play."

Kvitova piled up 28 winners, 20 more than Bouchard. Even while being thoroughly beaten, Bouchard had only four unforced errors, as Kvitova's searing groundstrokes pushed her into so many forced errors.

It was the final final between two players born in the 90s. Kvitova is 24, four years older than Bouchard.



PAVEL GOLOVKIN/AP

Canada's Eugenie Bouchard plays a return to the Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova during their women's singles final Saturday in Wimbledon, London.

Scoreboard

Saturday

At The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
London

Purse: \$42.5 million (Grand Slam)

Surface: Grass-Outdoor

Women

Championship

Petra Kvitova (6), Czech Republic, def. Eugenie Bouchard (13), Canada, 6-3, 6-0.

Doubles

Women

Championship

Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci (2), Italy, def. Timea Babos, Hungary, and Kristina Mladenovic (14), France, 6-1, 6-3.

Mixed

Semifinals

Nenad Zimonjic, Serbia, and Sam Stosur (15), Australia, def. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Vera Dushheva (16), Russia, 7-5, 6-2.



CHRIS TILLEY/AP

Billy Hurley III tees off the ninth hole Friday during the second round of the Greenbrier Classic in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

Hurley leads at Greenbrier

Navy vet shoots season-best 63 on Fourth of July

By JOHN RABY
The Associated Press

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — Billy Hurley III has been waiting for a breakthrough moment on the PGA Tour. On Independence Day, the former U.S. Navy officer might have set himself up for one this weekend in the Greenbrier Classic.

Hurley shot a season-best 7-under 63 on Friday to take the second-round lead.

Hurley's bogey-free round included a chip-in from 29 feet on No. 4 in cool conditions before the wind picked up considerably late in his morning round.

"You know, anytime you play good, it's great, right?" Hurley said. "There's special days of the year for our country, and having served... adds something to it. It's kind of pretty cool, I guess, to shoot 7 under on the 4th of July."

It's a nice storyline. Then again, having military experience wasn't on his mind in jumping to the top of the leaderboard.

"I was just trying to keep getting the ball in the hole," he said.

Hurley was at 9-under 131 at Old White TPC. Eleven players were within four shots of him.

Kevin Chappell (65) and Chris Stroud (66) were a stroke back.

Troy Matteson had a 61 to vault into fourth place at 7 under. He has made the cut in all five years of the Greenbrier Classic.

Brice Garnett (66), Steve Stricker (68)



CHRIS TILLEY/AP

Billy Hurley III lines up a putt on the 10th green. Hurley shot a season-best 7-under 63 in the second round to take a one-stroke lead going into the weekend.

and Chris Kirk (69) were another stroke back at 6 under.

Hurley graduated from Annapolis in 2004 and spent five years in the Navy. He playing golf sparingly while stationed in Hawaii and worked out as much as he could.

Being mentally tough on the course comes easy for Hurley, whose missions included steering a Navy destroyer through the Suez Canal.

Playing partner Chris Stroud said it was "special" for a former military man to be leading the tournament and was amazed at how Hurley could recapture his golf game.

"There's a lot to be said about that," Stroud said.

Hurley rejoined the PGA Tour this season and has three top 10 finishes so far, including a tie for eighth at Congressional last week. His best career finish is a tie for fourth in the AT&T National two years ago, also at Congressional.

A solid ending at The Greenbrier resort would get him into the British Open later this month. The four best finishers not previously eligible among the top 12 on the final leaderboard will earn spots in the July 17-20 tournament at Royal Liverpool.

Playing alongside good friend Hurley, Stroud birdied four of his first five holes but gained no more ground.

Chappell's round included holing a 35-yard pitch on the par-3 15th after a poor tee shot.

MLB

Roundup

Braves, Santana extend winning streak

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Ervin Santana says it's too early to declare that he is fully recovered from a midseason slump. This outing was certainly a step in the right direction.

Freddie Freeman drove in two runs, Santana won his second straight start, and the Atlanta Braves stretched their winning streak to eight games with a 5-2 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Friday.

"Every time when you go up there and you get frustrated and you keep going and you get frustrated," he said. "But if you take a little breather, you can go up there and still do your best."

The Braves (49-38) have won 10 of 11 to move 10 games over .500 for the first time since April 29. They lead the NL East by 1 1/2 games.

Santana (7-5) gave up six hits and two runs with one walk and six strikeouts in 7 1/3 innings.

Arizona began the night tied with Houston for most losses in the majors with 50. The Diamondbacks have lost seven of 11.

Athletics 4, Blue Jays 0: Melky Cabrera couldn't corral Nick Punto's double with one out in the 12th inning, sending host Oakland to a victory over Toronto.

Derek Norris had a leadoff walk in the Oakland 12th against Chad Jenkins (0-1). After Jed Lowrie lined out, Punto hit a slicing double down the line in left.

Cabrera moved to his right to cut off the ball, which squirted by his glove for an error. Norris scored from first for an odd ending to a game highlighted by stellar pitching performances by starters Tommy Milone of Oakland and Marcus Stroman of Toronto.

Dodgers 9, Rockies 0: Clayton Kershaw nearly had a no-hitter against Colorado again, allowing only two singles over eight masterful innings as visiting Los Angeles won.

Kershaw (10-2) extended his scoreless streak to 36 innings before being replaced by a pinch hitter in the ninth.

The hard-throwing lefty batted up the top-hitting team in the majors in nearly matching the no-hitter he threw against the Rockies on June 18 at Dodger Stadium. Kershaw struck out eight and walked one.

Yankees 6, Twins 5: Brian Roberts hit three doubles and a triple, leading New



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Atlanta's Chris Johnson, left, and B.J. Upton celebrate after defeating the Arizona Diamondbacks 5-2 in Atlanta on Friday.

York to the road win.

David Huff (2-0) struck out three in three perfect innings after New York starter Chase Whitley faltered, and Jacob Ellsbury hit a two-run single in the second against Twins starter Kyle Gibson (7-7).

Pirates 8, Phillies 2: Andrew McCutchen had four hits and Jordy Mercer drove in a career-high four runs, powering host Pittsburgh to the victory.

Mercer had two of Pittsburgh's 13 hits, and each of the Pirates' eight position players who started the game had at least one. **Cubs 7, Nationals 2:** Justin Ruggiano homered for the second straight game for visiting Chicago, which got another solid outing from Jason Hammel in the win.

Hammel (8-5) gave up two runs in six-plus innings in his second consecutive victory against Washington. Hammel, who also had an RBI single, improved to 8-0 with a 3.11 ERA in 10 career starts against the Nationals.

Angels 7, Astros 6: Mike Trout homered leading off the ninth inning after Los Angeles twice rallied to tie the game, giving it a victory over visiting Houston.

Trout sent an 0-2 pitch from Tony Sipp over the wall in left field and charged into a celebratory mob at home plate. It was Trout's second career walkoff hit, both of them homers.

Royals 7, Indians 1: Yordano Ventura pitched 8 1/3 stellar innings and Mike Moustakas hit a three-run homer to help Kansas City beat host Cleveland.

Ventura (6-7) blanked the Indians on four hits until Michael Brantley hit a leadoff homer in the ninth. The rookie right-hander was pulled after Jason Kipnis' one-out single. Ventura allowed six hits and struck out four in the longest outing of his career.

Padres 2, Giants 0: Eric Stults pitched seven strong innings to win for the first time in nearly two months and Alexi Amarista homered to lead host San Diego to a

win over San Francisco.

Stults (3-11), winless in his last nine starts, was victorious for the first time since a 9-3 victory over Miami on May 10. The lefty held the Giants to four hits with six strikeouts and two walks as he snapped a six-start losing streak.

Reds 4, Brewers 2: Alfredo Simon moved into a tie for the National League lead with his 11th win and Billy Hamilton homered as Cincinnati ended a three-game losing streak with a victory over visiting Milwaukee.

Skip Schumaker and Joey Votto had run-scoring doubles for the Reds, who were coming off being swept in a three-game series at San Diego.

Rays 6, Tigers 3: Evan Longoria homered, Ben Zobrist doubled twice and visiting Tampa Bay finally broke through offensively against Detroit.

The Rays had gone 19 straight games against the Tigers without scoring more than four runs, a streak that went back more than three years. Tampa Bay had seven extra-base hits Friday, including a two-run triple by Sean Rodriguez in the sixth.

White Sox 7, Mariners 1: Jose Abreu hit his 27th home run, Chris Sale struck out a season-high 12 in a complete game and host Chicago beat Seattle.

Sale (8-1) allowed six hits and walked none in his fourth double-digit strikeout game of the season and 14th of his career.

Cardinals 3, Marlins 2: Lance Lynn bounced back from his worst start of the season with 6 1/3 scoreless innings and host St. Louis placed consecutive two-out RBI doubles just out of right fielder Giancarlo Stanton's reach in a three-run sixth of a victory over Miami.

Stanton, who entered with an NL-leading 21 homers and 61 RBIs, was 0-for-4.

Mets 6, Rangers 5: Travis D'Arnaud broke an eighth-inning tie with a two-run double and host New York overcame an early injury to starter Jonathon Niese, beating skidding Texas to stop a four-game slide.

Lucas Duda hit a two-run homer, and the Mets opened a 10-game homestand with their second victory in nine games. Niese left in the first with a bruised lower back after he was hit by Alex Rios' line drive. X-rays were negative, the team said.

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WORLD CUP

Germany tops France

Experienced Germans become first team to reach four straight World Cup semifinals

By STEVE DOUGLAS
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — It just wouldn't be the World Cup without Germany in the semifinals.

Harnessing all their big-game experience, the Germans delivered a performance of maturity and efficiency to hold off France 1-0 on Friday and become the first team to reach four straight semifinals in the sport's marquee tournament.

Defender Mats Hummels scored the winning goal in the 13th minute, out-muscling his marker at a free kick to glance a header in off the underside of the crossbar.

Criticized for poor defending in earlier matches, Germany selected a more robust lineup and restricted a flat France team to only a handful of clear-cut opportunities in muggy conditions.

"There was not much in it," France coach Didier Deschamps said. But, "we don't have the international experience Germany has."

While France's young players slipped to the ground and some shed tears after the final whistle, the Germans soberly saluted all corners of the Maracana Stadium.

One job done, nothing more.

And next up for Germany is a meeting with host nation Brazil, which beat Colombia 2-1 later Friday. It will be Germany's 13th appearance in the semifinals in 20 editions of the World Cup.

"I guess we're playing the kind of football which will give us a chance to

Did you know

In the eight-year tenure of coach Joachim Loew, the Germans have reached the final four in every major tournament they have played, but remain without a title since the 1996 European Championships.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

win," said Hummels, who produced a couple of decisive blocks to snuff out two good chances for France striker Karim Benzema.

"We defended well today. I think we deserve to carry on."

France struggled to impose the kind of attacking game that made the team one of the most exciting in Brazil during the group stage, although Benzema — the team's chief attacking threat — squandered chances in both halves.

"We played like a team again," said Germany captain Philipp Lahm, who returned to right back in one of a string of tactically astute changes made by coach Joachim Loew. "Overall it was a good performance from us."



DAVID VINCENT/AP

Germany's Jerome Boateng, left, and Mats Hummels beat France's Olivier Giroud to the ball during their World Cup quarterfinal match in Rio de Janeiro on Friday.

Young France squad looking towards future

By TREVOR HUGGINS
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — There may have been tears as a young France squad made its World Cup exit on Friday, but the players are convinced the experience gained in Brazil will help when their country hosts the European Championship in 2016.

That experience was gained the painful way in a 1-0 quarterfinal loss to Germany, with Antoine Griezmann being consoled by teammates as he cried after the final whistle.

Only two France outfield players to appear at this World Cup are more than 29 years old, leaving plenty of room for progression before Euro 2016.

"There's a lot of disappointment in the changing room but there is also a lot to learn from this," France captain and goalkeeper Hugo Lloris said. "It's been a very positive World Cup and I hope it will be a reference point for the years ahead, and notably for Euro 2016 in France."

Lloris pinpointed a number of factors for his team's defeat to the 2010 semifinalists on a steamy afternoon at the Maracana Stadium. "It was very hot, then there were the stakes and we lacked a



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

From left, France's Rio Mavuba, Raphael Varane, Antoine Griezmann and Eliquim Mangala walk off the pitch after Germany defeated France 1-0 to advance to the semifinals during the World Cup quarterfinals at Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Friday.

'It's been a very positive World Cup and I hope it will be a reference point for the years ahead, and notably for Euro 2016 in France.'

Hugo Lloris
France goalkeeper

little bit of experience," Lloris said. "This is a very young, very talented team ... and we have to keep this momentum going over the next two years, when we have a lot of friendlies, so that we go into Euro 2016 with great ambitions."

Those ambitions will be understandably high.

France has won the last two major tournaments which it has hosted — the 1998 World Cup and the 1984 European Championship. From a low point after the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, when a player strike caused a national outrage, the team's run to the quarterfinals has won back the home fans.

"We're proud of what we have done and I think French people are proud of that too," midfielder Paul Pogba said.

The 21-year-old Pogba also believes a bright future lies ahead

for the squad coached by Didier Deschamps, saying the Brazil experience would help the players in two years' time.

"It wasn't easy today against a very good team which has a lot of experience, they're often finalists and they have great players at club level," he said. "I think the details made the difference. But today, we've learned and we've grown up."

Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema, who failed to take a couple of chances in a tightly contested match, acknowledged that there was a margin for his side to improve.

But he added: "When you play against the best teams in the world, it's hard... We are a very young team, it was a first World Cup for most of them and we made it to the quarterfinals. We have to be proud of what we've done."

WORLD CUP

Bad news overcasts host's win

By TALES AZZONI
The Associated Press

FORTALEZA, Brazil — Not long after celebrating another all-important win at the World Cup, Brazil was jolted by the loss of Neymar.

The tournament's poster boy with the dyed-blond fauxhawk fractured a vertebra in his back during Brazil's 2-1 quarterfinal victory over Colombia on Friday. The injury has ruled the striker out of the rest of the competition, dealing a massive blow to the team's chances of finally winning a World Cup at home.

Brazil advanced to the semifinals for the first time in 12 years, with the goals coming from defenders Thiago Silva and David Luiz. But the jubilation was quickly tempered when Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said Neymar broke his third vertebrae and is expected to be out for several weeks, ruling him out of Tuesday's semifinal match against Germany.

"It's a situation that leaves us in a difficult position for the match against Germany," Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said. "But we have great players and if I have to change something I will do it and we will be OK."

The 22-year-old Neymar has been the focal point of both the Brazilian team and the entire World Cup.

"He will not be in condition to play, he will need a few weeks to be fit again," said Lasmar, the team doctor. "He is very, very sad."

Brazil will also be without Silva for Tuesday's match against Germany. The captain must sit out after getting his second yellow card of the tournament after impeding Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina.

Brazil, which is trying to become the first host to win the World Cup since France in 1998, had been eliminated in the quarterfinals at the last two tournaments. The "Selecao" lost to the Netherlands in the quarterfinals in 2010 and to France in 2006 after winning its fifth title in 2002.

Silva gave Brazil the lead in the seventh minute, scoring with his left knee after a corner from Neymar passed through the Colombian defense. He celebrated the goal by pointing to the emblem on his jersey and shouting, "This is Brazil, this is Brazil."

Luiz added the second from a free kick in the 69th, side-footing a long-range shot into the top of the net.

Colombia got one back in the 80th. James Rodriguez scored his tournament-leading sixth goal from the penalty spot after Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar brought down substitute Carlos Bacca inside the area.

Scoreboard

Quarterfinals

Friday, July 4
At Rio de Janeiro
Germany 1, France 0
At Fortaleza, Brazil
Brazil 2, Colombia 1
Saturday, July 5
At Brasilia, Brazil
Argentina 1, Belgium 0
At Salvador, Brazil
Netherlands vs. Costa Rica

Semifinals

Tuesday, July 8
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Brazil vs. Germany
Wednesday, July 9
At Sao Paulo
Netherlands-Costa Rica winner vs. Argentina



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Brazil's Neymar cries out in pain Friday after being hit in the back by Colombia's Juan Camilo Zuniga in Fortaleza, Brazil.

Brazil loses Neymar

Star player out after suffering broken vertebra

By TALES AZZONI
The Associated Press

FORTALEZA, Brazil — Neymar returned to Brazil's training camp in an ambulance after being ruled out of the World Cup because of a broken vertebra that will sideline him for four weeks.

Neymar flew back to Rio de Janeiro with the rest of his Brazil teammates following their 2-1 quarterfinal victory over Colombia in Fortaleza on Friday and rode the rest of the way to the team's camp in the mountain city of Teresopolis by ambulance.

The 22-year-old striker was kneed by Colombia defender Juan Camilo Zuniga late in the second half at the Arena Castelao, fracturing his third vertebra.

He was carried off the field in tears on a stretcher and "screamed in pain in the dressing room" before being taken to the hospital, the Brazilian confederation said in a statement early Saturday.

The injury is not expected to require surgery and the recovery time will be about four weeks, the confederation said.

It was not immediately clear if Neymar would remain with the rest of the team as it prepares for Tuesday's World Cup semifinal against Germany in Belo Horizonte. The squad isn't expected to leave the training camp until Monday.

Neymar is the biggest football star in Brazil and was one of the standout players of the World Cup so far, scoring four goals in the team's first three games.

He was hurt in the 86th minute, falling to the ground in pain after Zuniga jumped into him from behind.

Friday's match ended with 54 fouls in total — 31 by Brazil and 23 by Colombia.



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Colombia's Juan Zuniga, top, hits Brazil's Neymar in the back during the second half of their quarterfinal match. Neymar suffered a fractured vertebra during the play.

SPORTS



Brazil waxed?

World Cup hosts lose star striker Neymar in victory over Colombia | Page 31

WIMBLEDON

Twice as nice

Kvitova dominates Bouchard to win second Wimbledon title

BY STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

LONDON — Petra Kvitova overwhelmed Eugenie Bouchard 6-3, 6-0 in less than an hour Saturday to win Wimbledon for the second time in the most lop-sided final in more than two decades.

‘I can’t say that it’s more special, but definitely after three years to stand here with the trophy again, it’s absolutely amazing.’

Petra Kvitova

'14, '11 Wimbledon champ

The Czech left-hander completely outplayed the 20-year-old Canadian — appearing in her first Grand Slam final — with her big serve, aggressive returns and flat groundstrokes.

Kvitova, the 2011 champion, put on a clinic of power tennis, ripping baseline winners off both wings and leaving Bouchard looking helpless. Kvitova won the final seven games, finishing the 55-minute rout with another clean winner — a cross-court backhand.

Kvitova fell onto her back at the dusty baseline after her final shot flew past Bouchard. Later, she climbed into the stands to embrace her parents and the rest of her team.

The last time a player lost only three games in the Wimbledon final was in 1992, when Steffi Graf beat Monica Seles 6-2, 6-1.

Kvitova’s attack-minded game is perfectly suited for the grass of the All England Club. Both of her Grand Slam finals have been at Wimbledon.

“I can’t say that it’s more special, but definitely after three years to stand here with the trophy again, it’s absolutely amazing,” Kvitova told the Centre Court crowd.

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By the numbers

1992 **16-4** **28**

The last time a player lost only three games in the Wimbledon final, when Steffi Graf defeated Monica Seles 6-2, 6-1.

Wimbledon runner-up Eugenie Bouchard’s record in majors this year heading into Saturday’s final, the best of any player.

Winners piled up by Kvitova, 20 more than Bouchard. Kvitova is the third different player to win a major title this year.

Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic holds the trophy as she poses for photographs after winning the women’s singles final, defeating Eugenie Bouchard of Canada at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, on Saturday.

PAVEL GOLOVKIN/AP

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Former Navy officer Hurley seizes lead at Greenbrier | Golf, Page 26